



# St. John's Lutheran Church

## Mission Statement:

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

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Church News - Calendar

News from Pastor Halom

Youth & Family Announcements

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Letter from Pastor Martin	1
Prayers	2
Calendar	3
Church News	4
Financial	4
Council Minutes	5,6
Youth Announcements & Meeting Notes	7,8

### LETTER FROM PASTOR HALOM

#### TRUE COMPROMISE - GIVE A LITTLE, TAKE A LITTLE

When a guy has grown up as a people pleaser most of his life, one of the most important, yet difficult lessons of life was one I learned in seminary: *You can't please everyone.*

In my 22 years of being a pastor, I'd like to believe that I've grown in my efforts to accept this simple truth and move toward embracing this simple truth. But that people pleasing gene is still in there somewhere!

In this month's article, I hope to reveal to you the reasons why our church council has made our difficult decisions when it comes to all matters covid-19. If you're not already aware, we have decided to continue our mask mandate while at church whenever we're with people in the same room who don't live in our household. This was not a unanimous decision, mind you, but one that I pray we will feel supported in.

One of the things we heard a lot from last year was the importance of singing in worship. We also heard from you that getting a chance to experience holy communion once again was a vital part of worship (both of which I was thrilled to hear!). So when we determined that singing could return to our worship experiences along with the distribution of the sacrament, I knew that a lot of people would be happy, which made this people pleaser quite happy!

Another lesson we learned from last year with regard to our youth faith formation was that just about everyone preferred in person learning over the convenience of at home Zoom faith formation. Our volunteers, our staff, our youth overwhelmingly indicated their desire for in person faith formation. So again, once we determined that we would strive for in person faith formation this year, I knew many would again be happy.

But then the delta variant came along and more difficult decisions had to be made. To mask, or not to mask: that is the question. As I have pondered, chewed on, and listened, something quite simple entered my head. If we want to sing, take communion, and maintain our in person worship and faith formation for as long as we can without interruption, we need to work hard to do so. That hard work for me is defined by encouraging as much as possible getting the vaccine and wearing masks when together. When I realized this simple proposition, I asked myself, "Am I willing to mask for the sake of singing? Am I willing to mask for the sake of communing? Am I willing to mask for the sake of a safer in person faith formation experience?" Even though I am fully vaccinated, the answer was an easy, "Yes!"

My hope is not the pursuit of keeping everyone happy this time. My hope is that we can all give a little so that we can take a little – the art of compromise. That's what healthy families do. That's what the body of Christ does.

*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](http://www.Stjohns-bloomer.org)



## Please Join Our Church Family In Prayer



As we enter the month of September 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:

### Prayers of Healing for our Church Family

Family & Friends of Steve Stertz; Pastor Ron Bessert; Marie Weideman; Ilene Pingel; Lucy Anderson; Arne Windsor; Arlene Christianson; Maggie Olson; Brennan Anderson; Carolyn Bergh; Kelly Custer; Steve Trubshaw; Margueritte Werner; Rod Martin; Merv Marquardt; Clyde Shipman; Donna Kerckhove (Pat Prill's daughter); Tom Buchner.

### Prayers for our Active Military

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

### Prayers for the Saints

Prayers for the week of September 5<sup>th</sup>: Ricky, Victoria, Amanda & Tina Krueger; Brenda & Trent LaGesse; Brenda, Ryan, Lily & Mason LaGesse; Brian LaGesse, Kerena Gerrits, Isaac & Ty LaGesse; David & Dawn LaGesse.

Prayers for the week of September 12<sup>th</sup>: Deborah LaGesse; Samuel & Wendy LaGesse; Dave, Michelle & Brennan Lane; Edward, Lori, Joe, Nicole & Sam Lanzer; Kathleen, Ross & Madie Larson.

Prayers for the week of September 19<sup>th</sup>: Bob & Jean LaTour; Bryan, Courtney, Gabriella, Tessa & Zachariah Lewis; Daniel & Joann Lewis; Deanna, Robin & Timothy Lewis.

Prayers for the week of September 26<sup>th</sup>: Debi, Eric, Charlie & Taylor Lewis; Martha Libersky; Josh Lien; Amanda, Eric, Aaron & Evan Lierman; Timothy Loew.

# SEPTEMBER 2021 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship Service	<b>30</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Confirmation Orientation - Sanctuary	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 1ST DAY OF SCHOOL-BLOOMER SCHOOL DISTRICT <b>9:30 AM</b> Bloomer Clergy Assoc. Mtg-Pastor <b>6:45 PM</b> Worship	<b>2</b> First Day of Pre-school-St. John's Lutheran	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship Service	<b>6</b> OFFICE CLOSED-Labor Day	<b>7</b> <b>3:30 PM</b> Staff Meeting (zoom)	<b>8</b> RALLY DAY <b>5:00 PM - 6:30 PM</b> Family Activities <b>5:00 PM - 6:00 PM</b> Outdoor Picnic <b>5:45 PM - 6:15 PM</b> J.A.M. Orientation <b>6:45 PM</b> Worship	<b>9</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Pastor's Conference <b>6:00 PM</b> Preschool Committee Meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship Service <b>5:30 PM</b> Youth In Action - North Park	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>5:30 PM</b> Church Council Meeting	<b>15</b> <b>5:30 PM - 6:30 PM</b> Faith Formation PreK-8th <b>6:45 PM</b> Worship Service	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship Service <b>1:00 PM - 3:00 PM</b> B-I-N-G-O!! For all Ages!	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM</b> Quilting Group <b>3:30 PM</b> Staff Meeting (zoom)	<b>22</b> Pastor's Retreat <b>5:30 PM - 6:30 PM</b> Faith Formation PreK-8th <b>6:45 PM</b> Worship	<b>23</b> Pastor's Retreat	<b>24</b> Pastor's Retreat	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Pastor's Retreat <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship Service <b>5:30 PM</b> Youth In Action	<b>27</b> Pastor's Retreat	<b>28</b> Pastor's Retreat	<b>29</b> <b>4:30 PM</b> Youth Committee Meeting <b>5:30 PM - 6:30 PM</b> Faith Formation PreK-8th <b>6:45 PM</b> Worship Service	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

# Church News

**FAITH  
FORMATION  
REGISTRATION  
IS OPEN!!**

**REGISTER NOW ON THE  
ST. JOHN'S WEBSITE!**

**RALLY DAY IS AROUND  
THE CORNER!**

Now is the time to explore a deeper involvement with your faith family!  
Come to our **RALLY DAY on September 8** to see what options you have to expand your service to St. John's.

5:00-6:00 - An outdoor dinner  
5:00-6:30 - outdoor family activities  
5:45-6:15 - JAM orientation

**Neighbor  
To  
Neighbor**



A new ministry of the Northwest Synod of WI

Details can be found on bulletin boards at both church entrances.

**CROSS GENERATIONAL  
BINGO!!**

Who: EVERYONE!!  
When: Sunday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> @ 1-3pm  
Join us in the Dining Hall at St. John's as we start our new Cross Generational series of activities. This month will be a crowd favorite: BINGO!  
We will have prizes!

**Wanted**

**Care of Creation leaders!**  
This is the social justice issue that was selected and we can start saving our planet now!  
Please contact Pastor Martin if interested or for further questions.

**FINANCE UPDATE**  
Year-To-Date as of Aug 27, 2021

Year-To-Date:	
Weekly Contributions	\$135,642.46
Other Raised Funds	17,294.03
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>\$152,936.49</b>
- Expenses	\$-134,947.65
<b>Total remaining after expenses</b>	<b>\$ 17,988.04</b>

**\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\***  
"Other raised funds" now includes all preschool funds that were merged into our committee accounts (\$9,825.54) and recent youth fundraising totals (\$5,632.50). Removing these totals leaves a net income of \$2,530.80 for the church. Please also note that we have needed to borrow \$12,800 year-to-date to cover church expenses.

**JAM LEADERS  
NEEDED**

We are in need of JAM leaders for Wednesday and Sunday!

If you are able to help, please contact Katie.  
We cannot have JAM without leaders!

**Deadline for  
October Newsletter**

If you would like to submit anything for the newsletter, please make sure to get it to the church secretary no later than **Sept. 24th.**  
**Thank You!!**

# Church Council Minutes (via Zoom) August 10, 2021

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Tyler Halverson.

**Opening Devotion:** Prayer by Pastor Martin. Special prayer request for children, teachers, bus drivers, and staff as they embark another uncertain 2021-2022 school year.

**Approval of Agenda:** Addition of approval of special meeting held August 2, 2021. Motion made by Adam Anderson, seconded by Janelle Yeakey, to approve the agenda, with flexibility. Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

- COVID Taskforce Recommendations

**Preschool:** Commentary from Christina Simon and Kristina Jacobsen on plans to safely hold preschool at St. John's for the 2021-2022 school year. Motion made by Melissa Sarauer, seconded by Janelle Yeakey, for St. John's Preschool to go forward with the 2021-2022 year. Motion Carried.

**Youth:** Commentary from Katie O'Connell on plans to safely hold JAM and Confirmation classes at St. John's for the 2021-2022 school year. Katie to move forward as has been planned with the appropriate safety protocols that have been put in place within St. John's church.

**Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting July 12, 2021:**

Consideration of approving the minutes en masse was withdrawn due to an objection to the August 2 meeting. The approval of the minutes were therefore split into two separate motions.

Janelle Yeakey made a motion to approve the July 12 minutes, seconded by Pat Prill. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting August 2, 2021:**

Pat Prill made a motion to approve the August 2 minutes, seconded by Janelle Yeakey. Motion carried with Lydia Blaha dissenting.

**Pastor's Report**

Motion by Tyler Halverson and seconded by Pat Prill to receive Marv and Sue Baroun as new members. Motion carried.

**New Business**

**Property Committee Insurance Money decision**

Hail damage last month. ~\$5,000 of damage on windows

Check already sent, and has been deposited to property committee designated fund.

Use money to fix windows or other existing issues?

Holding pattern for now. An email vote may ensue.

**Nominating Committee/Budget Committee Planning**

Pat Prill will proudly serve on the budget committee.

# Church Council Minutes *(continued)*

## Special Meeting of Council, Aug. 2, 2021

### Rally Day Planning

Hotdog/picnic style meal will be offered outside on Sept. 8.

Pastor will make decisions about location (North Park or St. John's)

### God's Work Our Hands Sunday (Sept. 12)

Pastor will move forward and speak with Marcy and the Social Ministry Committee.

### Raffle Licenses:

-Cost of \$25/license for two licenses.

-Council agreed that the Treasurer position to be in charge of renewing the two raffle licenses that St. John's applies for each year.

Fall Meeting Dates/Times: Email discussion will take place/In person vs Zoom

Pastor Martin will send out a Doodle poll to determine church council meeting dates and times.

### Additional Items and Announcements

Tyler Halverson has resigned as council president and council member, effective the end of this meeting.

Present via Zoom: Pastor Martin, Tyler Halverson, Adam Anderson, Janelle Yeakey, Kaitlyn Bohl, Lydia Blaha, Melissa Sarauer, Pat Prill. Absent: Alicia Bonczyk, Marcy Trubshaw, Terri Smith.

**\*\*Special Note\*\*** After the conclusion of the church council meeting, Lydia Blaha submitted her resignation from church council. The church council has since determined that they will seek to fill both Tyler's and Lydia's positions to fill out the year.

### CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES (via Zoom) Special Meeting: August 2, 2021

Church Council special meeting was held via Zoom on August 2, 2021, commencing at 7:02 p.m. to address the rise in COVID cases due to the Delta variant and whether to implement additional safety protocols. After discussion, a motion was made by Tyler Halverson, seconded by Marcy Trubshaw, to reinstate wearing masks while in the church whether the person is vaccinated or unvaccinated. A roll call vote was taken, with those voting Aye: Melissa Sarauer, Terri Smith, Janelle Yeakey, Marcy Trubshaw, and Kaitlyn Bohl. Those voting Nay: Alicia Bonczyk, Lydia Blaha. Having a majority Aye vote, the motion carried. Congregants may continue to sing and speak with masks on. There will be contact-free sharing of the peace. Communion will continue by coming forward with mask on, receiving the wafer, and taking the wine from the tray. There will be no physical contact.

Discussed serving of meals in conjunction with funerals. Motion made by Tyler Halverson, seconded by Terri Smith, to resume suspension of funeral meals. A roll call vote was taken, with those voting Aye: Terri Smith, Marcy Trubshaw, Kaitlyn Bohl, Melissa Sarauer, Tyler Halverson. Those voting Nay: Janelle Yeakey, Alicia Bonczyk, Lydia Blaha. Having a majority Aye vote, the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Terri Smith, Secretary

Present via Zoom: Pastor Martin, Tyler Halverson, Alicia Bonczyk, Janelle Yeakey, Kaitlyn Bohl, Lydia Blaha, Marcy Trubshaw, Melissa Sarauer, Terri Smith.

Also present via Zoom: Phil Skaar, Kathy Geissler. Absent: Adam Anderson, Pat Prill.

# Youth Announcements

## Youth Committee Meeting, Aug. 18

### YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

#### JAM ORIENTATION

**Who:** Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade families  
**When:** September 8 @ 5:45pm & September 12 @ 10:00am

Join us in the sanctuary as we talk about how Jesus & Me (JAM) will work this year, the financial policy at St. John's, as well as be able to ask any questions you might have.

#### FAITH FORMATION

**Faith Formation for JAM (Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) and Confirmation students start on Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>!**

**JAM will also be held on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup> for Pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.**

#### Faith Formation Update Youth In Action

Didn't meet in July, Next meeting on Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup>

Will be heading to Luther Park to do high ropes course; \$10/person – do we want church to pay for it? 50/50? Families do all? Currently have 2 yeses, waiting on more responses

#### Yes, church pays

#### Confirmation

Orientation for 6<sup>th</sup> graders on Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup>

First day of class September 15<sup>th</sup>

3 returning leaders: Greg, Janelle, & Brittany, hoping for 1-ish more

#### Communion/Acolyte

Ask parents to find backup if kid can't make it? Or leave it up to Katie & PM?

**Make sign-up for every Sunday & Wednesday through summer**

**Make sign-up every 3 months (see how many services they need to do first)**

**Offer communion, acolyte, reading, & altar guild**

#### JAM

Orientation on Rally Day (September 8<sup>th</sup>)

First day of class on September 15<sup>th</sup>—Plan to do all kids together— not split in A/B groups

Do we still want to have a Sunday class?

**Yes – only for 3y/o – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade**

**Structure like VBS/camp style**

**Pre-K required to have parents with them (on Wednesday also)**

*(continued on last page)*

#### YOUTH IN ACTION



**Who:** 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth

**When:** September 12 & 26

Join us for some fun this month! On the 12th we will be meeting at North Park and hanging out, playing some games, and getting to know one another.

#### Youth Committee Agenda – Aug.18, 2021

#### VBS Recap

Held July 26-29

Had 10-14 kids – depended on the day

Went well! Tie dye and water days were hits, but the kids also loved playing the games.

Leaders/helper: Dylan & Brodie Baker, RyAnna Keller, Greg Chojnacki, Camryn Yeakey

#### Mission Trip Update—Overall everything went well

Had a couple of hiccups here and there

Group was split between 2 work sites

We were told we were one of the more excited groups during the summer.

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: stjohsl-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



*(youth committee notes continued)*

**Bibles**

- Do Bible drive for used green Beginners & Sparks story bibles
- Offer reused bibles – if people want to keep them, cool! If they return, cool!
- Start drop off date as Rally Day
- Offer blue Lutheran study bible to anyone in church

**Rally Day—Activities**

- |             |                |                      |          |
|-------------|----------------|----------------------|----------|
| Gaga        | Bean bags      | Basketball           | Bubbles  |
| Giant Jenga | Sidewalk chalk | Hard boiled egg toss | Others?? |

**After school food**

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Provide for a few weeks, see who will be consistent | Have areas they can go            |
| Theater room to watch movies                        | Dining hall to do homework/read   |
| Basketball for warm months                          | Something indoors for cold months |

**Tabled items**

- |                   |                |             |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Christmas program | Trunk or Treat | Fundraisers |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------|