



# 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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### Summer's Last "Hurrah"

When I was growing up, August was the last hurrah before school started. My family might try to squeeze in one more vacation trip; we would gather up school supplies; and we would breathe deeply of the summer breezes, knowing that fall would soon be upon us. August put the finishing touches on summer. Summer travels can be a time to experiment with devotional practices. Two online daily devotions that I have found important to me are "God Pause" and "d365". Both center on the texts for the upcoming Sunday and both bring God's Word and a brief devotion into our lives in about ten minutes. A simple web search will lead you to them and if you find them helpful you can subscribe or download the app for no cost.

For St. John's, it is a time for a number of exciting ministries that reach into the Bloomer area. We share a Vacation Bible School with other congregations and invite children from throughout the community to grow in faith through the light of Christ as we "Glitter and Glow in His Grace", August 3-6, 5:00-7:00pm at St. John's.

We will also join with other congregations in Bloomer for a "Community Church at the Fair", Sunday, August 10, 10:00am in the Beer Gardens of the fairgrounds. We hope to make this an annual time of worship with our friends and neighbors in the Bloomer area. There will be no worship service at St. John's that morning and we encourage you to invite others to this ecumenical time of worship and fellowship.

August will see the work of the Call Committee advance into the next phase as the Ministry Site Profile is submitted to the synod office. This document, based on the survey the congregation membership filled out, is our invitation to pastoral candidates seeking call in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin to consider exploring a pastoral call to our congregation. Please keep this process, the synod office, and candidates in your prayers.

May God shower you with grace throughout the month and establish you in faith.

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

## Please Join Our Church Family In Prayer



As we enter the month of August 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: stjohndl-secretary@bloomer.net

### Prayers of Healing For Our Church Family

Family of Eliotte Heinz (friends of Yeakey family); The Kuehn Family; Richard Anderson; Kari Skaar; Suzette Zwiefelhofer; Rod Martin; Pat Prill; Renee Grambo; Edith Fleming; Charlene Rosenbrook; Arlene Christianson; Deanna Stuckert; Wayne & Nancy Zogleman; Kristi Swartz.

### Prayers For the Saints

Prayers for the week of Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>: Randy and Tami Yeakey; Pete, Stacie, Paige, Kendall Zeman; Amanda, Jeremy, DeLaney and Dyllon Zwiefelhofer; Garret, Kari, Trey and Skylar Zwiefelhofer; Suzette Zwiefelhofer; Adam, Liz (Bohl), Emmitt, Henry and Lucy Anderson.

Prayers for the week of Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>: Jessica Anderson; Karen Anderson; Kay and Richard Anderson; Doug, Shellie, Tayler and Zachary Asher; Karlien Asplund; Matt and Penni Asplund; Jodi, Nate, Allie, Jackson, Kinsley and Madelyn Aubart.

Prayers for the week of Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>: Justin, Stacey, Bentley, Journey and Riley Babbit; Yvonne Baier; Greg, Tasha, Trey, Ava, Brodie and Dylan Baker; Bruce, Karen Barlow; Jerome, Kristie, Alicia and Ryan Benson.

Prayers for the week of Aug. 24<sup>th</sup>: Jill, Mark, Karsten and Madi Bergh; Matthew, Melissa, Claire and Tyler Berlin; Dale and Rita Bitney; Albert and Merlene Blaha; Lydia, Steven, Chase and Reagan Blaha; Annie and Bill Bleskacek.

Prayers for the week of Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>: Brian, Laura, Jake, John, Jonah and Leah Bleskacek; Joselyn, Nathan, Lauren and Ryan Bleskacek; Annie and Larry Boese; Bryan, Mary, Blake, Brooks and Tenley Boese; Nicole Boese; Patricia Boettcher.

## **2025 Confirmation Faith Statements**

I have never had to question my faith in God. St. John's always makes me feel welcomed. I'm never scared to say what I'm thinking and ask all of my questions. They explain everything so there are no more questions to be asked. God has created many beautiful things in life and I am blessed to be a part of it.

**Isaiah 60:22** - "When the time is right, I the Lord will make it happen."

God has always been here for me when I was doing great and felt amazing and when I was struggling to put my best foot forward. God has always been there and the strength of his presence has felt stronger the more I do with the church and the more I pray. St. John's has nurtured my relationship with God to be what it is today, where I can pray no matter the situation. St. John's has provided an outlet to pray and be grateful and rejoice in God's work and I could not be more grateful. I have made so many good memories at St. John's and I have many favorite camp songs that I have sung and led at church. I have had many nights at lock-ins that give us an opportunity to share our faith with our friends and praise God.

**Jeremiah 29:11** - "For I know the plans I have for you declares, the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

# AUGUST 2025 CALENDAR

## Church News

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service 5:30pm Youth Committee Meeting	28	29	30	31	1	2
3 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service 5:00pm - 7:00pm Vacation Bible School	4 8:30am Bible Study 5:00pm - 7:00pm Vacation Bible School	5 5:00pm - 7:00pm Vacation Bible School	6 2:00pm Bible Study 5:00pm - 7:00pm Vacation Bible School	7	8	9
10 <b>SPECIAL TIME!!</b> 10:00am Worship Service at Bloomer Community Fairgrounds	11 8:30am Bible Study	12	13 2:00pm Bible Study	14 9:30am Pastor's Conference	15	16
17 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	18 8:30am Bible Study 5:00pm - 7:00pm Preschool Open House 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	19 1:00pm - 3:00pm Quilting Group 5:00pm - 7:00pm Preschool Open House	20 2:00pm Bible Study	21	22	23
24 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	25 8:30am Bible Study	26 5:45pm - 6:30pm Preschool Family Fun Night	27 2:00pm Bible Study	28	29	30
31 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	1 8:30am Bible Study	2	3 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	4	5	6

### Thrivent Matching Funds Disaster Relief

For anyone interested in donating to the disaster relief for Kerr County, Texas where flood waters destroyed a Christian Bible Camp and killed 27 young campers and counselors, Thrivent will match \$1 for every \$2 you donate. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF THRIVENT TO GET THE MATCHING FUNDS.


In the address bar of your computer type in: [thrivent.com/disaster relief](http://thrivent.com/disaster%20relief)


1. You should see a link that says Disaster Response, click on it. Scroll down to Personal Donations and choose one of the three organizations listed that qualify for the matching funds. All three organizations qualify.
2. Click on Donate Now and follow the step by step instructions (amount, name, email address, credit card information, etc.)

**Quilting Group**  
Will be meeting on  
**August 19<sup>th</sup>**  
at 1:00-3:00 p.m.

**SEW CUTE!**

*Everyone is welcome!!*





**Please pray for our new Presiding Bishop**

The Rev. Yehiel Curry

**Meals On Wheels**

A BIG **THANK YOU** to all those who helped deliver "Meals on Wheels"! Your help is much appreciated not only by St. John's but the community of people who receive the meals.

**THANKS AGAIN!!**

# Church Council Meeting Minutes

## July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025

**Call to Order** - Meeting was called to order at 6:09 pm by Dorene Turner, Council President.

**Opening Devotion** – Led by Pastor Gary.

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

**Approval of last Council Minutes** - A motion was made by Wendy LaGessee to approve the minutes from the June 16th, 2025 meeting; seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.

**Financial Report -**

	Year to Date (Jan-Jun 2025)
Income	\$ 93,128.13
Expenses	\$ 79,462.25
Difference	\$ 13,665.88

Transfers: none

June Offerings	
Date	Total
6/1	1,800
6/8	2,363
6/15	1,206
6/22	710
6/29	12,852 (included annual gift of 12,000)
Online	1,961

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

All money is insured through FDIC

Kay Anderson is looking into CD interest rates to figure out the best path forward. An email conversation will follow to decide on the next steps as the maturity date will occur before the next council meeting.

A motion was made by Wendy LaGessee to accept the financial report. Seconded by Kay Anderson. Motion carried.

**Old Business-**

A) Apartment Storage update: Apartment Storage List; was share with the council. The items at the apartments do not need to be moved but the church should be aware of what is stored over there. Janelle Yeakey will work to share the list with committees/staff to see what items need to be kept versus removed.

B) Draft Revisions for constitution – will look into for August meeting.

C) Pastor Salary:

Document : 2026 Compensation Standards; council will be using the church budget along with the compensation standards to determine potential pay scale for the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) and will approve pastor compensation with the MSP.

D) Call Committee update: MSP draft was shared with the council; the council will review and approve via email. The MSP will also need to be approved by the call committee, they are meeting on 7/23, before it is submitted to the synod. Once it is submitted and approved by the Synod it will be shared with potential pastor candidates.

E) A motion was made on 6/22 via email by Alicia Bonczyk to purchase the loft play area from the library for the preschool. Seconded by Janelle Yeakey. Motion carried.

\*\*Loft transfer for inside play area was a success. Thank you for all that were able to help.\*\*

F) Computers: Bloomer Broadband does not do computers but recommend Krista Computers. (Jeff Cole recommended this business also). An estimate from Krista Computers was shared with council on cost for 4 computers with yearly protection. A motion was made by Wendy LaGessee to accepting to use Krista Computers for computer services. Seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.

More information will be shared later to determine next steps and total cost.

*Minutes continued on page 5*

# July 21<sup>st</sup> Church Council Minutes

## (Continued)

(council meeting minutes continued)

G) Benevolence: A motion was made by Michele Lane to give our benevolence of \$2,100 to Luther Park. Seconded by Wendy LaGessee. Motion carried.

H) Custodian/Church Cleaning: (2nd Sunday of every month) 1st date of cleaning was wonderful, several members stayed after church to help keep Our House looking great! Some donated supplies and some cleaned. Thank You!!! During cleaning it was brought to attention that the vacuum cleaners need to be replaced.

A motion was made by Dorene Turner to allow up to \$100 to replace the vacuums with a used vacuum. Seconded by Janelle Yeakey. Motion carried.

I) Church Directory Update – The Council received a list of active and inactive congregation members in June and will now be verifying its accuracy. To update our membership records, the Council will ask everyone to fill out membership forms, allowing us to cross-reference information. This process kicks off in September. Our goal is to create an updated member directory for our incoming pastor and streamline the creation of a picture directory down the road.

J) Implementing council retreat suggestions: Fall Church picnic with games, Camp style worship on Sunday, the return of the toy bags for worship.

K) Church phone extensions – has been updated.

### New Business –

A) Gaga pit: Discussing about how to paint the Gaga pit being created by Jacob Skaar. Youth committee will be brought into the conversation on how to proceed.

B) Building maintenance: The property committee, via Erik Larson and Kyle Prill, has been busy with fixing items around the church including the glass sliding doors, kitchen faucet replaced, working on wood railing by the parking lot entrance, altar guild room sink unclogged, rerouting of sump pump discharge, and pest control.

C) Audio system: New wireless microphone sets were ordered to replace current ones. Discussion about other potential needs for the audio visual was discussed.

D) Donation for Texas: A suggestion came from a congregation member to support the flooding relief in Texas. A motion was made by Dorene Turner to do a second offering on the next two Sundays to donate to Thrivent's Disaster relief. Council will match up to \$1000. Seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.

Thrivent - For every \$2 you give to an organization listed below through Thrivent's online giving platform or a Thrivent Charitable Impact and Investing® donor-advised fund grant, Thrivent will add \$1 up to \$250,000.\*

\* Austin Disaster Relief Network, Austin, Texas \* Convoy of Hope, Springfield, Missouri

\* TEXSAR Inc. (Texas Search and Rescue) Wimberley, Texas

E) Preschool: Discussion on opening a second class for the 2 days a week option. 7 families have committed, and 1 uncommitted. The preschool is also working on a sub plan.

A motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to open a 2nd classroom in the preschool. Seconded by Aubrey Bohl. Motion carried.

### Committee Reports

- Pastor's Report - Discussion on stewardship and estimate of giving statements. Giving statements wording will be shared with the congregation through the newsletter. A drive to collect giving statements will happen in September.
- Appreciation Days – **Food Service** = September 25th                      **Pastor** = October 13th
- **Musician** = national hug a musician November 13 ( same date in 2024) national musicians day Jan. 24th
- Fellowship Minutes – next meeting will be August.
- Preschool Minutes—see info in new business above.
- Property Minutes – see building maintenance in new business above.
- Worship & Music Minutes – next meeting will be in August.
- Youth Minutes—next meeting will be July 27th.
- Call Committee (see above)

**Additional Items and Announcements:** Next Meeting: August 18th at 6 pm.

**Adjournment** - a motion was made at 8:28 pm by Alicia Bonczyk to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Wendy LaGessee. Motion carried. **Members Present:** Janelle Yeakey, Kay Anderson, Dorene Turner, Wendy LaGessee, Michele Lane, Gary Hedding, Alicia Bonczyk, Aubrey Bohl, Kyle Prill, Jason Graski. **Members Absent:** Tyler Halverson.

# Youth & Family News

## 2025 Confirmation Faith Statements

### VBS—Glitter and GLOW with Jesus

VBS is just around the corner! It is with great excitement that we will be co-hosting VBS with Our Saviors this summer once again! Glitter and Glow in His Grace will be a fun theme, taking place over four fun-filled evenings, exploring Bible stories of light and grace. This year's VBS will take place August 3rd through the 6th from 5-7PM at St. John's Lutheran Church, Sunday through Tuesday, and will conclude at North Park on Wednesday.

For more questions, please contact Amanda Larson at 715-568-5446 or [amanda\\_stjohnspreschool@aol.com](mailto:amanda_stjohnspreschool@aol.com).

### Teachers and Substitutes Needed for JAM this Fall

We are still looking for people who would be interested in substituting or teaching 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.

### 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](mailto:stjohnslutheran.bloomer@gmail.com)

### Save the Date: Rally Day for J.A.M.

**Reminder:** 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 2025-2026 academic year. Our first day for our Wednesday night Faith Formation will take place on Wednesday, September 10th. After a fun night of dinner (4:45-5:15PM) and games (5:15-6:15PM), JAM students will be singing during service at 6:30PM. Please register your student(s) on our website: <https://www.stjohnsbloomer.org/youth.html>

### Youth In Action

With the school year quickly approaching, our first Youth in Action planning night will take place **Sunday, Sept. 21st, from 5:30 to 7:30PM** at the church. We are looking forward to working with our high school youth to plan some super fun monthly events for the 2025-2026 academic year. If you have any questions, please reach out to Amanda Larson (715-279-6962 mobile, [amanda\\_stjohnspreschool@aol.com](mailto:amanda_stjohnspreschool@aol.com)).

## Faith Statements

Faith for me is Having somebody to look up to and guide me. I have found guidance in the Lord and His teaching. Faith has led me to a better place in my head and has taught me to be a better person and see what I can do as a person to do better.

St. John's has helped with relaying gods message and has had a tremendous impact on me. St. John's has good people to help me and to learn from. By connecting with all the teachers and people here, has taught me how to believe and why to believe it. Has taught me so much and is something I look forward to.

**Proverbs 2:6** - 6For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

I believe in God, the father, Jesus Christ, his son, and the Holy Spirit. I believe that they are in my life to teach me how to be the best person I can be. In confirmation, when I was learning more about God, I was learning more about my faith and learning more about myself.

Confirmation has also helped me connect with so many amazing people in faith and helping one another. My time studying about God will not stop after confirmation, but I have taken another step forward in my faith journey.


**Deuteronomy 31:6** - Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

# NEWS FROM PRESCHOOL STAFF! Confirmation Faith Statement

Amanda



### Wait List for 2025-2026

We are officially FULL for our 2025-2026 academic year at this moment. We are incredibly grateful for this opportunity to serve families at our maximum capacity. It is going to be a fantastic school year. 

Please consider joining our waitlist if you are interested in having your child participate in our program.

If you have any questions, please feel free to message us on our Facebook page, call: 715-568-5446, text 715-226-8207, or email: amanda\_stjohnspreschool@aol.com.

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

### Save The Date: Open House

Amanda and Kim are excited to welcome the 2025-2026 class to St. John’s Lutheran Preschool. Monday, August 18th, and Tuesday, August 19th, from 5-7PM, we will be hosting our “Meet the Teachers” evenings as an Open House. During these evenings, you can bring the rest of your child’s paperwork, school supplies, and anything else from the welcome letter your child received in July. If you have any questions or are unable to attend either of these evenings, please reach out to Amanda Larson at 715-279-6962 mobile or email amanda\_stjohnspreschool@aol.com.

### Save The Date: First Days of School

Monday, September 8th, and Tuesday, September 9th, are the first days of school for the 2025-2026 academic year. We are super excited and ready to have students back in the building. We hope that students have a wonderful school experience this year.

### Save The Date: Family Fun Night

We are excited to how our first Family Fun Night of the 2025-2026 academic year on Tuesday, August 26th from 5:45-6:30PM. We are hoping to host events like this throughout the year for our families and the community.

Our goal and hope in hosting an event like this is to spread awareness of our program. You can expect this event to be geared toward families who have children 4 years of age and under (older siblings are welcome to attend), including interactive story time, music, crafts, and snacks. All families who attend will be entered for a door prize (must be present to win). Please RSVP ahead of time via Facebook or with Amanda Larson so that we can plan accordingly.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Faith Statement

Over the past years of confirmation, I’ve learned a lot about my faith and what it means to be part of our church community. I’ve gotten a better understanding of the Bible and how its lessons fit into my everyday life. Through classes, reading and being involved in church activities, I’ve come to see the importance of prayer, worship, and helping others. Learning about our faith’s history and traditions has made me appreciate the church and church members in it even more.

Additionally, I’ve also realized how valuable it is to be part of a faith community. I’ve made great friends and have felt the support and encouragement from everyone around me. This experience has helped me grow spiritually. I am beyond thankful for my teachers, leaders, and family members who have helped me succeed and become a more committed member of our church.

**John 14:8** - “Philip said to him, Lord, Show us the Father and it is enough for us” (Showing that if you only have God, you have all you need.)



**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)

**A Generous God, A Generous People** is the theme of our Christian stewardship emphasis for this summer and fall. The appointed readings for worship from Luke have given us much about which to think and pray. Biblical stewardship is about a right relationship between us, our money, and God. The world claims that our value as humans, our security and our hope for the future depend on how much we have. Scripture tells us that our value, our security and our hope are secured in the life death and resurrection of Jesus. We are free to be generous. Generosity, like worship, prayer, reading our Bibles, and Christian fellowship - is a practice that draws us closer to God.

One way to grow in generosity is to increase our giving to God through St. John's by 0.5% of our income. It isn't a large increase but it is safe and sustainable. The easiest way to do the math is to look at annual income, move the decimal point four places to the left, and that would be the increase in weekly giving. For instance if \$35,000 is annual income, move the decimal point four places to the left and \$3.50 is the increase in giving to God.

In September you will receive an Estimate of Giving form that helps the congregation get an idea of the financial resources it will have to pursue the ministries that God is calling us to do. It will look like this:

*With thanksgiving to God and by the generosity inspired in me/us through the Holy Spirit, I/we estimate that we will give \$\_\_\_\_\_ / week / month / year (circle one) to God through St. John's Lutheran Church. May this offering enable God's ministry to grow faithfully and effectively through this congregation.*

Please let us know if:  
 this represents a growth in giving by 0.5%  
 this represents a growth in giving

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for this estimate of giving. We know that changes in circumstances may cause changes in actual giving. Let us know if we can help.

Thank you for your prayerful and thoughtful consideration.

*Pastor Gary Hedding*