



# 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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### It's a NEW YEAR!

Happy New Year to you all. The entrance into a New Year is more than just getting a new calendar on the wall, or a new date book - and more and more people don't even use those anymore. It is more than trying to remember to write 2025 instead of 2024. A new year is a time to assess the previous year a bit and anticipate what might be coming ahead.

I like it that the New Year flows from our celebrations of Christmas. "Christ with us" informs our moments looking back and looking forward. God's presence in the world with us through the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus encourages us to assess the past with a combination of mercy, forgiveness, gratitude, and grace - for ourselves and others. God's presence in the world with us in Christ's Holy Spirit brings hope and courage for us as we anticipate all that is about to happen in the New Year. It is a hopeful and courageous way to go forward.

2024 was significant in many ways at St. John's. One way was that Pastor Martin became Bishop Martin and that is a big change. A significant relationship is absent. We enter the adventure of thinking about the gifts and priorities God has St. John's as we search for our next pastor. What gifts and priorities will the next pastor bring to complement our sense of what God is calling us to be and do as a congregation?

Jesus' presence in the New Year gives us hope. Hope even in the midst of uncertainty and some grieving. Nick Cave writes in his book Faith, Hope and Carnage that "Hope is optimism with a broken heart". May God give us all this strong, sustaining hope, embodied in Jesus, throughout the New Year.

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

### Prayers of Healing For Our Church Family

Family & Friends of Dohna Kerckhove (Pat Prill's daughter); Family & Friends of Richard Mohr; Jim Custer; Emmett Larson; Charlene Rosenbrook; Rod Martin; Renee Grambo; Richard Anderson; Pat Prill; Kari Skaar; Deanna Stuckert; Jason Rihn; Wayne & Nancy Zogleman (Amanda's grandparents); Stella; Edith Fleming; Carson (family friend of Kristine Mickelson); Kristi Swartz; Julie Wittrock; Arlene Christianson; Sarah Wittrock.

### Prayers For the Saints

Prayers for the week of Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>: Alan, Haley (Pierce), Keenah and Larissa (Chevrier) Gingras; Dianne Goettl; Lisa and Ted Goettl; Isabel Gonzalez; Renee, Scott, Cayce, Charlie, Dalton and Gunnar Grambo; Heidi, Jason, Brock, Emslee, Jerzei and Kordell Graski.

Prayers for the week of Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>: Kayla Gunderson, Ronnie, Harper (Bohl) and Henry Rihn; Nicholas Halom; Beth, Tyler, Lauren and Leo Halverson; Margery Hansen; Christine Hanson, Jason, Braelyn and Brooks Rego; Debra, Kevin, Darion and Samuel Hanson; Dorothy Hassemer.

Prayers for the week of Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>: Jan and Rich Helgeson; Alana Helland; Cheryl and David Helland; Anna and Christopher Hilger; Brett, Stephanie (Gengler). Blakely and Braelyn Hilger; Lucas Hilger; Joseph and Kathleen Hilger; Jason, Laurice, Abrina, Gabe and Isabelle Hillman.

Prayers for the week of Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>: Amanda and Aubree Holm; Candi and Gregory Homme; Brett, Tianna, Benton and Greta Huber; Ellyn and Jim Hudacek; Kelli Jackson; Janie and Robert Jacobson; Matthew, Samantha and Graham Jandourek; Preston Jeneman.

# JANUARY 2025 CALENDAR

## Church News

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:00am Worship Service	30	31	1 Happy 2025!!! Office Closed	2 Preschool classes resume	3 11:00am Funeral- Richard Mohr (visitation at 10) 7:00pm All Night Lock- In, 7p to 7a	4
5 9:00am Worship Service	6 8:30am Bible Study	7	8 10:30am Bloomer Clergy Associa- tion Mtg 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	9 9:30am Pastor's Conference	10	11
12  9:00am Worship Service - Confirmation	13 8:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Com- mittee Meeting	14 6:15pm Preschool Committee Meeting	15 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	16	17	18
19  9:00am Worship Service 10:00am St. John's Annual Meeting (brunch to follow)	20 8:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Church Coun- cil Meeting	21	22 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	23	24 No Preschool	25
26 9:00am Worship Service	27 8:30am Bible Study	28  1:00pm - 4:00pm Quilting Group	29 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	30	31	1

**St. John's is beginning to set up Meals On Wheels For January**

If you would be available for one or more weeks in January to drive and/or deliver meals, sign up in the narthex, or please contact **Janice Naset at 568-5615 -- or -- Martha Libersky at 568-4653**

Thank you for helping with this community project!



**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!

Cost is \$7 per person **OR** \$20 per family



**Quilting Group**

Will be meeting on **Jan. 28th** at 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**SEW CUTE!**

*Everyone is welcome!!*




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)

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

## December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Call to Order** - Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Dorene Turner, Council President.

**Opening Devotion** – Dorene led devotion by sharing from Christ in Our Home.

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

**Approval of last Council Minutes** - A motion was made by Sara Wittrock to approve the minutes from the November 18th, 2024 meeting; seconded by Aubrie Bohl. Motion carried.

**Financial Report -**

	Year to Date (Jan-Nov 2024)
Income	\$ 209,217.45
Expenses	\$ 194,774.61
Difference	\$ 14,442.84

Transfers: none  
November Offerings: \$9,537

Date	In Person	Online	Total
11/3	4,042	95	4,137
11/10	1,452	400	1,852
11/17	1,481	780	2,261
11/24	1,192	95	1,287

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 Alicia Bonczyk to pay all 3 of our benevolences, per the budgeted amount, from the general fund. Seconded by Dorene Turner. Motion carried

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

**Old Business-**

Update on Budget Committee: Discussion on budget to present to congregation, email vote to come on final proposed budget.

Update on Nominating Committee: Council candidates: Wendy LaGessee, Michelle Lane, Sarah Wittrock  
Youth candidate: Aubrie Bohl.

**New Business –**

Bulletin Order of Worship Suggestion – debuted on Dec 15th, will continue in future bulletins

Apartments Storage – Jamie and Kay will investigate to determine how many items are currently stored over there

Audit – Kay and Janelle able to assist

Staff Gifts – A motion was made by Janelle Yeakey to give staff a \$50 gift card to local businesses for Christmas to show our appreciation for the extra work load, money will come from the council fund. Seconded by Sarah Wittrock. Motion carried .

**Committee Reports**

- Appreciation Days:
- Pastor’s Report -

# Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> Church Council Minutes (Continued) CHURCH NEWS

(council meeting minutes continued)

### Committee Reports Continued

- Discipleship – Pastor Gary is working on gathering a group based on suggestions from council, the group will work on creating a culture of generosity.
- Fellowship Minutes—\$553.50 was raised for the Bloomer Chambers Gifts for Kids, cookie decorating after pageant, money raised from Chili Cook Off was donated to Family Support Center.
- Preschool—December family night is being rescheduled to the New Year due to illness, students continue to be enrolled.
- Social Ministry Minutes –
- Property Minutes – lighting issue in sanctuary is in the process of being addressed, door lock on side door needs to be looked at
- Worship & Music Minutes –
- Youth Minutes – Christmas Pageant upcoming on Wednesday December 18th. Blanket fundraiser was a hit, 180 were sold.

### Additional Items and Announcements

Next Meeting: Monday January 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm

Adjournment - a motion was made at 7:31 pm by Janelle Yeakey to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.

Members Present: Janelle Yeakey, Jamie Keller, Jeff Cole, Aubrie Bohl, Kay Anderson, Dorene Turner, Sarah Wittrock, Jason Graski, Alicia Bonczyk. Others Present: Pastor Gary Hedding.

Members Absent: Kyle Prill

Join us for St. John's Annual Meeting

Brunch to follow!

2025  
January  
19

10:00 a.m.

**Volunteers needed...**

...for brunch on January 19<sup>th</sup> 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

**ATTENTION:**

Those who have expressed the willingness to serve on Church Council in the coming year, please reach out to Kay Anderson, council Treasurer. Her cell number is (715) 933-0862

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE!!**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!**

A huge shout out to the congregation for being so generous and donating \$553.50 to the Bloomer Chamber's Gift for Kids Program!

Your generosity made Christmas brighter for a local family.

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!

# Youth & Family News

## Full Night Lock-In: 6th Grade+

On Friday, January 3rd, we will host an all-night lock-in for our confirmation students. High school students can attend to help lead activities. Students will engage in fun games, worship, and memories that will last a lifetime. Friends are welcome to join (6th – 8th grade or high school) and snacks are encouraged! The lock-in will begin at 7:00PM and pick-up promptly scheduled at 7:00AM. If your child would like to attend and cannot stay the entire night, that is also acceptable! If you have any questions regarding the lock-in, please contact Amanda Larson.

## 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. Although the fundraiser is over, you can contact Amanda Larson if you are interested in purchasing any pizzas from Fat Boys, Valley Tavern, or Harm's Way.

## Confirmation Sunday

This year's freshman class will be confirmed on a significant day, Sunday, January 12th. Pictures will be taken after service around 10:15 AM by Curtie Photography Services. The cost to purchase an 8x10 group picture of your student is \$20. We kindly request you to send your child's full name, a picture, their faith statement, and a Bible verse to Amanda Larson ([amanda\\_stjohnspreschool@aol.com](mailto:amanda_stjohnspreschool@aol.com)) by January 8th. 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                      Deodorant  
Brushes                  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).



# 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. Our enrollment is at capacity for our Tuesday/Thursday class. Please consider getting on our waitlist if you want your child to become a part of our program.

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

### 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 January. During this spooktacular month, our themes explored will include Winter/Snow, I Have a Dream, Community Helpers, Health and 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 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

Friday, January 24th, there will be NO school as we follow the Bloomer School District's calendar.

### Calendar Fundraiser

We have exciting news to share! Our calendar fundraiser orders are now open, offering you the chance to own a piece of our students' incredible talent. By purchasing a calendar, you are not only supporting the preschool but also showcasing the artistic skills of our students. We value your contribution and look forward to your support.


The calendars are being sold for \$15. If you want to purchase, please message us on Facebook Messenger, email amanda\_stjohnspreschool@aol.com, or call 715-568-5446.

### Class Christmas Parties

On Thursday, January 2nd, we will have our class Christmas party for our TTH students to enjoy since we were impacted by the snow day before Christmas break.

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

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



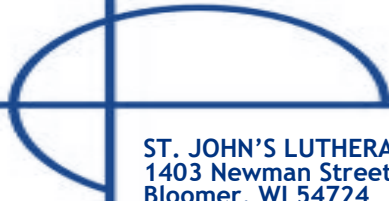
Cost is \$15 per calendar. Pre-order forms will be located in the narthex on the table.

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)