



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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Knowing Jesus Christ, and Him Crucified

February brings a transition in the Church calendar from Epiphany to Lent. Epiphany focuses on "who is Jesus of Nazareth?" The Gospel texts this year bring us Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount. Who Jesus is and what he stands for is revealed in these teachings about what God has made us to be: blessed in our weaknesses and troubles; salt and light for the world; and what Jesus has done - fulfilled the law and the prophets so that our lives are righteous and we live out that righteousness.

As we move into Lent we are confronted with Jesus' crucifixion. Our lessons from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians and his letter to the Romans are examples of what it is like to "know nothing but Christ and him Crucified". Paul is utterly convinced the the power of God and the wisdom of God is captured in the Cross of Christ. It is a different kind of power - not a power that dominates or seeks to have "power over", but a power that serves and transforms us through love and mercy. So many times worldly power seeks to take from others, serve our own needs, and try to diminish the power of others. The power of the Cross seeks to make us powerful in faithfulness, generosity, and loving acts of kindness and justice. It is the Word of the Cross, that brings the joy of a life "sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross forever". It is the message of the Cross which gives us the power to be children of God and servants of all creation.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday worship, February 18, 6:30pm. Come, join Jesus' journey to the Cross.

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 February 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

Sharon Schwartz; Janet Krenz; Marie Weideman; Emmett Larson; Nick Randall; Rod Martin; Bonnie Mickelson; The Kuehn Family; Kristi Swartz; Suzette Zwiefelhofer; Richard Anderson; Deanna Stuckert; Judy Hedding (Stepmom of Pastor Gary); Renee Grambo; Kari Skaar.

Prayers For the Saints

Prayers for the week of Feb. 1st: Bob, Debbie and Brenna Peterson; Brandon, Erin, Londyn and Tenley Peterson; Robert Peterson; Tammy Peterson; Brian, Lori, Zachary, Zoe, Ava, Lexi and Madilyn Pielhop; Mary Poirier; Rose Marie Powell.

Prayers for the week of Feb. 8th: James, Lori, Noah and Olivia Price; Aaron Prill; Amanda, Kyle, Harley, Josh, Kennady, Oakley, Sidney and Zinphany Prill; Derek Prill; Donald and Lisa Prill; Elijah Prill; Jacob Prill; Kerry, Arianna and Isabella Rauscher.

Prayers for the week of Feb. 15th: Rosanne Reid; Amanda, Gavin and Grant Richardson; Alan and Cecilia Rihn; Betty Rihn; Jerry, Blain and Sylvia (Ford) Rihn; Emily, Kort, Owen, Ava and Elaina Rihn; Eva Rihn; Jacob, Rosanna (Spinler) and Damian Rihn; Janell and Mark Rihn.

Prayers for the week of Feb. 22nd: Jason, Jean, Leo and Wyatt Rihn; Jeff and Brandi Rihn; Joyce Rihn; Patti and Tyler Rihn; Rosella Rihn; Andrew, Chassy, Cora and Corbin Roggenbuck; Daniel and Suzette Rosenbrook.

HUNGER AWARENESS MEAL
February 18 from 5:30-6:15



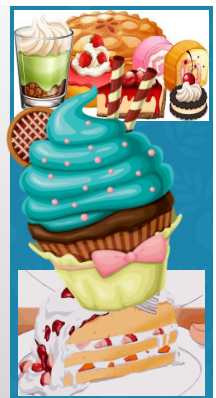
Suggested Donation:
\$7 per person or \$20 per family

Email Amanda for details;
amanda_stjohnspreschool@aol.com



Show off your **SWEET TREAT** specialties with **St. John's Dessert Bake-Off**

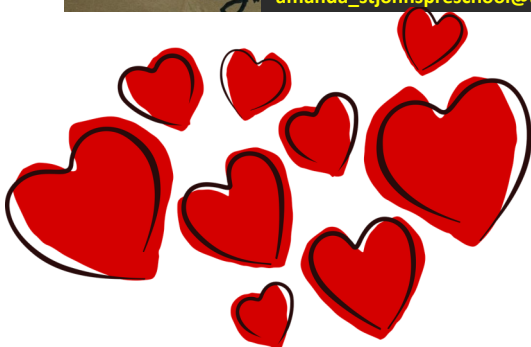
February 18th in conjunction with the **HUNGER AWARENESS DINNER**
Come and **ENJOY THE BEST DESSERTS EVER!!!**



YOUTH QUAKE NEWS


Departure for 2026 Youth Quake in Wisconsin Dells will be Friday, February 13th

PLEASE MEET IN THE ST. JOHN'S Oak Street Parking Lot at 4:00 pm.




FEBRUARY 2026 CALENDAR

Church News

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	2 8:30am Bible Study	3 6:15pm Preschool Committee Meeting	4 2:00pm Bible Study 4:30pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	5 NO preschool today	6	7
8  Church Cleaning after Service & Coffee 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	9 Preschool Parent-Teacher Conferences 8:30am NO Bible Study today	10 Preschool Parent-Teacher Conferences	11  Preschool Valentine's Party (MW) 10:30am Bloomer Clergy Association Mtg 2:00pm Bible Study 4:30pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	12 Preschool Valentine's Party (TTh) 9:30am Pastor's Conference	13 4:00pm Leave for Youth Quake-Wisconsin Dells QUAKE	14  HAPPY VALENTINES DAY! Youth Quake-Wisconsin Dells
15  Return from Youth Quake, Wisconsin Dells 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	16 Bible Study 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	17 11:30am Staff meeting	18   2:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm - 6:15pm Hunger Awareness Meal & Dessert Cook-Off 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service	19 1:00pm - 3:00pm Quilting Group 	20	21
22 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am - 12:30pm Church Council Retreat (at St. John's) 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	23 Preschool Read-a-thon Fundraiser begins 8:30am Bible Study	24	25 2:00pm Bible Study 4:30pm Lenten Soup & Sandwich Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	26	27	28

WEDNESDAY MEALS

Every **Wednesday** from 4:30 - 5:15 p.m. come and join your friends and family at St. John's for a **DELICIOUS** meal! Suggested donation is \$7 per person **OR** \$20 per family



Next Cleaning Day is Feb. 8th
Let's work together to keep our church beautiful!

Church Cleaning after service 2nd Sunday of the Month.



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

2025 Giving Statements have been mailed or emailed. If you have not received yours, or have noticed any errors on your statement, please contact Victoria at the office M-F 8:30-2:00 by calling 568-5446, or email to stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

Quilting Group
Will be meeting on **THURSDAY Feb. 19th** at 1:00-3:00 p.m.



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

January 19th, 2025

Call to Order - Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Tyler Halverson.

Opening Devotion – Wendy LaGesse 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 Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.

Approval of last Council Minutes - A motion was made by Wendy LaGesse to approve the minutes from the December 15th, 2025 meeting; seconded by Kay Anderson. Motion carried.

Elections of officers

1. Wendy LaGesse was nominated for the president position by Michele Lane and seconded by Alicia Bonczyk.
2. **A motion was made** by Alicia Bonczyk to close nominations and to elect Wendy LaGesse as President by unanimous vote. Seconded by Emmitt Anderson. Motion carried.
3. Tyler Halverson was nominated for the Vice President position by Alicia Bonczyk and seconded by Michele Lane.
4. **A motion was made** by Emmitt Anderson to close nominations and to elect Tyler Halverson as Vice President by unanimous vote. Seconded by Janelle Yeakey. Motion carried.
5. Janelle Yeakey was nominated for the Secretary position by Tyler Halverson and seconded by Alicia Bonczyk.
6. **A motion was made** by Tyler Halverson to close nominations and to elect Janelle Yeakey as Secretary by unanimous vote. Seconded by Emmitt Anderson. Motion carried.
7. Kay Anderson was nominated for the Treasurer position by Tyler Halverson and seconded by Michele Lane.
8. **A motion was made** by Tyler Halverson to close nominations and to elect Kay Anderson as Treasurer by unanimous vote. Seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.

Financial Report -

	Year to Date (Jan-Dec 2025)
Income	\$ 212,171.71
Expenses	\$ 179,036.00
Difference	\$ 33,135.71

Transfers: none

December Offerings	
Date	Total
12/8	\$ 4,233
12/15	\$ 1,462
12/22	\$ 4,577
12/29	\$ 6,893
Online	\$ 2,129
Total	\$ 19,294

CD's	\$76,000	\$200,000
Location	Security Financial Bank	Security Financial Bank
% APR	4.25	4.25
Timeframe	7 months	12 months
Expires	3-12-26	11-7-26

All money is insured through FDIC

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

Old Business-

- A) Apartment Storage update: information was collected from committees; an attempt to sell items not needed will happen in the spring.
- B) Church directory update: Online form will be sent out 1 more time in an individual email to encourage people to fill out the form, less than half of the member list has responded.
- C) Implementing council retreat suggestions: Council will revisit at council retreat and determine goals for 2026.
- D) Maintenance helpers update: discussion on the need to create a list of regular maintenance items (ex: fire alarm batteries, furnace filters). When maintenance concerns arise, both Tom Ewings and Matt Larson should be contacted to begin process of repairs.

Minutes continued on page 5

Jan. 19th Church Council Minutes (Continued)

(council meeting minutes continued)

Old Business – continued

- E) Victoria's Office Organization – completed; approximately 19 rolls of building plans; 15 items of building plans can be digitized or tubes could be purchased for plans. Council discussed and felt it best to digitize the plans. Wendy LaGessee will work on digitizing the items
- F) Filing Cabinet update- Wendy is continuing to work on cleaning them out, once cleaned music stored at the apartments can be brought over to the church.
- G) Office Cabinets update – will continue to work on this project, measurements and estimates will be happening.

New Business

A) Committees – Council Members

Property Committee – Matt Larson, Jason Graski
 Fellowship Committee – Janelle Yeakey, Michele Lane, Kay Anderson, Bridget Krejci
 Youth Committee – Emmitt Anderson, Alicia Bonczyk
 Preschool Committee – Alicia Bonczyk
 Worship and Music – Tyler Halverson
 Discipleship – Pastor Gary
 Social Ministry –
 Call Committee – Wendy LaGessee

- B) Council Retreat-Pastor Gary will reach out to Diane House about a council retreat in February or March.
Note: The council retreat is scheduled for February 22nd after church. Discussion points will include goals for 2026, current CD funds, and [property project list](#).
- C) Insurance Coverage – discussion continued on potential insurance coverage for staff. The council will be gathering more information to discuss at the next meeting.

Committee Reports

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

Pastor's Report – Discussion about the slide in financial stewardship shared at the Annual Meeting, and concern about how that looks to candidates for a pastor. Discussion point for the retreat about what our priorities are and how the money in the CD's could be utilized

Discipleship-

Fellowship Minutes – Annual Meeting brunch 40 people attend – thank you to everyone who helped supply the meal! It was delicious! Upcoming event - Easter breakfast; Next meeting is March 22nd after service

Social Ministry Minutes –

Youth Minutes – Wednesday nights going well, Quake is in February, looking into possible mission trip .

Preschool Minutes – Working on training substitutes, currently full enrollment.

Property Minutes – South door was fixed, preschool bathroom light was fixed.

Worship & Music Minutes – no new updates, meeting on Sunday 1/25.

Call Committee – in the process of waiting for a Pastor, Wendy did reach out again to the Synod and we are on their radar.

Additional Items and Announcements

Constitution updates – question about who to contact at the synod to update.

Locking up of the Church – extra key for needing to lock up church – what will be the process (sign out system, lock box, etc). Discussion will continue at next council meeting

Balcony projector – was turned on for Christmas Eve and it was blurry

Phone at church –several calls made to the church with no answer, Pastor will look into situation

Next Meeting: February 16th at 6 pm

Adjournment - a motion was made at 7:38pm by Tyler Halverson to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.

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

Others present:

Youth & Family News

Church News

QUAKE

Middle and high school students, save the following dates. This year's Quake event will be held in Wisconsin Dells from **February 13 to 15**. We are excited about this opportunity for our youth, as it has been successful in the past. Contact Amanda Larson for more information today!

Important Dates to Notice

There will be **NO Faith formation on Wednesday, February 18th** due to the **Hunger Awareness Meal**.

We hope that all our students and their families attend this dinner opportunity as we kick off the Lenten season.

Hunger Awareness

Our **Hunger Awareness Meal** will be taking place on **Wednesday, February 18th**, in place of Faith Formation (JAM and Confirmation). Dinner will run from **5:30-6:15pm**, along with a

Dessert Bake-Off!

It should be a fun evening with a variety of delicious treats.

Confirmation students will be helping serve dinner this night, so please ensure they attend to help.

Confirmation

This year's eighth-grade class will be confirmed on **Sunday, May 3rd**, a significant day.

Please send Amanda Larson, (amanda_stjohnspreschool@aol.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 Amanda Larson with any questions you may have.

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 Amanda Larson 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:

stjohnslutheran.bloomer@gmail.com

Youth In Action

Our next YIA is **TO BE DETERMINED** as there are many scheduling challenges. Watch upcoming Announcements in bulletin and at regular services for updates.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Amanda Larson (715-279-6962 mobile or amanda_stjohnspreschool@aol.com).

LENTEN SUPPERS - SOUP AND SANDWICH DINNERS

Our JAM and confirmation families will be helping with dinner during the season of Lent. **February 25th, March 4th, March 18th, March 25th, and April 1st**, our confirmation groups will serve dinner, including a variety of soups and sandwiches. More information will be emailed and sent home soon! Amanda Larson for more information today!



NEWS FROM PRESCHOOL STAFF!



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 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 February. During this month, our themes explored will include Dental Health, Valentines, and Emotions/Feelings. 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.

Important Dates to Save

Thursday, February 6th there will be NO school as we follow the Bloomer School District's calendar.

Valentine's Day Parties

Our Valentine's Parties will be hosted on Wednesday, February 11th (MW) and Thursday, February 12th (TTH). Your child is welcome to bring Valentines to share with their friends and a special treat. Letters have been sent to your child's Brightwheel account, including a class list. There is a sign-up list on the counter for treats – please check it out.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Our parent-teacher conferences will be held on Monday, February 9th and Tuesday, February 10th. Please check out our sign-up forms on Brightwheel or contact Amanda Larson for more information.

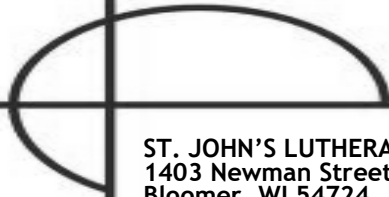
Pre-Registration for 2026-2027

Pre-registration will be opening on Monday, March 2nd for the 2026-2027 academic year. If anyone has any questions, please contact Amanda Larson – work mobile (715226-8207 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.

Read-a-Thon Fundraiser

We will be hosting a Read-a-Thon fundraiser from Monday, February 23rd through Sunday, March 15th. If you would be interested in sponsoring a child or donating to the preschool, please contact Amanda Larson. This is such a fun way to promote early literacy to our students and their families while supporting the mission of raising funds to help purchase new program equipment (indoor and outdoor improvements) and materials for our preschool. Sponsorship pledges are due back on Thursday, March 19th.





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)