



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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Letter from Pastor Gary Hedding	1
Prayers	2
Calendar, Church News	3
Council Meeting Minutes	4,5
Youth & Family News	6
Preschool News	7
Church News	8

The Promise of a New Beginning

The month of March brings us the promise of spring. At first, it is just a promise - we often have to deal with snow and cold around the time of NCAA basketball tournaments - but as March moves past spring breaks for the schools, spring can become more real. With the cold we have had this winter even the promise of the new life in spring lifts our spirits.

March also brings the liturgical season of Lent. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5th and ends with Good Friday on April 18 and Holy Saturday on April 19. Lent, too, has its promises. It presents the solemn promise of God's dedication to a broken world and sinful people that redemption is poured out through Jesus' journey to the Cross. Lent reminds us that God's love is so deep that, in Jesus, the weights of this world and ourselves are gathered into Him and are put to death in Him. Hearing that solemn promise, we have the courage to examine our own lives, convinced that God's forgiveness washes us and empowers us to live new lives filled with grace, mercy, and strength we did not know were ours. Lent also gives us the promise of Jesus' resurrection, the joy of an empty tomb promising a resurrection life for us now and eternal life that not even death can steal from us. Have a thoughtful and brave Lent.

Our Wednesday night times of worship during Lent will include Holden Evening Prayer, a beautiful, peaceful, and moving worship service. The messages for the Wednesday services after Ash Wednesday will come through a series of chancel dramas called "The Potter and Me", based on Jeremiah 18:1-11, "Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand." The dramas explore faith in a deep and kind way that encourages our own time of faith exploration. I trust you will grow in grace from this time of worship. .

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 March 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

Bert Tozer; The Kuehn Family; Suzette Zwiefelhofer; Lily Higbie; Rod Martin; Hunter Custer; 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; Wayne & Nancy Zogleman.

Prayers For the Saints

Prayers for the week of Mar. 2nd: Ryan, Samantha, Jaxin and Jordon Lang; Edward and Lori Lanzer; Joseph Lanzer; Amanda, Matthew, Easton, Ellie and Emmett Larson; Erik, Jennifer, Connor, Finn, Liam, Keira (Richardson) and Trevin (Richardson) Larson.

Prayers for the week of Mar. 9th: Bryan, Courtney, Gabriella, Tessa and Zachariah Lewis; Charlie Lewis; Daniel and Joann Lewis; Deanna Lewis; Debi, Eric and Taylor Lewis; Martha Libersky; Amanda, Eric, Aaron and Evan Lierman.

Prayers for the week of Mar. 16th: Timothy Loew; Brittany, Eric, Clayton, Coby and Cooper Ludwigson; Katherine Ludwigson; Kelli, Tye, Bronson and Cole Ludwigson; Bonnie and John Lueck; Dick and Jean Marquardt; Lucille Martin.

Prayers for the week of Mar. 23rd: Rodney Martin; Doug and Susan Martin; Amy, Christopher, Calvin and Lucas Hassemmer; Michael Marvin; Brian and Mary Mawby; Gabriel Mawby; Erin, Shaun, Connor, Owen and Riley McCurdy; McKenzie McInnis.

Prayers for the week of Mar. 30th: Susan McInnis; Chrissy, Nick, Dominick and Rose Meisner; Justin, Kelly, Kaylee, Caleb and Leora Metcalf; Brian and Jill Meyer; Lanna and Raymond Michels; Bonnie and Robert Mickelson.

MARCH 2025 CALENDAR

Church News

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23 9:00am Worship Service-Confirmation 10:00am Election for Call Committee 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service 12:00pm Meet to Create Senior Fleece Blankets	24 8:30am Bible Study	25 1:00pm - 4:00pm Quilting Group 6:15pm Preschool Committee Meeting	26 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	27	28	1
2 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	3 8:30am Bible Study	4	5 Ash Wednesday 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Soup & Sandwich Meal 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	6	7 NO PRESCHOOL	8 "SPRING FORWARD" at 2:00 am tonight!
9 9:00am Worship Service-Baptism Hadley Bathke 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	10 SPRING BREAK 8:30am Bible Study	11 SPRING BREAK	12 SPRING BREAK 10:30am Bloomer Clergy Association Mtg 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm NO MEAL TONIGHT-Spring Break 5:15pm - 6:15pm NO FAITH FORMATION TONIGHT-Spring Break 6:30pm Worship Service	13 SPRING BREAK 9:30am Pastor's Conference	14 SPRING BREAK	15
16 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	17 8:30am Bible Study 6:15pm Youth Committee Meeting	18 6:15pm Preschool Committee Meeting	19 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Soup & Sandwich Meal 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	20	21 6:00pm Preschool Family Fun Night	22 8:30am - 4:00pm Walking Together-Bethany Lutheran in Rice Lake
23 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service 12:00pm Private Baptism - Blain Rihn 5:30pm Youth In Action	24 8:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	25 1:00pm - 3:00pm Quilting Group	26 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Soup & Sandwich Meal 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	27	28	29
30 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	31 8:30am Bible Study	1	2 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Soup & Sandwich Meal 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	3	4	5 New Auburn Community Choir



WEDNESDAY MEALS

Every **Wednesday** during **LENT** from 4:45 - 5:30 p.m. come and join your friends & family at St. John's for Lenten Soup & Sandwich Meals provided by our Faith Formation Families!



Suggested donation is \$7 per person or \$20 per family

Quilting Group

Will be meeting on

March 25th

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



Everyone is welcome!!

We are looking for people to take part in **Chancel Drama** for our Wednesday worship in Lent. We will be doing "readers' theater" so **no memorization will be necessary.**

Please see Deacon Martha to volunteer or for more information.

Church Council Meeting Minutes

February 17th, 2025

Call to Order - Meeting was called to order at 6:05 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 Alicia Bonczyk to approve the agenda with flexibility; seconded by Dorene Turner . Motion carried.

Approval of last Council Minutes - A motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to approve the minutes from the January 20th, 2025 meeting; seconded by Jason Graski. Motion carried.

Financial Report -

	Year to Date (Jan-Jan 2025)
Income	\$ 12,922.02
Expenses	\$ 10,073.43
Difference	\$ 2,848.58

Transfers: none
December Offerings:

January Offerings	
Date	Total
1/6	2,338
1/13	1,975
1/20	2,262
1/27	2,162

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 Tyler Halverson to accept the financial report. Seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.

Old Business-

- 1) Apartment storage update: council to work on creating an inventory and determine what items need to remain, will revisit in May.
- 2) Call Committee Update – voting on February 23rd. Nominees (5 voting, 1 alternate)
 - Tyler Mickelson - Beth Halverson - Matt Larson - Sue Nehring
 - Barb Ross - Richard Helgeson

***youth consultants/non-voting members: Harley Prill, Camryn Yeakey, Alexis Bonczyk.
Council Member: Wendy LaGessee.

After the Call Committee is formed, they will begin to create the Ministry Site Profile to submit to the synod.

New Business –

- 1) Council Retreat – potential dates March 30th or April 6th; Pastor Gary will check into availability at Luther Park.
- 2) Ballot for February 23rd: see above.
- 3) New Auburn Community Choir – 45 person ensemble with 5 instruments. 1st or 2nd weekend in April, Saturday Evening (7 pm). Nancy Schindler and Martha Libersky are willing to organize a gathering with treats and coffee. Dorene will be in contact with Martha about availability.

Minutes continued on page 5

Feb. 17th Church Council Minutes *(Continued)*

(council meeting minutes continued)

4) Council Positions: Elections – **A motion was made** by Janelle Yeakey to elect Dorene Turner as President. Seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alicia to elect Tyler Halverson as Vice President. Seconded by Wendy LaGessee. Motion carried unanimously. **A motion was made** by Jason Graski to elect Kay Anderson as Treasurer. Seconded by Dorene Turner. Motion carried unanimously. **A motion was made** by Alicia Bonczyk to elect Janelle Yeakey as Secretary. Seconded by Dorene Turner. Motion carried unanimously. The four elected officers will have check signing ability for the church.

Committees

(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 –
- Fellowship Minutes—Janelle Yeakey, Kay Anderson, Michele Lane, & Aubrie Bohl.
- Preschool—Alicia Bonczyk.
- Social Ministry Minutes –
- Property Minutes – Jason Graski
- Worship & Music Minutes – Tyler Halverson
- Youth Minutes – Alicia Bonczyk.

Committee Reports

- Appreciation Days –
 - Secretary day = April 23rd
 - Volunteer week = April 20-26th
 - Teacher week = May 4th-10th
 - Food Service = September 25th
 - Pastor = October 13th
 - Musician = national hug a musician November 13,(we did this date in 2024) national musicians day January 24th

Volunteer breakfast – April 27th, will create a sign up; Dorene will look into cost from main street.

- Pastor's Report - focus has been working on creating call committee; Pastor Gary will be on vacation during the majority of March and April. Martha Libersky and Debbie Poirier will fill in as needed.
- Discipleship—will focus on this group in May.
- Fellowship Minutes –
- Preschool Minutes—discussion about a non payment concerns; parent teacher conferences went well.
- Social Ministry Minutes
- Property Minutes – lights are up and working.
- Worship & Music Minutes – question about organizing another Music for Mission; Lenten Drama Series with Holden Evening Prayer to begin March 12th.
- Youth Minutes—Quake Weekend 2/14-16, fun time was had by those in attendance. Upcoming Fundraisers: Lenten Soup and Sandwich; Freeze Dried Candy; Flower Sale (May). A motion was made by Tyler Halverson to compensate the Youth Director 28 hours at a rate of 15 per hour for Youth Quake. Seconded by Kay Anderson, Motion carried.

Additional Items and Announcements

Next Meeting: March 24th at 6 pm.

Adjournment - a motion was made at 7:43 pm by Michele Lane to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tyler Halverson. Motion carried. **Members Present:** Janelle Yeakey, Kay Anderson, Dorene Turner, Gary Hedding, Tyler Halverson, Wendy LaGessee, Michele Lane, Alicia Bonczyk, Jason Graski. **Members Absent:** Aubrie Bohl, Kyle Prill.

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.



Dates to Consider

There will be **NO Faith Formation for Spring Break on Wednesday, the 12th.** For more information, please contact Amanda Larson.

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

ATTENTION FAMILIES OF 1st COMMUNION CHILDREN



St. John's will prepare young people to receive Holy Communion through a series of **three 45-minute** classes on Wednesday evenings, from **3:45-4:30pm**. The classes will be held **March 26, April 9, and May 7**. We ask the young people to have a parent or other guardian attend with them so that they may continue their conversations about the place and value of this Sacrament in their lives. Contact Amanda Larson to let us know that you are interested in this preparation.

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.

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) 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.

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.

Early bird rates end on March 31st and 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!

Amanda



Pre-Registration for 2025-26

Pre-registration will be opening on Monday, March 3rd for the 2025-2026 academic year. If anyone has any questions, please contact Amanda Larson – work mobile 715-226-8207 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.

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 March. During this month, our themes explored will include Read Across America week (Dr. Seuss) and All Things Spring. 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, March 7th through Friday, March 14th there will be NO school as we follow the Bloomer School District's calendar for Spring Break..

Read-a-Thon Fundraiser

We will be hosting a Read-a-Thon fundraiser from Monday, March 3rd through Sunday, March 16th. 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 outdoor equipment and materials for our preschool. Sponsorship pledges are due back on Wednesday, March 19th.

Family Fun Night

We are excited to host our second Family Fun Night of the 2024-2025 academic year on Friday, March 21st at 6:00PM. We hope that hosting an event like this will spread awareness of our program. You can expect this event to be geared toward families who have children 4 years of age and under (older siblings are welcome to attend), including interactive story time, music, crafts, and snacks. All families who attend will be entered in for a door prize (must be present to win). Please RSVP ahead of time via Facebook or with Amanda Larson so that we can plan accordingly.

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

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

Cost is a FREE WILL DONATION. Calendars 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)

Youth Ministry Fundraiser! **BIG STACK Sweets**
Fresca Dried Candy

Big Stack Sweets candy orders will be ready for pick up on Wednesday evening



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



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!



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.



Join Us for Walking Together 2025!
 March 22, 2025, 8:30 - 4:00
 Bethany Lutheran - Rice Lake
 \$25 per participant

To request a link for registration, email Victoria at
stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net

