



# 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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### Embrace the Holy Spirit!

You have probably noticed that the vast majority of Gospel readings have been from the Gospel according to Luke. Luke actually provides his readers with a two volume set of proclamation. One of the prominent awarenesses the writer provides is the emphasis on the work of the Holy Spirit. In fact, some scholars like to call his Gospel the "Work of the Holy Spirit through Jesus of Nazareth" and the book of Acts the "Work of the Holy Spirit through the followers of Jesus". The Holy Spirit fills Jesus at his baptism, then rushes him into the desert where he is tempted, then anoints him to preach in his home town. The Holy Spirit fills Jesus' followers at Pentecost, leads Philip to the Ethiopian eunuch, and shows Stephen, the deacon, the glory of heaven as he is stoned to death. The Holy Spirit is busy and Luke notices.

I have seen the Holy Spirit at work in St. John's. I have seen it in the dedication of people to attend the annual meeting, moving the congregation along in the call process. In people willing to serve on the nominating committee as they bring forth candidates for the Call Committee, and in people discerning their willingness to serve on the Call Committee. I see the Holy Spirit in the building full of young people on Wednesday evenings worshipping and leading worship, and in their time of study and fellowship.

Keep your eyes open for the Holy Spirit working in your lives, not just at St. John's but throughout your daily lives, for the Holy Spirit brings God close all the time and brings faith and peace even when things are challenging. I am eager to see the work of the Holy Spirit in the future through our continuing ministries and through the process of calling a settled pastor.

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 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](mailto:stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net)

### Prayers of Healing For Our Church Family

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

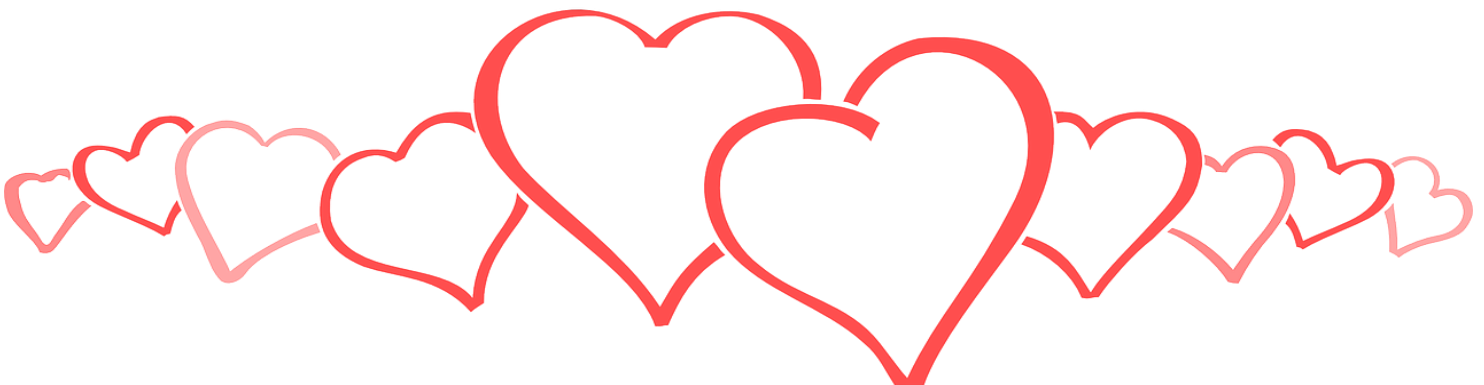
### Prayers For the Saints

Prayers for the week of Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Karen and Rod Johnson; Heather, Robert and Ava Kasperek; Haley Keller; Heidi, Jamie and RyAnna Keller; Jordyn Keller; Jeanie, Justin, Kelsey and Wyatt Kettner; John, Tami, Cicely and Dayne Kiecker.

Prayers for the week of Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>: Joseph, Trista and Gauge Klemish; Art Klingenberg Darren and Leanne Knutson; Nicole Knutson; Laurie, Ethan, Hunter, Josh and McKenna Koehler; Dustin, Erica and Jordynn Kragness; Bridget, Adele and Matilda Krejci.

Prayers for the week of Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>: Janet and Tom Krenz; Kari, Scott and Dawson Krenz; David and Michelle Kressin; Jason, Kelsey, Bentley and Kendall Kroening; Ricky, Victoria, Amanda and Tina Krueger; Brenda and Trent LaGessee.

Prayers for the week of Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>: Brenda, Ryan, Lily and Mason LaGessee; Brian, Kerena (Gerrits), Isaac and Ty LaGessee; David and Dawn LaGessee; Deborah LaGessee; Samuel and Wendy LaGessee; Dave and Michelle Lane; Christopher, Courtney, Cambree and Cashlyn Lang.



# FEBRUARY 2025 CALENDAR

## Church News

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am St. John's Annual Meeting (brunch to follow)	<b>27</b> 8:30am Bible Study	<b>28</b> 1:00pm - 4:00pm Quilting Group	<b>29</b> 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 9:00am Worship Service - Stay for coffee and community after service	<b>3</b> Smiles in Motion presentation at Preschool 8:30am Bible Study 11:15am - 12:45pm Preschool Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30pm - 7:00pm Preschool Parent/Teacher Conferences	<b>4</b> Smiles in Motion presentation at Preschool 11:15am - 12:45pm Preschool Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30pm - 7:00pm Preschool Parent/Teacher Conferences	<b>5</b> 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	<b>6</b> No Preschool	<b>7</b> No Preschool	<b>8</b> 12:00pm Baptism (Sylvia Ford)
<b>9</b> 9:00am Worship Service - Stay for Coffee and community after service	<b>10</b> 8:30am Bible Study	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 10:30am Bloomer Clergy Association Mtg 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	<b>13</b> Preschool Valentines Party 9:30am Pastor's Conference	<b>14</b> Happy Valentines Day! Preschool Valentines Party Youth Quake in Wisconsin Dells	<b>15</b> Youth Quake in Wisconsin Dells
<b>16</b> Youth Quake in Wisconsin Dells 9:00am Worship Service - Stay for Coffee and Community after service	<b>17</b> 8:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	<b>18</b> 1:00pm - 4:00pm Quilting Group	<b>19</b> 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 2:00pm Funeral Dohna Kerkhove
<b>23</b> 9:00am Worship Service - Stay for Coffee and Community after service	<b>24</b> 8:30am Bible Study	<b>25</b> 6:15pm Preschool Committee Meeting	<b>26</b> 2:00pm Bible Study 5:15pm - 6:15pm "Fat Tuesday" for Faith Formation 5:30pm - 6:30pm "Fat Tuesday" Dinner & Dessert Bake-Off 6:30pm Worship Service	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b>



### 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!

Suggested donation is \$7 per person

OR \$20 per family



Do you enjoy planning social events for all ages?

Do you enjoy brainstorming fun events?

**Fellowship Committee Needs You!**

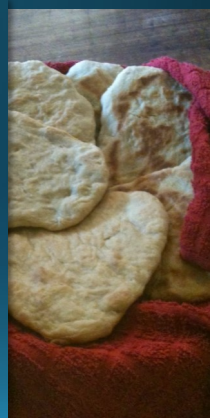
Meetings approximately every other month for 45 min

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.



# Church Council Meeting Minutes

## January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Call to Order** - Meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm by Dorene Turner, Council President.

**Opening Devotion** – Pastor Gary led the council in devotion from 1 Corinthian.

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

**Approval of last Council Minutes** - A motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to approve the minutes from the December 16th meeting; seconded by Aubrie Bohl. Motion carried.

**Financial Report -**

	Year to Date (Jan-Dec 2024)
Income	\$ 237,869.97
Expenses	\$ 228,196.03
Difference	\$ 9,673.94

Transfers: none  
December Offerings: \$18,134

Date	Total
12/2	2,311
12/9	2,866
12/16	1,844
12/23	2,811
12/30	8,302

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

A motion was made by Dorene Turner to give \$300 from the Pastor – Good Samaritan Fund to the police department to help fund the community good Samaritan fund. Seconded Kay Anderson. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Janelle Yeakey to accept the financial report. Seconded by Dorene Turner. Motion carried.

**Old Business-**

- 1) Apartments Storage- Amanda and Kay worked with Donny Geissler to look at the items stored, council will need to work on creating an inventory and determine what items need to remain.
- 2) Budget: A motion was made via email on 1/8 by Janelle Yeakey to approve the proposed budget. Seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.
- 3) Audit – Kay and Janelle worked with Victoria to complete the 2024 audit on 1/18/25
- 4) Annual Meeting Discussion \* Rescheduled to January 26th due to weather \*Council Members: Candidates are Michelle Lane and Wendy LaGessee with one open position. Will ask for open nominations at the annual meeting \* Discussion on agenda for Sunday

**New Business –**

Cleaning – discussion about cleanliness of classrooms/building for when a funeral is happening. Discussion about items being moved, and not returned to proper location

**Committee Reports**

- Appreciation Days: Upcoming in April
- Pastor’s Report - 1) A guide to the Ministry Site Profile was shared to help with the next steps in finding a new pastor. Discussion on next steps will happen at the annual meeting, A nominating committee will be created to find potential members of the call committee. A special congregation meeting will happen to vote in the members of the call committee.

*Minutes continued on page 5*

# Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> Church Council Minutes *(Continued)* **CHURCH NEWS**

*(council meeting minutes continued)*

### Committee Reports Continued

(Pastor's report continued) A special congregation meeting will happen to vote in the members of the call committee. 2) A motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to transfer membership of Sarah Wittrock, Julie Wittrock, and Gregorie Chojnacki to Christ Lutheran in Bloomer. Seconded by Kay Anderson. Motion carried.

- Discipleship – Pastor Gary is focused on creating this team, then working on creating a culture of generosity
- Fellowship Minutes—annual meeting brunch on Sunday, next focus will be Easter Breakfast.
- Preschool—A motion was made via email on 1/8 by Janelle Yeakey to hire Kim Schulze as the preschool assistant on T/Th and as needed on MWF at a rate of \$14/hr. Seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.
- Social Ministry Minutes –
- Property Minutes – Jeff cleaned and repaired the lighting controller. Lights will be reconnected soon.
- Worship & Music Minutes –
- Youth Minutes – discussion about emails from church not reaching all members, discussion on how to improve communication in the future.

### Additional Items and Announcements

Next Meeting: proposed Feb 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm

Adjournment - a motion was made at 7:48 pm by Janelle Yeakey to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.

Members Present: Janelle Yeakey, Aubrie Bohl, Kay Anderson, Dorene Turner, Jason Graski, Alicia Bonczyk, Gary Hedding. Others Present: none

Members Absent: Jamie Keller, Jeff Cole, Sarah Wittrock, Kyle Prill

Minutes submitted by Janelle Yeakey.

A big **THANK YOU** for 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!!**

## Quilting Group

Will be meeting on **Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>** at 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**SEW CUTE!**


*Everyone is welcome!!*



**Bloomer/New Auburn Food Pantry Needs Your Help!!**

Each Friday the FOOD PANTRY serves over 100 families plus school children for weekend meals and YOU CAN HELP! Items needed: soup, rice, canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, diabetic food items (no sugar or salt added), pasta, paper goods.

**THANK YOU!**

ASH WEDNESDAY IS AROUND THE CORNER

Lent this year begins March 5, 2025

Do you enjoy baking treats?

Volunteer to supply homemade treats to eat on Sunday mornings with the coffee. Weekly sign up located in coffee area!



**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](mailto:SueNehring@bloomer.net)



# Youth & Family News

## Lenten Suppers – Soups and Sandwich Dinners

Our JAM and confirmation families will be helping with dinner during the session of Lent. March 5th (Jean Rihn's group), March 19th (Janelle Yeakey's group), March 26th (Erin McCurdy's group), 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.



## Substitutes Still Needed for JAM

We are still looking for people who would be interested in substituting or teaching on Wednesday nights. Please get in touch with 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.

## Pizza Coupons

Coupons from our pizza fundraiser are still available for purchase expiring April 2025. Although the fundraiser is over, you can contact Amanda Larson if you are interested in purchasing any pizzas from Fat Boys (supreme only), Valley Tavern, or Harm's Way.

## 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](mailto: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.

## Quake

Middle and high school students, save the following dates. This year's Quake event will be held in Wisconsin Dells from **February 14 to 16**. We are excited about this opportunity for our youth, as it has historically been a success. Standard rates go through January 9th, so contact Amanda Larson for more information today!

## 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)

## The YOUTH are running a

## Hygiene Drive for the Hawks Corner.

A full list of needs can be found at the donation box in the narthex and includes items *such as*:

Soap  
Brushes

Deodorant  
Chapstick

If you have any further questions, please contact Amanda Larson at 715-568-5446 [amanda\\_stjohnspreschool@aol.com](mailto:amanda_stjohnspreschool@aol.com), or Jean Rihn (715-933-4161).



## FAT TUESDAY

Fat Tuesday will be taking place on Wednesday, February 26th in place of Faith Formation (JAM and Confirmation). Dinner will run from 5:30-6:30pm, 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.



# NEWS FROM PRESCHOOL STAFF!

## Amanda



### Registration for 2024-25

Enrollment for the 2024-25 academic year is still open. There are 4 spaces open in our Monday/Wednesday/Friday class. There is one space open for our Tuesday/Thursday class.

It has already been a fantastic start to the school year!

If you want a high-quality preschool program, please consider enrolling your child with us this Spring. Students can register for our morning program if they are between the ages of 3 and 5. This program is a great option if your child is not old enough to enroll in 4K, but you want them to work on certain skills, if they will be attending 4K in the afternoon, or if you are waiting for them to go to school until kindergarten. For more information, you can message us on Facebook, call us at

715-568-5446 ext. 14, or email: [amanda\\_stjohnspreschool@aol.com](mailto: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. 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 and Friday, February 7th 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 Tuesday, February 13th (TTH) and Wednesday, February 14th (MWF). 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.

### Smiles In Motion

Smiles in Motion will be visiting our classrooms to discuss dental health on Monday, February 3rd (MWF) and Tuesday, February 4th (TTH).

### Parent-Teacher Conferences

Our parent-teacher conferences will be held on Monday, February 3rd and Tuesday, February 4th. Please check out our sign-up forms on our counter or contact Amanda Larson for more information.

St. John's Preschool is doing a calendar fundraiser.

Custom art, by preschool students are featured each month of 2025.

Cost is \$15 per calendar. Pre-order forms will be located in the narthex on the table.

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: [stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net](mailto: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](mailto:fmlibers@bloomer.net) (Deacon Martha)  
[paddlegh@gmail.com](mailto:paddlegh@gmail.com) (Pastor Gary)