



St. John's Lutheran Church

Mission Statement:

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

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Letter From Pastor Gary Hedding

Church News

Youth & Preschool News

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A Cross and An Empty Tomb

April brings us to the celebration of the foundations of the Good News of Jesus and to the foundations of our relationship with God - a Cross and an empty Tomb. Jesus makes a gift of his life for us when he lovingly goes to the cross. "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends"(John 15:13). The cross is the demonstration of the lengths to which God will go to convince us that God's love for us is real. God's love for the world and for each of us is determined and selfless. When God cares for us this much, we can put our whole lives in God's hands knowing that God can be trusted to care for us, lead us, even challenge us so that we might be the people that we want to be and which our neighbors need us to be.

God makes a gift to us when Jesus is raised from death and leaves his tomb empty. That empty tomb demonstrates the power of God over sin, death, and the power of the devil. Through God's Word and through Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, God gives us forgiveness, a new life of faith and service that gives us a taste of heaven now, and the assurance of life everlasting after our death. Easter is the sign that God brings life and power for us in every situation - no matter how much it feels like Good Friday - so that we can be confident that God gives us the power to live and love again and again. Easter gives us hope when it may seem ridiculous to hold any hope at all. Easter shows us that, in the end, all of our tombs will be empty as well. Easter enables us to be a source of love and life and power for those who need it. I wish for you the foundations of Christ's Cross and empty Tomb to be those foundations for your empowered and joyous relationship with God and for your determination to follow Jesus through service in His name. **Happy Easter!**

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

Family & Friends of Scott Powell; Larson Family; Mitch Fanetti; Nancy Zogleman; LuAnn Larson; Sharon Schwartz; Janet Krenz; Lucy Martin; Marie Weideman; Rod Martin; Renee Grambo; Bonnie Mickelson; The Kuehn Family; Deanna Stuckert; Kari Skaar; Suzette Zwiefelhofer; Judy Hedding (Stepmom of Pastor Gary).

Prayers For the Saints

Prayers for the week of Apr. 5th: Dave and Pauline Stertz; Deanna Stevens; Jeremy, Bobbi, Ethan and Emma Stouffer; Deanna Stuckert; Marlin and Monica Stuckert; Charlie, Nicole, Ava and Conor Sundberg; Dale and Sanja Swan; Jenny, Aubrey and James Tarnowski.

Prayers for the week of Apr. 12th: Jacob, Emily and Elouise Taylor; Cody, Susan, Abigail and Ben Thiede; Jerome, Tia and Tiana Thomley; Claire, Matt, Georgia, Graham and Henry Tiller; Brent, Ilona, Izibel and Trent Tozer; Kathy Tozer; Dorene, Jeff, Alicyn and Morgyn Turner.

Prayers for the week of Apr. 19th: Janice Turner; Melissa and Kianna Turner; Randy Turner; Jessica, Ross, Avery and Madelyn Waldofski; Jennifer, Luke, Morgan and Kayden Walta; Jessica and Dehija Walters; Bob, Cathy and Nathan Weber; Carol and John Weideman.

Prayers for the week of Apr. 26th: Marie Weideman; Lon and Pat Wilson; Marlene Windsor; Sharon Winfield; Brent, Janelle, Blaine, Camryn and Kelly Yeakey; Randy and Tami Yeakey; Pete, Stacie, Paige and Kendall Zeman.

Giving by Year	
	Regular Giving by Members
2025	\$148,615.00
2024	\$165,887.00
2023	\$184,727.00
2022	\$191,450.00
2021	\$222,656.00
2020	\$204,809.00
2019	\$226,185.00
2018	\$224,848.00
2017	\$224,736.00

Analysis of Giving Trend and Full Time Pastor Salary Needs

2025 Giving from Members	\$148,615
Estimated Pastor Compensation	\$120,000
Remainder for All Other Ministries	\$ 28,615
Total Checking & Savings as of 12/31/2025	\$107,830
Assets from Two CD's as of 12/31/20205	\$276,000
Total Cash on Hand	\$383,830

**This represents a 33% decrease in giving in 2025 compared to 2021. This level of giving is not able to sustain a full time pastor and all the other congregational expenses. Accessing our cash on hand for operating expenses would only give us about three years before those assets are exhausted. We want to present the congregation to candidates for call with a healthy financial situation. I encourage you to grow your giving to God through St. John's as we continue our search for a settled pastor.

APRIL 2026 CALENDAR

Church News

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 PALM SUNDAY Youth In Action (Time to be determined) 9:00am Palm Sunday Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	30 8:30am NO Bible Study Today	31	1 2:00pm NO Bible Study today	2 7:00pm Maundy Thursday	3 1:00pm Ecumenical Good Friday Service 7:00pm Good Friday Service	4
5 HAPPY EASTER! 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	6 8:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Intermediate Council Meeting	7	8 10:30am Bloomer Clergy Association Mtg 2:00pm Bible Study 4:30pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	9 9:30am Pastor's Conference	10	11
12 Church Cleaning after Service & Town Hall 9:00am Worship Service-Luther Park Presentation 10:00am Town Hall with refreshments	13 8:30am Bible Study	14	15 2:00pm Bible Study 4:30pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	16	17	18
19 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	20 8:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	21 1:00pm - 3:00pm Quilting Group	22 2:00pm Bible Study 4:30pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	23	24	25
26 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service 12:00pm Funeral-Scott Powell	27 8:30am Bible Study	28	29 2:00pm Bible Study 4:30pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	30	1	2

THERE WILL NOT BE A MEAL

Wednesday, April 1st Due to it being Holy Week.

Meals will begin again on Wednesday April 8th

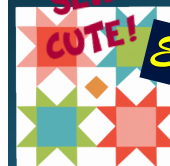


Church Council Townhall Meeting
Sunday April 12th after worship

The Council wants input on building needs and projects to fund.
 Ex: cleaning, painting, etc

Quilting Group

Will be meeting on **Tuesday, April 21st** at 1:00-3:00 p.m.



Everyone is welcome!!

SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday, April 11 from 8am-1:30pm

ELCA Women's Chippewa Valley Conference
DAY OF RENEWAL 2026

• Spirit Lutheran Church, 1310 Main St., Eau Claire

*Caring for God's Creation
 Beginning With You*

Details and registration information is located on bulletin boards at both church entrances.

Please help St. John's Lutheran update our membership information!

Electronic Form



Thank you to those who have already updated their contact information!
 Paper forms available from the office

Do you have a special trade or talent (e.g., electrician, plumber)?



The property committee needs your help! We are building a contact list assist with church property needs as they arise.

Please contact Victoria in the office to be added to the list.

Church Council Meeting Minutes

March 9th, 2026

Call to Order - Meeting was called to order at 5:59pm by Wendy LaGessee, council president.

Opening Devotion – Wendy LaGessee led the council in the daily devotion from Christ in our Home.

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

Approval of last Council Minutes - A motion was made by Michelle Lane to approve the minutes from the February 16th, 2026 meeting; seconded by Wendy LaGessee. Motion carried.

Financial Report -

	Year to Date (Jan-Feb 2026)
Income	\$ 32,814.85
Expenses	\$ 30,205.75
Difference	\$ 2,608.60

February Offerings	
Date	Total
2/1	\$ 3,506
2/8	Counted on 2/15
2/15	\$ 3,768
2/22	\$ 1,785
Online	\$ 956
Total	\$10,015

Transfers: none

CD's	\$76,000	\$200,000
Location	Security Financial Bank	Security Financial Bank
% APR	4.25	4.25
Timeframe	7 months	12 months
Expires	(renewal in progress)	11-7-26

All money is insured through FDIC

A motion was made by Emmitt Anderson to accept the financial report. Seconded by Matt Larson. Motion carried. A discussion was had about re-investing the \$76,000 CD when it comes due. An email discussion will finalize plans due to having to wait until 3-12 for interest rates. See Council Retreat discussion below about future use of CD money.

Old Business-

- A) Apartment Storage update: remaining unneeded items will be sold at a thrift sale in the spring.
- B) Church directory update: individual emails sent on 3/8 to those who had not responded yet. 50 households are listed with no email, we will encourage through Easter. Letters will be mailed after Easter to households with no email listed and no response.
- C) Council retreat: Discussion at retreat focused on positive things happening in the congregation. Council looked at the donation trends over the past few years, which is has been steadily declining. Consideration about how that looks for potential pastoral candidates was discussed. The council also discussed how to best utilize the CD money now that the outdoor road construction has been completed.

The council will be looking to gather information from the congregations of needs and priorities for the church through a Townhall April 12th, followed by a survey. Janelle will create an announcement slide and survey for after the townhall meeting.

- D) Victoria's office update: concern about possible fire codes to confirm quotes; Jason shared quotes on potential cabinets. A motion was made by Janelle Yeakey to spend up to \$800 from the council fund to place cabinets in the secretary office. Seconded by Matt Larson. Motion carried.
- E) Filing Cabinet update– continuing to clean out and take to recycling.
- F) Health care for Youth Director Position – more information was shared with the council on potential costs, a decision will need to be made at the next month on what steps will be taken.
- G) Water heater – water heater was installed on 2/18 and is up and running. While the electric guys were at the church they looked at the transformer that was brought up previously. The transformer changes the power from 208 volts 3 phase to 240 volt to feed the elevator. The transformer is essential to the elevator from what they can trace out.

Minutes continued on page 5

Mar. 9th Church Council Minutes (Continued) More Church News

(council meeting minutes continued)

- H) Easter Cantata Update – thanks to all those who have volunteered to bring treats, directions for the reception were shared with the fellowship committee.
- I) Lock Box – purchased, will be installed soon.

New Business –

- A) Color copier - Our current copier is about to be made “obsolete” in that our contract for servicing is about to expire for this model. A motion was made via email on 2/24 by Wendy LaGesse to replace the color copier with a refurbished copier from EO Johnson at a cost of \$3,995 paid through the general fund. Seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion Carried with 8 yes votes. Copier will be installed on Monday March 23rd.
- B) Quake Hours for Youth Director – A motion was made by Janelle Yeakey to compensate the Youth Director for the 19.5 hours at Quake at a rate of time and a half. Seconded by Jason Graski. Motion carried.
- C) Checking account debit cards – the bank reached out about placing names on the current debit cards for the church. Wendy will gather more information about how many cards and who uses them to bring back to the April meeting to determine if names should be placed on the cards.

Committee Reports

Appreciation Days – 2026: Secretary = April 22nd, Teacher = May 5th, Food Service = September 25th, Pastor = October 11th, Musician = November = 13th.

Pastor’s Report –

Discipleship-

Fellowship Minutes – Easter Breakfast will be served again this year, watch announcements for more information

Social Ministry Minutes –

Youth Minutes – discussion on needing more help/guidance for the youth in the kitchen for lenten soup and sandwich dinner

Preschool Minutes –

Property Minutes – The vines on the front of the church will be removed in the next few weeks to prevent damage to the building. Thank you to the Bonczyks for making this happen.

Worship & Music Minutes – Easter service times will need to be determined based on musician and pastor availability.

Call Committee – no new updates

Additional Items and Announcements

Next Meeting: April 20th at 6 pm

Adjournment - a motion was made at 7:53 pm by Emmitt Anderson to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.

Members Present: Janelle Yeakey, Kay Anderson, Bridget Krejci, Michele Lane, Wendy LaGesse, Emmitt Anderson, Matt Larson, Jason Graski, Alicia Bonczyk **Members Absent:** Gary Hedding, Tyler Halverson.

We are looking for volunteers to read scripture on Sunday mornings. If you would like to read scripture, there is a sign-up chart on the bulletin board in the church entry way. Victoria will give you a copy of the readings for your Sunday.

We like to have homemade communion bread ideally for the 1st Sunday of each month. If you would like to make communion bread, there is a sign-up chart on the bulletin board in the church entry way. This is a great family project. The bread recipe can be found in the altar guild room on white board next to the sink.



St. John's Foundation Annual Meeting
Re-Scheduled date and time to be announced soon.

Youth and Family News

Confirmation

This year's eighth-grade class will be confirmed on **Sunday, May 3rd**, a significant day. Please send Pastor Gary Hedding, (paddlegh@gmail.com) your child's full name, a photo, their faith statement, and a Bible verse by **April 22nd**. 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 Pastor Gary with any questions you may have.

Important Dates to Notice

There will be **NO Faith formation, Meal or Worship Service on Wednesday, April 1st**, due to **Holy Week Observances**. We will see you all back for Faith Formation on Wednesday, April 8th.

Possible Upcoming Fundraiser

Youth Committee is looking into a fundraiser with Rite Bite Fundraising, who we partner with for the Holiday "Butter Braids" fundraiser. They have a new breakfast product that we are sampling and reviewing. Watch for updates in the bulletin and Announcements Power Point!

Senior Recognition Sunday, May 10 at 9:00 a.m. Worship Service

We are asking families with Graduating Seniors to send Pastor Gary (paddlegh@gmail.com) pictures, full names of the students, and plans for their next steps in life. This is an important milestone in their lives which we will honor, recognize, and bless as siblings in Christ.

Group Leads and Substitutes Needed for JAM and Confirmation

We are still seeking individuals interested in substituting or leading a group on Wednesday nights. Please contact Pastor Gary for more information so we can add you to our list. Additionally, if there is a specific age group you would like to work with or prefer not to work with, please provide that information as well.

Youth Ministry Pictures

We are looking for pictures that anyone may have taken this year. If you have any pictures you can 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 be emailed to:
stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net

Youth In Action

Our next YIA is yet to be scheduled. Watch upcoming Announcements in bulletin and at regular services for updates.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Gary Hedding (319) 464-7278 mobile or paddlegh@gmail.com.

Sunday, April 12, will be our Luther Park **Camp Sunday**. Executive Director Eric Klein will be present to give us an update on the camp, our partner in ministry, and will preach for us that Sunday. Luther Park Camp has been a significant part of the faith formation of young people of St. John's - so much so that we offer scholarships to help with camp registration fees (contact Pastor Gary). Registration for summer camps are open and you can register online at
lutherpark.org/summer-camps

NEWS FROM PRESCHOOL STAFF

Minutes from Special Council Meeting, March 23rd

Amanda



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. Please consider contributing to our Wishlist.

Our link is: <https://a.co/7G4BmXD>

Please reach out to Kim Schulze if you have any questions about this opportunity. As always, we appreciate your continued support.

Sneak Peek Into the Program

Mrs. Schulze is focusing on fine motor skills in April, starting with plenty of Easter related crafts that involve cutting and weaving. Students will also focus on identifying and building patterns.

Important Dates to Save

An important date change, there will be class on Monday, April 6th, originally this was scheduled as a day off.

Pre-Registration for 2026-2027

Pre-registration is now open for the 2026-2027 academic year. If anyone has any questions, please contact Kim Schulze (920) 397-6350 or email kimschulze12@gmail.com. We are excited to welcome new students to our program, and we hope to see some familiar faces returning as well.

** Important Update **

We want you to know that Amanda Larson, our Youth Director and Preschool Director had a medical emergency that will take some time for a full recovery. She is currently on medical leave. Amanda, her family, and her medical caregivers have a good plan that will encourage her return to health. The Youth Committee has stepped up to provide leadership for what is one of the best youth ministries in the synod. The Preschool Board of Directors moved quickly to care for the preschool. Amanda is one of the teachers, so to maintain the teacher/student ratio required by our license, some students are not able to continue in the program. Parents have been understanding, which we appreciate. Tuition fees for March were reimbursed for students affected by the change. Kimberly Schulze, our other teacher, is taking on all classroom duties. We are grateful for her experience and leadership. We pray for Amanda's recovery and for God's gracious presence for her and her family. Pastor Gary will take any questions you may have.

*** Minutes, Special Council Meeting, March 23, 2026 ***

Call to Order - meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Wendy LaGesse, Council President. —*Closed session*—

A motion was made at 6:04 pm by Tyler Halverson to go into closed session. Seconded by Michele Lane. Motion Carried.

A motion was made at 6:45 pm by Tyler Halverson to leave closed session. Seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion Carried

Open Session

A motion was made by Tyler Halverson to pay the Youth Director/Preschool Director/Teacher through the end of March. Payroll for the positions will be revisited on April 6th. Seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion Carried.

Pastor Gary will be the point of contact for the preschool and youth during the medical leave of absence of the Youth Director and Preschool Director.

Next meeting: April 6th at 6pm

Adjournment - a motion was made at 6:51 pm by Tyler Halverson to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried. **Members Present:** Janelle Yeakey, Kay Anderson, Michele Lane, Wendy LaGesse, Jason Graski, Alicia Bonczyk, Tyler Halverson, Gary Hedding (via phone) **Members Absent:** Bridget Krejci, Emmitt Anderson, Matt Larson.



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: 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)
paddlegh@gmail.com (Pastor Gary)

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

WED, APRIL 1ST – NO SERVICE OR ACTIVITIES

APRIL 2ND – MAUNDY THURSDAY
7:00 P.M. WORSHIP

APRIL 3RD - GOOD FRIDAY, 1:00 P.M.
ECUMENICAL SERVICE HERE AT
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
7:00 GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP
SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S

EASTER SUNDAY

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

