



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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Grateful and Hopeful

St. John's Lutheran Church loves their kids and wants them to have Jesus in their lives. The last three Sundays we have packed our worship in order to recognize and bless children and young adults who have reached important milestones in their lives. These are milestones where God has been active in their growth. Back to back to back we had Confirmation, First Communion, and Graduation Sundays. In addition, last Friday St. John's Preschool had its graduation as well. I have never had cake four times in three weeks. I have never celebrated God's work in the lives of young people in such a concentrated time period. They were rich and exciting moments. I love that St. John's has great ministries for these young people. "Surely God's goodness and mercy will pursue them all the days of their lives."

Next, we are going to spend some time in the coming months addressing an important Christian practice - the faith practice of generosity. A Generous God; A Generous People will raise an emphasis on living generous lives because we have a generous God. We will focus on the need of the giver to give, rather than on the need of the congregation to receive. We won't be fund raising so much as faith raising. I promise it will be different than what you are thinking it will be. I hope you will be curious enough to join us as we explore this in worship.

I also hope that you will contribute to the important work of calling your next pastor. Every confirmed member is asked to complete the Church Assessment Tool, which is vital to the call committee's preparation of our Ministry Site Profile. Please complete the survey online by June 8 or by paper copies by June 1. You will find a link to the online survey at www.stjohns-bloomer.org; paper copies can be picked up at St. John's on Sundays or from the congregation office during work hours.

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 June 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

Tom Powell; Jason Rihn; Bert Tozer; The Kuehn Family; Suzette Zwiefelhofer; Lily Higbie; Kari Skaar; Rod Martin; Pat Prill; Renee Grambo; Edith Fleming; Kristi Swartz; Charlene Rosenbrook; Richard Anderson; Deanna Stuckert; Arlene Christianson; Wayne and Nancy Zogleman.

Prayers For the Saints

Prayers for the week of June 1st: Kyle, Michelle, Jenna and Mikayla Ruffledt; Ashley Sarauer; Gina and Michael Sarauer; Gregory, Nichole, Theodore and Abraham Sarauer; Barry, Melissa, Alexander and Morgan Sarauer; Erin, Bella and Christina Schell.

Prayers for the week of June 8th: Josh, Tara, Briggs, Connor, Reid and Briggs Schemenauer; Steven (Wagner), Jill and Hannah Schimmel; Carly, Zachary and Madden Schimmel; Nancy Schindler; Virginia Schindler; Brad, Kim, Chloe and Paxton Schulze; Arlette Schuster; Sharon Schwartz.

Prayers for the week of June 15th: Jessica, Robert, Attlee, Emmitt, Ivlee and Ollynn Schwarzenberger; Doug and Sandy Score; Nikki, Tyler, Madison and Miles Seibel; Steve and Susan Seibel; Josh, Sara, Adam, Amiyah, Arianna Shadick.

Prayers for the week of June 22nd: Matthew, Meghan, Evan, Hazel and Henry Shadick; Patrick and Sandra Shadick; Michael, Nicole, Aliyah, Kaylee and Jaxton Shannon; Brian, Stacy and Jackson Simmons; Ashley, Nathan, Lawson, Lorelei Simmons.

Prayers for the week of June 29th: Bryce Siverling; Emilie Siverling; Jared Siverling; Kim and Steve Siverling; Sarah Siverling; Kari, Phil, Jacob and Jensyn Skaar; Terri Smith; Donald and Karen Steinmetz; Laura, Terry and Tatum Steinmetz.

2025 Confirmation Faith Statements

St. John's Lutheran has taught me to be a better person. Always try to help out anyone in need and put others first. It has taught me to see the good in everyone. My faith has given me guidance on how to follow in God's goodness and that helps me live a better life. It provides me with leadership and support to remain a loving person.

Joshua 1:9 - Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

My faith has shaped my life in many ways. I've learned about kindness, forgiveness, and the importance of helping others. I've made friends at church. Being part of the church community has helped me feel connected and supported, and it gives me a strong foundation for life.

Deuteronomy 31:6 - Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the LORD your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.

JUNE 2025 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	4 2:00pm Bible Study	5	6	7
8  9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	9 8:30am Bible Study	10	11 10:30am - 11:30am Bloomer Clergy Assoc Mtg 2:00pm Bible Study	12 9:30am Pastor's Conference	13	14
15  HAPPY FATHER'S DAY 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	16 8:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	17  1:00pm - 3:00pm Quilting Group	18 2:00pm Bible Study	19	20	21
22  9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	23 8:30am Bible Study	24	25 2:00pm Bible Study	26	27	28
29  9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	30 8:30am Bible Study	1	2 2:00pm Bible Study	3	4	5

Quilting Group
 Will be meeting on
June 17th
 at 1:00-3:00 p.m.

SEW CUTE!

Everyone is welcome!!



We are creating a schedule for July's Meals On Wheels


If you are available for one or more weeks in July 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!!




Link to our survey for a call for a new full-time pastor by using this QR code.

WELCA invites everyone to our Annual Guest Night
 Featuring:
Wood Swing



Angela Hierlmeier, Mary Shearer, & Valeri Scheps

Wednesday, June 4th at 7:00 p.m.
 Chetek Lutheran Church

Desserts & Refreshments in Fellowship Hall following the program. Please join us. Everyone is welcome.
 Hostesses: Tabitha Circle

Wednesday Meals
 Is done for the next few months and will pick up again this September.



Church Council Meeting Minutes

May 27th, 2025

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

Opening Devotion – Dorene Turner led the council from the devotion book “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 April 28th, 2025 meeting; seconded by Kay Anderson. Motion carried.

Financial Report -

	Year to Date (Jan-Apr 2025)
Income	\$ 67,824.24
Expenses	\$ 56,349.86
Difference	\$ 11,474.38

Transfers: none

April Offerings	
Date	Total
4/6	2,604
4/13	1,495
4/20	3,552
4/27	4,057
Online	1,892

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

Old Business-

A) Apartment Storage update: Janelle will contact Donny Geissler and will create an inventory list of items for the council to review.

B) GaGa pit: Property committee member Eric Larson was contacted and said placing the GaGa Pit in the lawn area would be okay. Council reached out to church committees to see if they'd be willing to contribute to the GaGa Pit. A motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to pay for the gag pit with contributions of \$100 each from Property, Fellowship, Youth, Preschool, and Council Fund. Seconded by Wendy LaGesse. Motion carried.

C) Draft Revisions for constitution – Tyler distributed a draft document from a previous council, outlining potential revisions to the constitution. These proposed changes would require a 60-day notice period before being presented to the congregation. Upon comparing Tyler's document with the current constitution, it appears most of the proposed revisions (indicated by strikethrough for removed items and red font for new language in Tyler's draft) have already been incorporated into the constitution. The following items, however, seem to remain unchanged in the current constitution:

- p.13 line C10.04 has to do with quorum, constitution still states 50 people
- p. 19/20 line C10.01.01 was annual meeting information
- p. 19/20 line C10.04.01 has to do with quorum, constitution still states 50 people
- p.21 line C14.01.01 the section dealing with the St. John's Foundation does not appear to be updated in the constitution.

D) Wednesday night service: A motion was made via email on 5/2 by Tyler Halverson to have the last Wednesday Evening Service on May 14th and to be resumed in the Fall on a date to be determined. Alicia Bonczyk seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes continued on page 5

May 27th Church Council Minutes *(Continued)*

(council meeting minutes continued)

E) **Pastor Salary:** The council began discussing how to determine a pastor's salary, and will use synod information to guide their future decisions. ELCA Synod Website: <https://nswi.org/congregations>
Document : 2025 Compensation Standards

F) **Call Committee update:** As of May 23rd, 37 surveys have been completed. Mustard Seed Consulting will present the survey results to the call committee and church council on June 17th, from 6-8 pm. The call committee continues to gather information for the Mission Site Profile (MSP), which will then be submitted to the synod to aid in finding pastoral candidates.

New Business –

Implementing council retreat suggestions: Fall Church picnic with games, Camp style worship on Sunday, the return of the toy bags for worship. – will revisit in July to implement in the Fall

Property Items:

Preschool Play Area- The Preschool Committee is currently updating the wood chips and has discussed fence repairs. Alicia will work with Amanda to identify specific concerns with the fence, as a latch definitely needs fixing. The Property Committee has already been informed about potential fence updates and will be kept informed on any necessary repairs. **Kitchen sink repairs** -property committee will be contacted to look into repairs. **Pest Control** – ants/bees are still an issue, property committee will be contacted to reach back out to the pest control company who was here in the spring.

Computers: The church is discussing replacing computers. Dorene has already reached out to Jeff Cole for his thoughts, and Wendy will be working with Earl Hassemmer and Victoria to determine what's needed.

Benevolences – The council discussed using money from the general fund to pay for some benevolences and will revisit this in June.

Custodian/Church Cleaning – the council will begin organizing cleaning days to assist with vacuuming, garbage, bathrooms, dusting, etc. Congregation members will be encouraged to stay after church service on the 2nd Sunday to assist. Michele will notify the Altar guild

Church Directory Update – discussion about updating our congregation member contact information. Janelle will contact Victoria and Amanda about gathering a list of current members to begin the process.

Committee Reports

- 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
- Pastor's Report - **Staff reviews** will be happening in June with Pastor Gary. **Stewardship** emphasis on Sundays for next 4 weeks, ELCA average giving is 2% per year. Discussion about the potential of costs associated with call process (Ex: travel expenses, moving expenses, etc.)

A motion was made by Dorene Turner to create a line item titled "Call Committee Expenses" on the Balance Sheet and add \$5000 from the Council Fund. Seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.

The council discussed "Church at the Fair," an ecumenical service planned for Sunday, August 10th, at the fairgrounds. A motion was made by Janelle Yeakey to cancel St. John's church service on August 10th to encourage participation at "Church at the Fair". Seconded by Wendy LaGessee. motion carried.

- Discipleship—see pastors report above on stewardship.
- Fellowship Minutes – next meeting will be August.
- Preschool Minutes
- Property Minutes –
- Worship & Music Minutes –
- Youth Minutes—
- Call Committee (see above)

Additional Items and Announcements: Next Meeting: June 16th at 6 pm

Adjournment - a motion was made at 7:45 pm by Wendy LaGessee to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Janelle Yeakey. Motion carried. **Members Present:** Janelle Yeakey, Kay Anderson, Dorene Turner, Wendy LaGessee, Michele Lane, Gary Hedding, Alicia Bonczyk. **Members Absent:** Tyler Halverson, Aubrie Bohl, Kyle Prill, Jason Graski.

Youth & Family News

VBS—Glitter and GLOW with Jesus

VBS planning is in full motion and off to a great start. It is with great excitement that we will be cohosting VBS with Our Saviors this summer once again! Although we are in the planning process of VBS, we do have dates for you all to save before your summer calendars fill up too fast. This year's VBS will take place August 3rd through the 6th from 5-7PM. Stay tuned for more information in the weeks to come.

Group Leaders and Subs NEEDED for JAM and Confirmation 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

Confirmation

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED IN THE FAITH THIS YEAR!

This was an important step forward in your faith, and we, at St. John's Lutheran Church are very happy for you in your journey. We will be featuring the "Faith Statements" written by this year's confirmands in this and the next few month's newsletters.

Senior Recognition

Senior recognition took place on Sunday, May 18th. Senior blankets were distributed at the end of service with a reception that followed. If you senior was unable to attend the service but would be interested in receiving a blanket, please reach out to Amanda Larson. Once again, congratulations to our 2025 graduates!

"Your life is your story, and the adventure ahead of you is the journey to fulfill your own purpose and potential." -

Kerry Washington

Celebrate Children's Day

Our final day of Faith Formation for the 2024-2025 academic year took place on Wednesday, May 7th, 2024. The children had fun enjoying various activities from ga-ga ball, basketball, chalk, a craft activity, and the preschool playground space. After Faith Formation wrapped up for the evening, some of our students and their families stayed for worship that evening. JAM and confirmation students sang a variety of songs they had learned during Faith Formation or from camp for the congregation as well. It was truly a special evening as we celebrated our youth.

Luther Park Registration Now Open

Summer camp registration for Luther Park is officially open! This year's theme is "God's word comes near," highlighting how God's word is close, alive, and present in our daily lives. Through scripture and Jesus, God's word grounds us in love, hope, and new life. In five sessions, Luther Park will explore how it inspires trust, offers blessings, encourages listening, empowers service, and calls us to follow.

If your child is interested in attending or you have questions about camp, please go to their website (lutherpark.org) and/or contact Amanda Larson.

Final camper payments are due on June 1st.

*Reminder: if your child participated in two of the fundraisers, our church will reimburse 50% of the camp costs (does not include registration or canteen). Please contact Amanda Larson or Pastor Martin if you have any additional questions regarding reimbursement.

NEWS FROM PRESCHOOL STAFF! 2025 Confirmation Faith Statements

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. 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.

A Special Thank You!

A huge thank you to all of our students and families for making this year a success. Mrs. Kim Schulze I had so much fun working together and with all our families this school year! I am excited to see some familiar faces along with other new ones this Fall. Also, a huge thank you to our preschool committee and the congregation for their support this year. Without your support, we would not have had the success we had this year. Have a wonderful Summer! – Mrs. Larson

Graduation

On Friday, May 16th, we celebrated our students as many of them continued their educational journey into 4K and Kindergarten. We had a wonderful turnout as family and friends joined together to support this year’s graduating class. A huge thank you to our preschool committee for coming together to make this event a success.

Happy Mail

We are excited to share that we have received mail from twenty-eight of the fifty states and five pieces of international correspondence! As part of our happy mail initiative, we invite you to spread joy by sending spring or graduation cards. We are still seeking mail from the following states, and repeating states are more than welcome. Your contributions truly brighten our students' days, and they have thoroughly enjoyed every piece of mail received so far!

Here are the states we have not received mail from yet:
Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming.
Please help us reach our goal of getting mail from all 50 states.

Faith Statement

St. John’s Lutheran Church has had a positive impact on my faith. The church, pastors, and classes have helped me understand my faith, helped my relationship with God, and in my understanding of the Bible. Through the classes, and support from my teachers and pastors, I’ve learned that faith is not just about knowing the stories of the Bible, but about trusting in God’s path for me. Being part of the St. John’s community has taught me the importance of prayer, and living out my faith every day.

I’ve also been encouraged by the love and support of my family, their beliefs, and guidance everyday. I know that my family and God will continue to guide me, strengthen me, and help me in my life. Thank you to my family, pastors, teachers, and St. John’s Church for your support in my faith journey.

Philippians 4:13 — *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

	<p>ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 1403 Newman Street Bloomer, WI 54724</p>
	<p>ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED</p> <p>715-568-5446 Email: stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net</p>

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)

Call Committee Letter

Dear St. John's Family,

As we continue on this significant journey of pastoral transition, it's vital that we, as a congregation, thoughtfully consider our future direction. The calling of a new pastor is a pivotal moment, shaping the spiritual life and growth of our church for years to come.

To ensure a collaborative and inclusive process, the Pastor Search Committee, with the invaluable support and guidance of Pastor Randy and Pastor Gary, is implementing a comprehensive Church Assessment Tool (CAT) survey. This survey provides each member with a powerful voice in defining who we are as a community and where we aspire to be in the years ahead. Your input is crucial in shaping the profile of our ideal pastoral candidate and charting the course for St. John's future.

On page 3 you will find a website link and a QR Code either of which you can use to access the survey that we respectfully request you complete for our assistance. We also have paper copies of this survey in the church office and at the welcome desk if you prefer that method.

Thank you so much for your help!

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.



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 Janelle Yeakey

