



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 New Year: Looking Back and Looking Forward

This is the time of year when we look back at 2025 and appreciate our ministries and identify some things that we hope to improve in the coming year. It is a time when we identify some ministries that will excite us in 2026.

2025 had two significant and ongoing events at St. John's. The Call Committee was elected and we engaged in a financial stewardship emphasis.

I want to thank the Call Committee for the time, effort, and the excellence with which they addressed the process to prepare to call the next settled pastor. They invited extensive input from the congregation concerning the ministries of St. John's and the characteristics and skills that people are looking for in the next pastor. They presented these to the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin in our Ministry Site Profile. This profile will be used to present the congregation to candidates interested in serving in our synod. They synod is presenting the profile to candidates along with a Welcome Video introducing St. John's and Bloomer to prospective candidates (and extra presentation that most congregations don't do). My thanks to all on the Call Committee who continue to serve until the next pastor is called: Beth Halverson, Rich Helgeson; Matt Larson; Tyler Mickelson; Sue Nehring, Barb Ross, Wendy LaGessee; Alexis Bonczyk; Harley Prill; and Camryn Yeakey. Additional thanks to Leo and Lauren Halverson who helped Beth and Harley with the Welcome Video. Now we wait.

The financial stewardship emphasis was held from September to November. We looked at Christian generosity through this congregation as a faith practice that draws us closer to God as we live into trusting God for our security, hope, and value as a person more than our money or stuff. Significant challenges were the lack of stewardship emphases in a number of years and a US economy that had some major changes that left people wondering how things were going to go in the future. These caused people to be reluctant to make an estimate of giving and to grow their giving to God through our congregation. As a result, 27 households gave us estimates of future giving with 11 of those households committing to a growth in their giving. I would encourage addressing financial stewardship as a faith practice and as a sign of a healthy congregation seeking a new pastor.

(Pastor's January 2026 Letter continued on p. 2)

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 January 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

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

Prayers For the Saints

Prayers for the week of Jan. 4th: Brian and Jill Meyer; Michael, Sallyann and Kaleigh Michalek; Lanna and Raymond Michels; Bonnie and Robert Mickelson; Kristine, Tyler, Charlie and Lincoln Mickelson; Cody Miller; Mariah Miller; Masen Miller; Jeff and Teresa Miller.

Prayers for the week of Jan. 11th: Garrett, Rebekah and Westley Misener; Kristin, Tim, Micah, Miles, Tatem and Tyler Mohr; Robert and Wendy Mooney; lylah Morning; Tina and Travis Myers; Janice and Lee Naset; Butch and Sue Nehring.

Prayers for the week of Jan. 18th: Carrie and Aiden, Brennan and Calum (Anderson) Nehring; Eva and Kenneth Newton; Al and Judy Nimtz; Deborah Nissen; Jennifer, Philip, Evan and Nevaeh Nitek; Brandon, Cassandra, Warren, Waylon and Weston North.

Prayers for the week of Jan. 25th: Kim Oldenberg; Ashley (Pappas), Paris, Athena and Lennon Rogge; Buck and Peg Paulsen; Alicia (Paulsen), Matt and Brynleigh Price; Marie Paulus; Heather, Todd, Kalie, Addison, Arianna and Gavin Pecha.

(Pastor's January 2026 Letter Continued)

2026 will continue to provide important and exciting ministries as "We are growing disciples who eagerly share Christ's love". I love what happens at St. John's. In the interim period Deacon Martha Libersky leads lay people who provide the sacrament of Holy Communion to those who cannot attend worship and she provides pastoral visits to those who have life changes. Our audio/visual volunteers allow people to watch our worship services online so that God's Word and a sense of our Christian fellowship is available to people who are unable to attend and to those who are curious about us - this is the new "front door" of St. John's to many people. Our excellent and faithful musicians, Bobbi Stouffer and Jenn Larson on Sundays and Wednesdays, and so many others who share their skills for special music go out that same "front door" to bring Christian music into the homes of our members and neighbors. I am particularly grateful for Victoria Prince-Silva, our Office Manager and Financial Secretary, who coordinates, organizes, communicates and anticipates many of the ministries of St. John's. As a part time interim pastor, I rely on her knowledge and experience to make my ministry more organized and effective.

I am impressed with the Youth Ministry at this congregation, which, with the support of parents, has so many participants. Christian education for young people from pre-K to grade 8 fills the building on Wednesday evenings and at summer Vacation Bible School. High school young people gather at Youth In Action, on special trips, Lock-ins, and teach and lead on Wednesday nights. Thanks to Amanda Larson our Youth Director and the many adults on the Youth Committee and who volunteer in these programs. Amanda also serves as the director of the Pre-school which is at full capacity and provides an important service to the community.

St. John's quilters, adult learners in Bible studies, and meal providers for Wednesday evenings and for funerals grow through adult education and service. We organize volunteers for community service as well, supporting Meals on Wheels, the Red Cross Blood Drive, community care events for individuals and families, and school supplies. We look out into the community to serve others in Jesus' name. I expect that 2026 will see more of these ministries as well. I am confident that we will continue to be growing disciples of Jesus and that we will eagerly share Christ's love throughout 2026. Have a blessed New Year.

Peace,

Pastor Gary Hedding
Interim Pastor

JANUARY 2026 CALENDAR

Church News

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	29 NO Bible Study today	30	31 NO Bible Study today Office open from 8:30-12:30	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! Office Closed	2 Final Day of Christmas Vacation	3
4 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	5 8:30am Bible Study	6 6:00pm Preschool Committee Meeting	7 2:00pm Bible Study 4:30pm Wednesday Meals 3:45pm First Communion Prep Class 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	8 9:30am Pastor's Conference 5:45pm First Communion Prep Class	9	10
11 Church Cleaning after Service & Coffee 9:00am Worship Service-1st Communion & Baptism 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	12 8:30am Bible Study	13	14 10:30am Bloomer Clergy Association Mtg 2:00pm Bible Study 4:30pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	15	16	17
18 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am St. John's Annual Meeting 11:00am Brunch	19 8:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	20 1:00pm - 3:00pm Quilting Group	21 2:00pm Bible Study 4:30pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	22	23	24
25 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	26 8:30am Bible Study	27	28 2:00pm Bible Study 4:30pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	29	30	31

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday Jan 18th after worship

Join us for brunch after!

Volunteers needed...
...for brunch on January 18th following St. John's Annual Meeting.

Set up, cooks, and clean up help needed.

Please sign up on sheets in narthex. **Questions?** contact Janelle Yeakey 715-933-0816

Quilting Group

Will be meeting on Jan. 20th

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



SEW CUTE! Everyone is welcome!!

Next Cleaning Day is Jan. 11th
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

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 December 15th, 2025

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

Opening Devotion – Dorene 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 Wendy LaGesse. Motion carried.

Approval of last Council Minutes - A motion was made by Wendy LaGesse to approve the minutes from the November 10th, 2025 meeting; seconded by Jason Graski. Motion carried.

Financial Report -

	Year to Date (Jan-Nov 2025)
Income	\$ 170,813.80
Expenses	\$ 165,126.98
Difference	\$ 5,686.82

Transfers: none

November Offerings	
Date	Total
11/2	\$ 3,511
11/9	\$ 1,804
11/16	\$ 1,080
11/23	\$ 1,813
11/30	\$ 877
Online	\$ 1,157

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 Wendy LaGesse to accept the financial report. Seconded by Alicia. Motion carried.

Old Business-

- A) Apartment Storage update: continuing to organize information from each committee.
- B) Church directory update: An electronic form was emailed out on November 17th. Currently about 70 out of 250 households listed on our membership have filled out the form. A QR code will be created for the electronic form to be place in the bulletin and announcements to encourage more responses. .
- C) Estimate of Giving: forms were to be returned by September 28th.
- D) Implementing council retreat suggestions: to be brought up when new pastor comes.
- E) Maintenance helpers update: an announcement slide will be created to advertise the need to create a list of members with talents such as plumbing, electrical, etc. to assist with property needs as they arise.
- F) Nominating Committee update: Council member terms that end this year are Dorene Turner, Kyle Prill, Aubrie Bohl and Alicia Bonczyk. Thank you to those who are willing to run for council: Emmitt Anderson (Youth Rep), Bridget Krejci, and Alicia Bonczyk (1 year term). The council is still in need of one more congregation member willing to run for church council.
- G) Office Cabinets update – see secretary office in new business below.
- H) Filing cabinet update – filing cabinets in hallway near the altar will be sorted during Christmas break .
- I) Church Constitution updates: emailed out to congregation on Nov 17th, will need to be voted on at the annual meeting.

New Business –

- A) Secretary office: a clean out/organizing of the office will occur to prep for adding additional cabinets. Jacob Skaar has volunteered to assist as a Boy Scout project. Phil and Kari Skaar along with Dorene Turner will be helping .

Minutes continued on page 5

Dec. 15th Church Council Minutes

(Continued)

(council meeting minutes continued)

New Business – continued

B) 2026 Budget— A motion was made by Wendy LaGesse to increase salaries for the youth director, kitchen staff, office manager, financial secretary, and preschool assistant by 3% . Seconded by Janelle Yeakey. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Janelle Yeakey to increase the preschool director/administrator position by \$5000. Seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried. **Note:** the current preschool director/administrator will be graduating with a bachelors degree in May. The pay increase is to reflect the increased educational level of the staff member.

C) Staff Christmas Gifts: A motion was made by Janelle Yeakey to give Christmas Gifts of \$50 to local businesses to the secretary, preschool staff, kitchen staff, musicians, and interim staff using the staff appreciation budget line. Seconded by Wendy LaGesse. Motion carried.

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 –

Social Ministry Minutes –

Youth Minutes – Confirmation went caroling, discussion occurring on a mission trip, pageant on 12/17 with cookie decorating to follow.

Preschool Minutes – Amanda discussed with the council about earning her bachelor's degree. She shared information about the preschool and thoughts of where the program might grow in the future.

Property Minutes – The council looked into a concern from a congregation member about a transformer in the utility room. The transformer is energized and looks to be take 208 to 240 volts, due to lack of labeling it is unsure what it is powering. Snow removal concern discussed, Clearview plows the parking lot while Donny Stoik's company is contracted to do the sidewalk and steps. Discussion on the need for shovels to be near the doors.

With the end of the road construction, the council will need to revisit the list of updates previously shared by the property committee in the spring.

Worship & Music Minutes –

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

Next Meeting: January 19th at 6 pm

Adjournment - a motion was made at 8:52 pm by Janelle Yeakey to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Wendy LaGesse. Motion carried.

Members Present: Janelle Yeakey, Kay Anderson, Dorene Turner, Michele Lane, Wendy LaGesse, Aubrie Bohl, Alicia Bonczyk, Kyle Prill, Jason Graski; Members Absent: Gary Hedding, Tyler Halverson; Others present: Amanda Larson, Allie Smeester.



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, December 31st due to Christmas/Winter break. We hope that all our students and their families have a wonderful week and Christmas holiday. Safe travels to all those who will be traveling. We look forward to seeing everyone again on **Wednesday, January 7th**.

First Communion

Students whose families feel like their child(ren) are ready for their next step in their faith journey will participate in their first communion on Sunday, January 11th. Classes regarding first communion will take place on Wednesday, January 7th at 3:45PM and Thursday, January 8th, at 5:45PM. We kindly request you send your child's full name and a picture to Amanda Larson (amanda_stjohnspreschool@aol.com) by Wednesday, January 7th. This is a special occasion for your child(ren), and we hope you can join us in celebrating it. Don't wait to get in touch with Amanda Larson or Pastor Gary Hedding with any questions you may have.

Group Leads and Substitutes Still Needed for JAM and Confirmation this Fall

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).

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



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 the month of January. This month, our themes will be Winter/Snow, I Have a Dream, Community Helpers, and Health & Nutrition. 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 that 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

We will be closed from Wednesday, December 24th, through Friday, January 2nd, for Christmas/Winter Break. We hope our students enjoy the day with their families and look forward to having them back in class on Monday, January 5th, and Tuesday, January 6th.

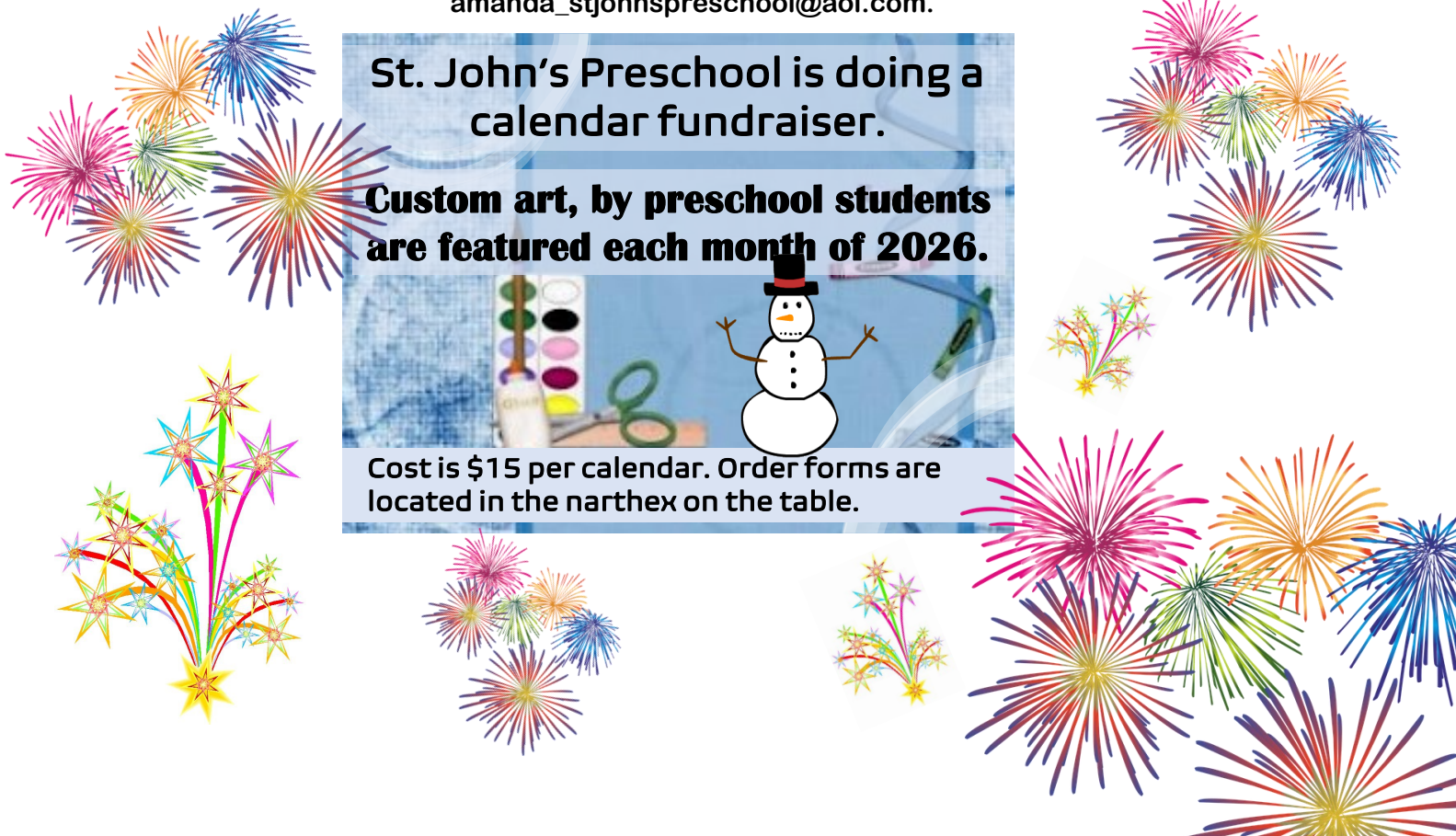
Calendar Fundraiser

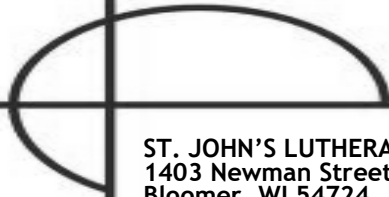
2026 Calendar orders are underway! By purchasing a calendar, offering you the chance to own a piece of our students' incredible talent, you are not only supporting the preschool but also showcasing the artistic skills of our students. The calendars are being sold for \$15. If you want to purchase one of our calendars, please message us on Facebook Messenger, call 715-568-5446 or email amanda_stjohnspreschool@aol.com.

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

Custom art, by preschool students are featured each month of 2026.

Cost is \$15 per calendar. Order forms are located in the narthex on the table.





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)