



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 Gary Hedding

Youth & Preschool News

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Easter-palooza

My daughter-in-law, Karrie, is a wonderful person, a loving spouse, and an excellent mom. We love her. She loves to celebrate special family moments - not just a blip for a day either. She instituted Karriepalooza, a month long celebration of her birthday. There is also Tonypalooza and Harper palooza as well. Her take on birthdays is that they are worth a whole month because, hey, it celebrates our birth, without which we wouldn't have a person to celebrate. Pretty sure she has something there.

April is all about the Cross and Empty Tomb, without which we wouldn't have very much about Jesus to celebrate. Alleluia's return with joy. Our sin has been put to death along with Jesus, and a new life in the Holy Spirit fills us because of Jesus' resurrection. This new life in Christ is full of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). "From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view," and acknowledge that God "has given us the ministry of reconciliation" now that grace through Jesus' death and resurrection have reconciled us to God.

I propose that the whole month of April be celebrated as Easterpalooza. Celebrate our reconciliation with God and be a reconciling presence in the world as a grateful response to Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

April is also the month when you can anticipate the work of the Call Committee to take off in earnest. We need all of you to think about to what ministries is St. John's being called, in our community and throughout the world. What kinds of equipping do you need for your own life of ministry in family, work, school, retirement, and leisure? What creative, fresh ministries should we try as we proclaim Christ? These questions will help us identify the gifts, experiences, priorities, and character of the next called pastor. We will be grateful for your help. Keep living in Easterpalooza.

Peace,

Pastor Gary Hedding
Interim Pastor

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 April 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

Suzette Zwiefelhofer; Bert Tozer; The Kuehn Family; Lily Higbie; Rod Martin; Hunter Custer; Charlene Rosenbrook; Richard Anderson; Pat Prill; Kari Skaar; Renee Grambo; Deanna Stuckert; Jason Rihn; Edith Fleming; Kristi Swartz; Carson (family friend of Kristine Mickelson); Arlene Christianson; Wayne & Nancy Zogleman.

Prayers For the Saints

Prayers for the week of Apr. 6th: Kristine, Tyler, Charlie and Lincoln Mickelson; Cody Miller; Mariah Miller; Masen Miller; Jeff and Teresa Miller; Garrett, Rebekah and Westley Misener; Kristin, Tim, Micah, Miles, Tatem and Tyler Mohr.

Prayers for the week of Apr. 13th: Robert and Wendy Mooney; lylah Morning; Tina and Travis Myers; Janice and Lee Naset; Butch and Sue Nehring; Carrie, Aiden, Brennan and Calum Nehring; Eva and Kenneth Newton; Al and Judy Nimtz.

Prayers for the week of Apr. 20th: Deborah Nissen; Jennifer, Philip, Evan and Nevaeh Nitek; Brandon, Cassandra, Warren, Waylon and Weston North; Kim Oldenberg; Ashley, Paris, Athena and Lennon Pappas; Buck and Peg Paulsen; Marie Paulus.

Prayers for the week of Apr. 27th: Heather, Todd, Kalie, Addison, Arianna and Gavin Pecha; Bob, Debbie and Brenna Peterson; Brandon, Erin, Londyn and Tenley Peterson; Robert Peterson; Tammy Peterson.

Call Committee for Selecting a New Pastor

The Call Committee for facilitating finding new pastor candidates for St. John's was selected during a special meeting on Sunday, February 23rd. Committee Members are Beth Halverson, Rich Helgesen, Matt Larson, Tyler Mickelson, Sue Nehring, and Barb Ross. Church Council representative is Wendy LaGesse. Youth representatives are Alexis Bonczyk, Harley Prill and Camryn Yeakey. The committee's 1st meeting will be on April 9th, and will be conducted by Synod Liaison, Pastor Randy Olson. Future meetings will be guided by Interim Pastor Gary Hedding.

APRIL 2025 CALENDAR

Church News

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| 30 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service 10:00am Worship Committee Meeting 11:00am Council Retreat at Luther Park | 31 8:30am Bible Study | 1 | 2 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Soup & Sandwich Meal 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service | 3 | 4 | 5 8:00am - 1:00pm "All You Need is Love" ELCA Women's Conference 7:00pm New Auburn Community Choir |
| 6 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service | 7 8:30am Bible Study | 8 6:15pm Preschool Committee Meeting | 9 10:30am Bloomer Clergy Association Mtg 2:00pm Bible Study 3:45pm - 4:30pm Fed & Forgiven 1st Communion Class 4:45pm Soup & Sandwich Meal 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service 7:00pm Launch Meeting for Call Committee | 10 9:30am Pastor's Conference | 11 | 12 |
| 13 9:00am Palm Sunday Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after | 14 8:30am Bible Study | 15 | 16 Preschool Party/PJ Easter Party | 17 Preschool Party/PJ Easter Party 7:00pm Maundy Thursday | 18 NO SCHOOL 7:00pm Good Friday | 19 |
| 20 HAPPY EASTER! 8:00am Easter Morning Sunrise Breakfast 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service | 21 NO SCHOOL 8:30am Bible Study | 22 1:00pm - 3:00pm Quilting Group | 23 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 Volunteer Brunch 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service | 28 8:30am Bible Study 5:00pm Youth Committee Meeting 6:00pm Church Council Meeting | 29 | 30 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service | 1 | 2 | 3 |

WEDNESDAY MEALS

Every **Wednesday** during **LENT** from 4:45 – 5:30 p.m. come and join your friends & family at St. John's for Lenten Soup & Sandwich Meals provided by our Faith Formation Families!



Suggested donation is \$7 per person or \$20 per family



Quilting Group

Will be meeting on

April 22nd

at 1:00-3:00 p.m.



Everyone is welcome!!

Church Council Meeting Minutes

March 24th, 2025

Call to Order - Meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Dorene Turner, Council President.

Opening Devotion – Dorene Turner led the council from the devotion book “Christ in Our Home”.

Approval of the Agenda -A motion was made by Janelle Yeakey to approve the agenda with flexibility; seconded by Wendy LaGessee. Motion carried.

Approval of last Council Minutes - A motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to approve the minutes from the February 17th, 2025 meeting; seconded by Tyler Halverson. Motion carried.

Presentation of Gaga Pit project by Jacob Skaar

The Boy Scout Troop is offering to build a gaga pit for the church, would cost a couple hundred dollars. Jacob will gather more information about cost with the council. A location to store the gaga pit will need to be determined.

Financial Report -

| | |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| | Year to Date (Jan-Jan 2025) |
| Income | \$ 28,595.03 |
| Expenses | \$ 24,192.34 |
| Difference | \$ 4,402.69 |

Transfers: none
February Offerings: \$ 11,181

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| CD's | \$76,000 | \$200,000 |
| Location | Security Financial Bank | Security Financial Bank |
| % APR | 5.0 | 5.25 |
| Timeframe | 12 months | 15 months |
| Expires | 8-8-25 | 11-6-25 |

| Date | Total |
|--------|-------|
| 2/2 | 3,487 |
| 2/9 | 2,501 |
| 2/16 | 1,488 |
| 2/23 | 2,162 |
| online | 1,543 |

All money is insured through FDIC

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

Old Business-

- 1) Apartment storage update: council to work on creating an inventory and determine what items need to remain, will revisit in May.
- 2) Council Retreat – March 30th, 10:15 leave for Luther Park
- 3) Volunteer Brunch – April 27th; Dorene will continue to gather information
- 4) New Auburn Community Choir – April 5th

New Business –

- 1) Call Committee Update – committee is working on determining an initial meeting with Pastor Randy Olson to begin the process.
- 2) Draft Revisions for constitution – Tyler shared a draft document from a previous council with potential revisions to the constitution. Any changes would need to be proposed 60 days before being brought to the congregation. (ADD DOCUMENT TO EMAIL!)

Minutes continued on page 5

March 24th Church Council Minutes *(Continued)* More Church News

(council meeting minutes continued)

Committee Reports

- **Appreciation Days –**
 Secretary day = April 23rd
 Volunteer week = April 20-26th
 Teacher week = May 4th-10th
 Food Service = September 25th
 Pastor = October 13th
 Musician = national hug a musician November 13,(we did this date in 2024) national musicians day
 January 24th
 Preschool Staff appreciation will be handled by the preschool committee.
- **Pastor’s Report -**
- **Discipleship—will focus on this group in May.**
- **Fellowship Minutes –**
- **Preschool Minutes—A motion was made on March 5th via email by Janelle Yeakey for the preschool to offer the following 3 options for enrollment:**
 Option 1: M/T/W/Th with tuition \$2,835 per year
 Option 2: T/Th at \$1,575 with tuition per year
 Option 3: M/W at \$1,575 with tuition per year
 Seconded by Tyler Halverson. Motion carried.
 The council was made aware of a concern brought forward by a congregation member with the bathroom used by the preschool. A discussion was had about possible solutions, Janelle will reach out to property committee.
- **Social Ministry Minutes**
- **Property Minutes – an ant issue was located in the preschool/kitchen area. A pest control company was contacted by Amanda.**
- **Worship & Music Minutes – Easter service times will be checked.**
- **Youth Minutes—**
- **Call Committee (see above)**

Additional Items and Announcements

Next Meeting: April 28th at 6 pm

Adjournment - a motion was made at 7:16 pm by Tyler Halverson to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.

Members Present: Janelle Yeakey, Kay Anderson, Dorene Turner, Tyler Halverson, Wendy LaGessee, Michele Lane, Alicia Bonczyk Others Present: Members Absent: Aubrie Bohl, Kyle Prill, Gary Hedding, Jason Graski.



*All You
Need is Love*
 ELCA Women's
 Chippewa Valley
 Conference
 DAY OF RENEWAL

Saturday, April 5th from 8:00
 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

*Details & registration forms can
 be found on bulletin boards at
 both church entrances*

Mark Your Calendar!
**NEW AUBURN
 COMMUNITY CHOIR
 CONCERT**
**Saturday, April 5th
 at 7:00 p.m.**



Youth & Family News

Lenten Suppers – Soups and Sandwich Dinners

Our JAM and confirmation families will be helping with dinner during the session of Lent. April 2nd (Melissa Sarauer's group), and April 9th (Liz Bohl's group), our confirmation groups will serve dinner, including a variety of soups and sandwiches. April 16th the JAM students will assist in providing dinner to wrap up Lenten soup and sandwich dinners.



Faith Formation Evaluation/ Teacher Appreciation Event

Wednesday, May 14th, we will be hosting our teacher appreciation/end-of-the-year review/evaluation event. Please RSVP to Amanda Larson 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.

Dates to Consider

There will be **NO Faith Formation for Wednesday, April 16th, during Holy Week.** For more information, please contact Amanda Larson.

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. We can forward you a link to a Google Drive. Otherwise, photos can get emailed to: stjohnslutheran.bloomer@gmail.com

Senior Recognition

Save the date! We will be recognizing our seniors (graduates) on Sunday, May 18th. More information will be shared via email with the Senior families in the coming weeks.



Big Stack Sweets

With your support, our youth were able to make a profit of \$500 from our fundraiser with Big Stack Sweets for our youth. As always, this is only possible because of the support of our families, community, and congregation. Thank you - we truly appreciate it!

Celebrate Children's Day

Planning ahead, our final day of Faith Formation for the 2024-2025 academic year will be Wednesday May 7th, 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 focus on our youth during worship that evening. JAM students will sing a variety of songs they have learned during Faith Formation or from camp for the congregation as well.

Confirmation

This year's eighth-grade class will be confirmed on Sunday, May 4th, a significant day. Please send Amanda Larson (amanda_stjohnspreschool@aol.com) your child's full name, picture, faith statement, and Bible verse by April 27th. This is a special occasion for your child, and we hope you can join us in celebrating it.

Don't hesitate to get in touch with Amanda Larson with any questions you may have.

Luther Park Registration Now Open

Summer camp registration for Luther Park is officially open! This year's theme is "God's word comes near," highlighting how God's word is close, alive, and present in our daily lives. Through scripture and Jesus, God's word grounds us in love, hope, and new life. In five sessions, Luther Park will explore how it inspires trust, offers blessings, encourages listening, empowers service, and calls us to follow.

If your child is interested in attending or you have questions about camp, please go to their website (lutherpark.org) and/or contact Amanda Larson. Early bird rates end on March 31st and final camp 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.

NEWS FROM PRESCHOOL STAFF!

Amanda



Registration is OPEN for 2025-2026

Enrollment for the 2025-2026 academic year is OPEN, with LIMITED spots available! We have NEW class options available for the 2025-2026 academic year, along with new program hours:

Monday - Thursday (4-day option)

Monday/Wednesday -or- Tuesday/Thursday (2-day options)

Early drop off 7:15/7:30/7:45/8:00

Extended pick up 11:00/11:15/11:30

If you are looking for a high-quality preschool program, please consider enrolling your child with us this Fall. Students can register for our morning program if they are between the ages of 3 and 5. This program is an excellent option if your child is not old enough to enroll in 4K but you want them to work on specific skills; if they will be attending 4K in the afternoon [Talk to us about 4K busing!]; or if you are waiting for them to go to school until kindergarten. For more information, message us on Facebook, call 715-568-5446 ext. 14,

email amanda_stjohnspreschool@aol.com, or text 715-226-8207 work mobile.

Classroom Wishlist

We have an Amazon Wishlist set up if anyone is interested in supporting the preschool program with some additional supplies we could benefit from. Our link is: <https://a.co/7G4BmXD> - Please reach out to Amanda Larson if you have any questions about this opportunity. As always, we appreciate your continued support.

Sneak Peek into the Program

Mrs. Larson has a lot packed into April. During this month, our themes explored will include Here Comes Peter Cottontail (Easter) and Farm Life. The children follow weekly focus walls that teach them letters, shapes, colors, and numbers. As their teacher, I try to integrate these subject areas into the curriculum plans and daily activities the children can choose from. It's going to be a busy and festive month! Follow our Facebook page to see what our students are up to.

Read-a-Thon Fundraiser

We raised \$501 for the preschool because of the support of our families, community, and congregation. We truly appreciate your continued support of the preschool program.

Important Dates to Save

Friday, April 18th there is NO SCHOOL for Easter Break.

Family Fun Night

We hosted our second Family Fun Night of the 2024-2025 academic year on Friday, March 21st. We had a wonderful attendance featuring 9 families and over 30 people! Out of the 9 families, 4 families were new to our program while the other 5 families were current or past students. We truly appreciate the support of our committee to make events like this possible.

Party Day: PJ/Movie and Easter Party

On Wednesday, April 16th, and Thursday, April 17th, we will have pajama/movie days for our students, along with an Easter Egg Hunt to wrap up our Here Comes Peter Cottontail theme. We look forward to enjoying popcorn and a movie as a treat for their hard work in conjunction with our little Easter celebrations.

ATTENTION FAMILIES OF 1st COMMUNION CHILDREN



St. John's will prepare young people to receive Holy Communion through a series of **three 45-minute** classes on Wednesday evenings, from **3:45-4:30pm**. The next classes will be held **April 9 and May 7**. We ask the young people to have a parent or other guardian attend with them so that they may continue their conversations about the place and value of this Sacrament in their lives. Contact Amanda Larson to let us know that you are interested in this preparation.

FAMILIES LIKE YOU
ARE **AMAZIN'**



IF YOU WISH TO DONATE TO
OUR CLASSROOM PLEASE
SCAN THE QR CODE!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!





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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

715-568-5446
 Email: stjohndl-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: Deacon Martha Libersky or Pastor Gary Hedding
 Church: 715-568-5446, extension 11
 Home (Martha): 715-568-4653
 Cell (Martha): 715-829-4653
 Email: fmlibers@bloomer.net (Deacon Martha)
 paddleg@gmail.com (Pastor Gary)

EASTER FLOWERS

-  Easter Flowers can be ordered between now and Monday, April 14. Order forms with dedication information can be found at the welcome desk in the Narthex. Cost = \$10 each.
-  Flowers that you order will adorn the sanctuary on Easter Morning and can be picked up after the Easter morning service.




HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

WED, APRIL 16TH – NO SERVICE OR ACTIVITIES
APRIL 17TH – MAUNDY THURSDAY
 6:45 P.M. WORSHIP

APRIL 18TH - GOOD FRIDAY, 1:00 P.M.
 ECUMENICAL SERVICE AT
 UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
 6:45 GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP
 SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S

EASTER SUNDAY

8:00 A.M. EASTER BREAKFAST
 9:00 A.M. EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

The Potter and Me


Mar. 12: The Bargain
 Mar. 19: "Never Too Late for the Potter"
 Mar. 26: "The TwoThieves"
Apr. 2: "I Was Hoping For Cookies"
 Apr. 9: "Back To The Potter"

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.



Library Corner

Check It Out!
 There's a new book in the library –
A Gentleman In Moscow
 by Amor Towles.
 Suspenseful and heartwarming.



Explore your faith & life through books.