



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

Youth & Preschool News

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IT IS FINISHED!

As Jesus uttered these three simple words from the cross, his final three words according to the gospel of John, as he breathed his last. They are three of the most powerful words in all of scripture from my perspective as they reveal the human side of the Son of God, one who must experience death, just like the rest of us. Of course we know that the story does not end there! On the third day, he overcomes the grave and saves us for all eternity - the greatest gift given to humankind!

In a much different context, these three words still pack a punch. In the context of the July church council meeting, where the church council unanimously approved a very important motion, we can now celebrate the elimination of our church debt! Because of many years of faithful givers, we have consistently pecked away at a building debt that once totaled \$264,900 back in 2009. More recently, the St. John's Foundation agreed to pay off the loan in Sept. of 2018 for \$61,637.67 and charge the church at a lower interest rate, a true gift from a fine group of dedicated members. And finally, due to the recent estate gifts from Darlene Hass and Mick Kelm, the church council decided to pay off the remaining \$38,732.72 to the foundation and so for the first time in well over a decade, St. John's is debt-free! **IT IS FINISHED!**

For those of you who have been faithful contributors by giving specifically to our building loan, we are truly grateful. For those of you who have been faithful contributors to St. John's, you helped us make our monthly payments to the foundation for which we are truly grateful. This is exciting news and we are now free to consider other opportunities with your generosity, opportunities to make real impacts on the people we serve! Stay tuned for further information regarding a public celebration where we can come together and lift up our voices, praising God for giving us the ability to be mission minded with our financial resources. May this feat inspire us for continued generosity as we enter a new year of growing disciples following a summer never to be forgotten. Our facility has and will continue to be a tremendous resource and the debt will no longer hold us back. Thanks be to God!

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 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: stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net

Prayers of Healing For Our Church Family

Wayne Zogleman (Amanda Ritchie's Grandfather); Marlene Windsor; Family & Friends of Dave Helin (brother-in-law of Tom Ewings); Julie Chojnacki; Fumiko (Eric Larson's sister-in-law); Pat Prill; Arlene Christianson; Renee Grambo; 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 Sept 3rd: Jennifer, Philip, Evan and Nevaeh Nitek; Brandon, Cassandra, Warren and Waylon North; Kim Oldenberg; Ashley (Pappas), Paris, Athena and Lennon Rogge; Buck and Peg Paulsen; Marie Paulus.

Prayers for the week of Sept 10th: Heather, Todd, Kalie, Addison, Arianna and Gavin Pecha; Bob, Debbie and Brenna Peterson; Brandon, Erin, Londyn and Tenley Peterson; Robert Peterson; Tammy Peterson.

Prayers for the week of Sept 17th: Brian, Lori, Ava, Lexi, Madilyn, Zachary and Zoe Pielhop; David, Roxanne, Jessica and Katie Pierce; Donald and Mary Poirier; Everett and Rose Marie Powell; James, Lori, Aaron, Logan, Noah and Olivia Price.

Prayers for the week of Sept 24th: Amanda, Kyle, Harley, Josh, Kennady, Oakley, Sidney and Zinphany Prill; Donald, Lisa, Aaron, Derek, Jacob and Elijah Prill; Pat and Cody Prill; Damian, Sara, Ava, Hank and Henry Prince.

SEPTEMBER 2023 CALENDAR

Town Hall Forum Information

SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:00am Worship Service 5:30pm - 6:30pm YIA Planning Meeting (At Halom Residence)	28 First Day of Preschool 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Youth Com- mittee Meeting	29	30 2:00pm Bible Study	31	1	2
3 9:00am Worship Service	4 Labor Day-Office Closed	5	6 RALLY DAY 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 6:45pm Worship Service-Kid's	7	8	9
10 9:00am Worship Service 10:30am Worship Com- mittee Meeting 5:30pm Youth In Action	11 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Staff Meeting	12	13 9:30am Bloomer Clergy Association 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith For- mation 6:45pm Worship Service	14 9:30am Pastor's Conference	15 6:00pm Wedding Rehearsal	16 3:00pm Wedding Larson-Ritchie
17 9:00am Worship Service	18 8:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Church Coun- cil Meeting	19  1:00pm - 4:00pm Quilting Group	20 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith For- mation 6:45pm Worship Service	21	22 7:00pm - 11:59pm Pseudo Lock-in	23
24 9:00am Worship Service	25 8:00am Bible Study	26	27 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith For- mation 6:45pm Worship Service	28	29	30

TOWN HALL FORUMS

The church council would like to once again offer two opportunities to address ideas, concerns, or questions at a pair of town hall forums. They will be held on:

Sunday, Sept. 17 after church in the dining hall.

Wednesday, Sept. 20 from 5:30-6:30 in the library

Come and hear some of the ways that the Hass/Kelm estate gifts have already been utilized in addition to the comments that you may want to share! These forums are intended to make sure our leadership is well connected to our membership in order that everyone is well informed. Please take advantage of these gatherings and enjoy the refreshments that will be shared at both!

Church News

Church Council Minutes-Continued

(Church Council Minutes-Continued from page 4)

Gift discussion

CD's see financial report above. Balance owed to St. John's Lutheran Church Foundation will be paid off using the money from the Council Fund.

Property Committee Updates – Quotes for repairs: email discussions on quotes: On 8-10-23 a **motion was made** by Janelle Yeakey to allow up to \$8,000 from the council fund for the property committee to repair the doors and windows. Seconded by Dorene Turner. Motion approved.

Performance Evaluation on Pastor; Parts 3-5

A **motion was made** at 7:13 pm by Janelle Yeakey to go into closed session. Seconded by Terri Smith. Motion carried

A **motion was made** at 7:47 pm by Alicia Bonczyk to leave closed session. Seconded by Sarah Wittrock. Motion carried

New Business –

- Town Hall Meetings –
- Sunday September 17th in dining room : Dorene, Sarah, Janelle, Donuts - Dorene, Sarah; Fruit- Janelle
- Wednesday September 20th in Library: Dorene & Janelle, Homemade Salsa & Chips - Dorene

Committee Reports

1. **Pastor's Report** : A **motion was made** by Janelle Yeakey to transfer membership of Jean Turner and Arlene Mohr to the church triumphant as well as welcome membership of Matt, Claire, Georgia, Henry, and Graham Tiller. Seconded by Sarah Wittrock. Motion carried.

Discussion about looking at computers and the potential need to upgrade.

2. Discipleship – needs to be started again, looking for 4-6 people
3. [Fellowship Minutes](#) - Discussion on where to donate money from October Chili Cook Off
4. [Preschool Minutes](#) –
5. Social Ministry Minutes - none
6. [Property Minutes](#) –
7. [Worship & Music Minutes](#) –
8. [Youth Minutes](#) –

Additional Items and Announcements

Next Meeting: September 18th, at 6 pm

Adjournment - a **motion was made** at 8:21pm by Sarah Wittrock to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried. Members Present: Pastor Martin, Janelle Yeakey, Barb Ross, Dorene Turner, Terri Smith, Alicia Bonczyk, Jeff Cole, Sarah Wittrock. Others Present: Amanda Ritchie. Members Absent: Kyle Prill, Kaitlyn Bohl, Jamie Keller.

Minutes submitted by Janelle Yeakey, Secretary



Quilting Group
Will be meeting on
Sept. 19th
at 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Everyone is welcome!!



The L.E. Phillips Senior Center is hosting a Resource Fair on Tuesday, September 19th from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM. Over 40 vendors will participate along with a craft sale, a bake sale, T-shirt sales, Center tours, massages, door prizes, and a cafe with fresh treats for sale. Free admission and all ages are welcome. The Center is located at 1616 Bellinger St; Eau Claire.

Deadline for October 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

September 25th.

Thank You!!

Church Council Minutes

August 21, 2023

Call to Order - meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Dorene Turner, Council President.

Opening Devotion – Pastor Martin led the council in devotion. The reflection question was: What is one goal or dream you have for the church this academic year?

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 Minutes - A motion was made Terri Smith to approve the minutes from the May 8th, 2023 meeting, seconded by Sarah Wittrock. Motion carried.

Approval of last Council Minutes — A motion was made by Terri Smith to approve the minutes from the July 24th, 2023 meeting, seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.

Preschool Update - Position update – discussion was had on the need to change the additional lead teacher/ director position to an assistant teacher position. Current enrollment is 10 MWF and 10 T/Th.

A motion was made at 6:21 pm by Janelle Yeakey to go into closed session. Seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried. A motion was made at 6:44 pm by Terri Smith to leave closed session. Seconded by Barb Ross Motion carried

Approval was made for substitute pay, approval of compensation package for Jenna, and adjusting Jenna’s title to assistant teacher.

Financial Report - [Profit & Loss](#) [Balance Sheet](#)

	Year to Date(Jan-July2023) (w/estate gift of \$349,201.25)	Year to Date(Jan-July 2023) (w/o estate gift \$349,201.25)
Income	\$479,184.90	\$129,983.65
Expenses	\$140,537.67	\$140,537.67
Difference	\$338,647.23	-\$10,554.02

CD’s	\$100,000	\$200,000
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Location	Security Financial Bank	Security Financial Bank
% APR	5.25	5.25
Timeframe	6 months	12 months
Expires		

All money is insured through FDIC

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

Old Business-

Custodial work: The cleaning service was informed and updated with the cleaning list on 8-7-23, They will be able to start after Sunday 8-13-23.

Treasurer Position: Barb Ross was signed in as the new Treasurer at the July 24th meeting.

Financial Secretary: Allowed to transfer up to \$3000 when needed to pay bills, when the amount is above \$3000 the financial secretary will need to have approval from 3 people from executive committee and the Pastor.

Software: Victoria Prince will be the primary administrator for the QuickBooks software to replace Joyce Rihn.

Youth & Family News

PIZZA COUPONS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Coupons from our pizza fundraiser are still available for purchase. Although the fundraiser is over, you can contact Amanda Ritchie if you are interested in purchasing any pizzas from Fat Boys, The Quarhouse, Valley Tavern, or Harm's Way.

VBS

This year's VBS was incredible... Incredible Me! The students all seemed to have a lot of fun; some could say they went "bananas" over VBS. We appreciate all who volunteered their time and attended to make this year a success. With that being said, since this year was a huge success, we are excited to partner with Our Saviors again in Summer 2024.

Harry Potter Bible Study

Though this Bible Study is still in a "holding pattern", we are looking to beginning again in the month of October. Please keep an eye on the bulletin or contact Pastor Martin or Amanda Ritchie for more information. * If you have any other bible study movie series you'd like to see done, please contact Amanda Ritchie or Pastor Martin.

"WE ARE ONLY AS STRONG AS WE ARE UNITED, AS WEAK AS WE ARE DIVIDED." -ALBUS DUMBLEDORE

Subs Needed for JAM this Fall

Thanks to all our returning teachers this Fall for JAM, we are looking for people who would be interested in substituting on Wednesday nights. Please contact Amanda Ritchie 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.

Youth Ministry Pictures

We are looking for pictures that anyone may have taken last year (2022-23 academic year). 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 Ritchie or Pastor Martin. We can forward you a link to a Google Drive. Otherwise, photos can get emailed to: stjohnslutheran.bloomer@gmail.com

Youth in Action

With the school year quickly approaching, our first Youth in Action planning night will take place Sunday, September 10th. We are looking forward to joining together with our high school youth to plan some super fun monthly events for the 2023-24 academic year. If you have any questions, please reach out to Amanda Ritchie (715-279-6962 mobile, aman-da_stjohnspreschool@aol.com).

Save The Date

Save the Date: Rally Day for JAM

I hope that everyone's summer vacation has been full of fun and some relaxation. These past two months flew by, and we are getting ready for JAM to start back up for the 2023-24 academic year. Our first day for our Wednesday night Faith Formation will take place on Wednesday, September 6th. After a fun night of dinner (4:45-5:30PM) and games (5:30-6:30PM), JAM students will be singing during service at 6:45PM.

*Keep your eye on your email for student registration or contact Amanda Ritchie for more information.



NEWS FROM PRESCHOOL STAFF!

Amanda



New Staff – Welcome! PRESCHOOL FINDS A FAMILIAR FACE

In the wake of a difficult last minute decision that caused a void in staffing, the St. John's Preschool welcomes Nancy Schindler to serve alongside now Administrator/Director/Lead Teacher Amanda Ritchie as Assistant Teacher. Nancy brings with her a spirit well-suited for kids and a wealth of classroom experience in her former years. We welcome Nancy with open arms as she forms a great partnership with Amanda as they serve those beautiful three and four year old kids, giving them a solid foundation from which to learn and grow! Welcome aboard Nancy and thanks for bringing your



Nancy



passion back to the classroom!

Dates to Save

Monday, September 4th we will be closed for Labor Day. We hope that our students enjoy the day with their families, and we look forward to having them back in class on the 5th and 6th.

Wait List

Registration is currently full for the 2023-24 academic year. For those who are interested in enrolling your child in our program, we do have an active waitlist that we started. If anyone has any questions, please contact Amanda Ritchie at 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.

Field Trip

We have our first field trip of the year scheduled for Tuesday, September 12th and Wednesday, September 13th at the Bloomer Public Library. We are looking forward to showing our students what the library has to offer, as well as offer them the opportunity to sign up for their own library cards.

Family Fun Night

Our August Family Fun Night was a huge success! We had 11 families attend, which totaled 40 people in attendance. The children were able to meet many of their friends for the upcoming school year, while enjoying a read-a-loud story by Mrs. Prince and music with Ms. Ritchie. We are looking forward to hosting and participating in more community events as the school year unfolds.

New Policy Change – More Opportunity for Enrollment

We just submitted our changes to the State, but we are going to open our program to students who are still working on potty training. We hope that this will open more doors for enrollment. If your child is currently potty training and is interested in being a part of our program, please contact Amanda Ritchie or Jenna Prince to discuss this opportunity. *Pull-ups and wipes must be provided by the family for their child.

Giving Tree

We are going to 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 Ritchie if you have any questions about this opportunity. As always, we appreciate your continued support.

First Days of School

Monday, August 28th and Tuesday, August 29th were the first days of school for the 2023-24 academic year. We are super excited and ready to have students back within the building. We hope that students have a wonderful school experience this year.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

715-568-5446
Email: stjohndl-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

Bible Study

Ready to dig deeper into the Epistles?

Choose **Monday's from 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.** or **Wednesday's from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.** to join with others as we discuss, use references, and help one another understand with our differing perspectives. We gather in the conference room on the lower level. Use the back entrance of the church.

Select one of these two days for your opportunity to become more in tune with God as our Creator, our Savior and our Spirit; to discover your identity, to work through your hang-ups, to learn the basics, to handle crisis, to face issues, to strengthen family ties, to reshape your lifestyle, and to catch a world vision.

These classes are for both the Bible beginner and the more knowledgeable, for young to old, and for male and female. Bring your own Bible (any translation) or one can be provided.

Beginning: Monday, Sept. 11 - - - Wednesday, Sept. 13

Contact Pastor Martin or Martha Libersky with your interest, questions or concerns.