

St. John's Lutheran Church

Mission Statement:

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

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Church News-Calendar
- Council Meeting Minutes
- Bishop Election Process
- Youth & Preschool News

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MUSIC FOR MISSION DEEMED A SUCCESS

Following many months of planning, members of the Bloomer community and beyond came together to enjoy a wonderful afternoon filled with talented musicians, all to benefit two causes that will have a lasting impact on the Bloomer community.

Members from St. John's Lutheran church came together to plan Music for Mission and selected The Blackhawk Education Foundation. This organization adds support to the Bloomer school district as it seeks to promote excellence in education. Many may know that this organization provides school supplies for all elementary and middle school students. They also have provided audio books to help improve literacy in addition to funding the high school for a special project: Fork Farms Flex Farm. This apparatus actually grows lettuce that has been used at the high school! See <https://blackhawkeducationfoundation.com/> for further information.

The other recipient is Scenic Hills Youth Ranch. Middle and High School choir director Joselyn Prust is the founder and director of this amazing outreach that assists families to grow in their faith, with particular attention given to kids that have endured some sort of trauma in their young lives. Through the use of equine therapy, campers benefit from working with horses, some of whom have endured their own trauma. Read more at <https://www.shyr.org/>.

Blackhawk Foundation board member Chris Conard and Joselyn both provided very moving stories to the 75+ who gathered for the afternoon's festivities. A total of \$2,500 was raised and will be split between the two charities!

To start the afternoon, a group of current BHS students and recent grads were featured, playing lively Dixieland music: Brodie Baker, Aubrie Bohl, Kaitlyn Bohl, Dylan Halom, Jaden Halom, Kelsey Kettner, Anders Michaelsen, Tyler Mohr, Jackson Omar, Haley Roberts, Tyler Schmidt, and Alicyn Turner. Harley Prill served as sound tech for the day while Bobbi Stouffer accompanied the group on keyboard!

The second set featured singer Susan Johnson Thiede and songwriter/guitarist John Swamy, also known as Beautiful Buzz! They dazzled the audience with some familiar and original folk music.

The third set included a variety of duet work from musicians Dylan Halom/Jackson Omar; Kim Schulze/Bobbi Stouffer, and Pastor Martin/Bobbi Stouffer.

The final set was an amazing local band called The Hearts of the North, including Eau Claire's very own Sue Orfield on tenor sax. The band consists of middle and high school band director Matt Tiller along with Jim Herman, John Swamy, Susan Johnson Thiede, and Brian Trullinger.

Many thanks for the planning committee that consists of Kaitlyn Bohl, Terri Bohl, Jeff Cole, Karen Johnson, Rod Johnson, , Sue Nehring, Matt Tiller, and Pastor Martin.

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 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

Family and Friends of Merv Marquardt; LuAnn Larson (mother-in-law of Matt & Amanda Larson) Carson (family friend of Kristine Mickelson); Sarah Wittrock; Jessica Schwarzenberger; Julie Wittrock; Arne Windsor; Art Klingenberg; Nancy Zogleman (Amanda Larson's grandmother); Wayne Zogleman (Amanda Larson's Grandfather); Pat Prill; Renee Grambo; Arlene Christianson; Steve Trubshaw; Dohna Kerckhove (Pat Prill's daughter).

Prayers For Our Active Military

Trenton Beaudette, Dalton Grambo, Kelsey Leavens, Garrett Misener, Danielle Shipman.

Prayers For the Saints

Prayers for the week of May 5th: Jeanie, Justin, Kelsey and Wyatt Kettner; John, Tami, Cicely and Dayne Kiecker; Joseph, Trista, Gauge Klemish; Art Klingenberg; Darren, Leanne and Kristine Knutson; Nicole Knutson.




Prayers for the week of May 12th: Laurie, Ethan, Hunter, Josh and McKenna Koehler; Dustin, Erica and Jordynn Kragness; Janet and Tom Krenz; Kari, Scott and Dawson Krenz; David and Michelle Kressin.

Prayers for the week of May 19th: Jason, Kelsey, Bentley and Kendall Kroening; Ricky, Victoria, Amanda and Tina Krueger; Brenda and Trent LaGessee; Brenda, Ryan, Lily and Mason LaGessee; Brian, Kerena (Gerrits), Isaac, Ty LaGessee.

Prayers for the week of May 26th: David and Dawn LaGessee; Deborah LaGessee; Samuel and Wendy LaGessee; Dave and Michelle Lane; Christopher, Courtney, Cambree and Cashlyn Lang; Ryan, Samantha, Jaxin and Jordon Lang; Edward and Lori Lanzer; Joseph Lanzer.

MAY 2024 CALENDAR

Church News

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:00am Worship Service (Guest Musicians) 	29 8:00am Bible Study	30	1 10:30am Bloomer Clergy Association Mtg 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation 6:45pm Worship Service	2	3	4
5 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am St. John's Foundation Annual Meeting	6 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Staff Meeting	7 5:30pm Preschool Committee Meeting	8 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation 6:45pm Worship Service - Celebrate Kids	9 9:30am Pastor's Conference (St. John's Hosting)	10 Flower Fundraiser delivery-pick up	11
12 9:00am Worship Service-Baptism Jade 5:30pm Youth In Action	13 8:00am Bible Study	14	15 Last Day of Preschool (M-W-F) At North Park 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation Recap Dinner 6:45pm Worship Service-Senior Recognition	16 Last Day of Preschool (T-TH) at North Park	17 6:00pm Preschool Graduation 	18
19 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Fellowship Committee Meeting	20 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	21  1:00pm - 4:00pm Quilting Group	22 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 6:45pm Worship Service	23	24	25
26 9:00am Worship Service	27 Memorial Day - Office Closed	28	29 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 6:45pm Worship Service	30	31	1

Meadowbrook Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation of Bloomer is looking for part time volunteers to assist with helping residents spend time playing games and cards, walks outside, doing puzzles, doing simple crafts, visiting 1 to 1, reading, and assisting with group activities and special events. All adults are encouraged to apply. For more information, please contact Heidi Kodesh, Activity Director, 715-568-2503 X15.

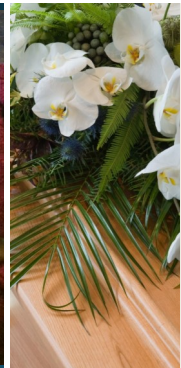
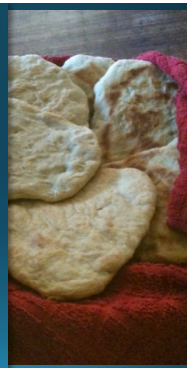
Do you have ideas for church social events for all ages?

Join the Fellowship Committee!

Next meeting: Sunday May 19th after church service
Location: Dining Hall

Interested or have questions contact Pastor Martin or Janelle Yeakey

If you are interested in making communion bread for the communion on the first Sunday of the month, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex and recipes in the altar guild room.



The Altar Guild is looking for members who might be interested in serving St. John's on the **Altar Guild Committee**. Duties consist of setting up and cleaning up for communion and decorating the church for holidays. If you are interested, please contact Sue Nehring. Cell: 715-933-0181 Email: SueNehring@bloomer.net

Church Council Meeting Minutes April 15, 2024

Call to Order - meeting was called to order at 6:12 pm by Dorene Turner, Council President.

Opening Devotion – Dwelling in the word, Matthew 25: 14-30. What do you notice, what do you wonder, what is God calling us to do?

Approval of the Agenda -A motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to approve the agenda with flexibility; seconded by Kay Anderson. Motion carried.

Approval of last Council Minutes - A motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to approve the minutes from the March 18th, 2024 meeting; seconded by Kay Anderson. Motion carried.

Financial Report -

	Year to Date (Jan-Mar 2024)
Income	\$ 57,073.93
Expenses	\$ 58,987.48
Difference	-\$ 1,890.80

Transfers: 3/14 – withdrawal of \$2000 from council fund to cover payroll (same as noted in March minutes)

CD's	\$100,000	\$200,000
Location	Security Financial Bank	Security Financial Bank
% APR	5.25	5.25
Timeframe	12 months	12 months
Expires	8-8-24	8-3-24

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-

Volunteer Appreciation Celebration – Sunday April 21st- planning for 60; Dorene will confirm numbers with Main Street.

Appreciation acknowledgements: April 6 – 12 is preschool staff week, the preschool committee organized. April 26th is Administrative Assistant Day- discussion

Guest speakers from Luther Park and Luther Social Services will be invited to speak at the church.

New Business –

Piano conversation – piano was tuned before Easter, the tuner noted there was mold in the piano. Musicians are looking into the situation and determining next steps. Worship committee will look into the cost of replacing with an electric piano.

April 28th – music group coming from Trinity Lutheran in Boyceville. Reception to follow.

Town Hall Meetings

- Discussion on comp hours for Youth Director to compensate for National Youth Gathering.
- Youth Musician payment questions. Council will get input from Worship Committee on how to compensate musicians.
- Question on preschool payroll increases when staff update credentials to qualify as lead teachers. Pastor will look into current pay amounts based on motion from October 2023. Council will get input from preschool committee, further discussion at May council meeting.
- Bass Guitar Discussion: A motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to allow Camryn Yeakey to use the bass guitar at Luther Park this summer. If the guitar is not returned in same condition it will be her responsibility to repair. Seconded by Dorene Turner. Motion carried. *(Council minutes continued on page 7)*

Bishop Election Process

BISHOP ELECTION PROCESS

A few months ago, I found myself taking a new step that I never felt I'd take. On Thursday, Feb. 8, all seven conferences in the Northwest Synod of WI met separately in order to nominate candidates for the position of bishop of our synod. At our conference assembly, my name was brought forward for consideration. Previously, some close colleagues of mine spoke with me to see how I'd respond to a nomination, to which I normally responded, "We'll see what the Spirit has in mind!" Melinda and I have always had the practice of considering any call that comes our way, discerning whether or not we should pursue it. Never did I imagine discerning a call to be bishop until this year.

This is the first time our synod will be conducting the election process in this manner. Here are the steps:

- Conference Assemblies nominate candidates who are then contacted by the synod vice president to see if they will accept the nomination. 20 candidates were identified, seven of whom accepted the nomination.
- The ELCA runs a background check on all nominated candidates.
- Each candidate fills out a biographical information form to be released to the public.
- Each candidate records a three minute video to introduce themselves, also released to the public.

Three zoom forums are offered where each candidate receives five minutes to address preselected and known questions for those in attendance (April 28, May 2, and May 6).

These new steps are quite beneficial for synod assembly lay voting members so that they can have an idea of who the candidates are prior to the synod assembly. Previously, nominations didn't start until the first day of the synod assembly and voting members had essentially a 24 hour time period to get to know and elect the bishop.

At the synod assembly on June 7-8 at the UWEC Davies Center, the process continues as it used to.

First ballot - Nominations from the floor are accepted. 75% of the votes is needed for an election.

Second ballot - Top seven candidates advance. 75% is needed for an election.

Third ballot - Top five candidates advance. Two thirds is needed for an election.

Fourth ballot - Top three candidates advance. 60% is needed for an election.

Fifth ballot - Top two candidates advance. A majority is needed for an election.

Prior to each vote, candidates will speak to the assembly and address a pre-identified question unknown to them. Candidates will be separated from the assembly and will not know how the others responded. Each candidate will be with their assigned prayer partner. My prayer partner is Pastor Dale Chesley, who happens to be Melinda's uncle from Ashland!

I want you to know that I covet your prayers through this process. I have personally been praying for God's will to be done, believing that God knows what's best for this synod that I dearly love. If you have any questions about this process, I am more than happy to address them. If you'd like further information, visit <https://nswi.org/synod-assembly-2024> where all pertinent information is kept updated, including all candidate information (bios and videos) and process information.

Pastor Martin

Youth & Family News

Celebrate Children Day

Our final day of Faith Formation for the 2023-24 academic year will be Wednesday, May 8th, 2024. We are hoping the weather will be nice enough to have activities outside as 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 a variety of songs they have learned during Faith Formation or from camp for the congregation as well.

Subs Needed for JAM Fall '24

We are still in need of people who would be interested in substituting on Wednesday nights. Please contact Amanda Larson 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.

Luther Park Registration Now Open

Summer camp registration for Luther Park is open! This year's theme is "Created to Be: Psalm 139:14." If your child is interested in attending or you have questions about camp, please go to their website (lutherpark.org) and/or contact Pastor Martin or Amanda Larson. Early bird rates end on March 1st and final camper payments are due on June 1st.

*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 Larson or Pastor Martin if you have any additional questions regarding reimbursement.

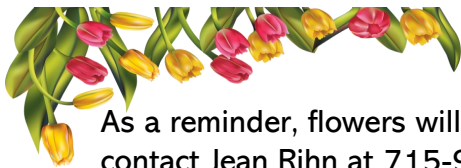
Youth In Action

Youth in Action will NOT meeting in May. HAPPY SUMMER TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!

Youth Ministry Pictures

We are looking for pictures that anyone may have taken this 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 Larson or Pastor Martin. We can forward you a link to a Google Drive. Otherwise, photos can get emailed to:

stjohnslutheran.bloomer@gmail.com



FLOWER FUNDRAISER

As a reminder, flowers will be delivered on Friday, May 10th. Delivery time is TBT. Please contact Jean Rihn at 715-933-4161 or Amanda Larson at 715-279-6962 if you have any questions.



Faith Formation Evaluation/Teacher Appreciation Event

Wednesday, May 15th, we will be hosting our teacher appreciation/end-of-the-year review/evaluation event. Please RSVP to Amanda Larson or Pastor Martin if you can attend so we can plan accordingly for food. This event will be for all JAM teachers and assistant helpers, along with subs who played an active role in assisting on Wednesday nights.

NEWS FROM PRESCHOOL STAFF!

(Church Council Minutes Continued)



Amanda

Sneak Peak Into the Program



Mrs. Larson packed into the month of April. Going into May, we will be focusing on wrapping up the theme of Pirates and Princesses and wrapping up the year with Here Comes the Sun. The children follow weekly focus walls that teach them their letters, shapes, colors, and numbers. As their teacher, I try to integrate these subject areas into the curriculum plans and daily activities that the children can choose from. It's going to be a busy and festive month! Make sure to follow our Facebook page to see what our students are up to.

Graduation

It is hard to believe that our 2023-24 academic year has come and gone! On Friday, May 17th, we will be holding graduation for this year's class in the sanctuary. There will be a reception to follow in the dining hall. We are excited to celebrate our students as many of them continue their educational journey into 4K and Kindergarten!

Important Dates to Save

We will be going to North Park on Wednesday, May 15th (MWF) and Thursday, May 16th (TTH) from 9-11AM as our final days for the 2023-24 academic year (weather permitting). Transportation will be the parents' responsibility to get them to and from the park. If you are interested in helping chaperone on this trip, please talk to Amanda Larson .

Giving Tree

We 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 Larson if you have any questions about this opportunity. As always, we appreciate your continued support!

Pre-Registration for 2024-25

Pre-registration is open for the 2024-25 academic year. If anyone has any questions, please contact Amanda Larson - 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.



(council meeting minutes continued)

Committee Reports

[Appreciation Days](#)

[Pastor's Report](#) - A motion was made by Janelle Yeakey to welcome Jade Pooler; Nate, Jodi, Jackson, Allie, Madelyn, and Kinsley Aubart; and Derek, Briana, Isaac, and Cora Scheps as members to St. John's Lutheran Church. Seconded by Alicia Bonczyk . Motion carried.

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

[Fellowship Minutes](#) – next meeting May 19th

[Preschool Minutes](#) –

Social Ministry Minutes - \$2500 was raised at Music for Mission

[Property Minutes](#) –

[Worship & Music Minutes](#) –

[Youth Minutes](#) – Celebrate Kid's Worship – May 8th

Additional Items and Announcements

Next Meeting: May 20th at 6 pm

Adjournment - a motion was made at 8:25 pm by Janelle Yeakey to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried. **Members Present:** Pastor Martin, Janelle Yeakey, Dorene Turner, Jeff Cole, Kay Anderson, Alicia Bonczyk; **Others Present:** NA; **Members Absent:** Kyle Prill, Jason Graski, Jamie Keller, Aubrie Bohl, Sarah Wittrock.

Minutes submitted by Janelle Yeakey, Secretary



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

715-568-5446
 Email: stjohnsl-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

High School Senior Recognition service
Wednesday, May 15

Come and celebrate the graduating class of 2024 and give them the encouragement for the future that lies ahead! (Reception to follow)



WEDNESDAY MEALS
 Every **Wednesday** from
 4:45 – 5:30 p.m. come and join your
 friends and family at St. John's for a
DELICIOUS meal!
 Cost is \$5 per person
OR \$15 per family



Quilting Group
 Will be meeting on
May 21st
 at 1:00-4:00 p.m.

SEW CUTE!

Everyone is welcome!!




WEDNESDAY
MAY 8TH
CELEBRATE
CHILDREN!

We celebrate children in a special way through their music and participation.

Camp-Style
Worship Service



