



# 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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#### **This Lent Jesus Goes to the Cross and Meets Significant People on the Way**

Lent is a time for inward movements of contemplation and repentance (seeing things God's ways), and for watching as Jesus makes his determined, loving way to the Cross. The Cross is the ultimate act of love which inspires our trust in a God who values our lives above God's own. While we watch Jesus as he goes, we will see him meet and interact with some interesting people along the way. People who draw something of Jesus out that helps us get to know him so much better.

The appointed Gospel texts for March introduce us to these people and provide the theme for our Lenten worship. Dates are for the Sunday and Wednesday of each week.

March 1 & 4.....Jesus & Nicodemus, who is Curious but Confused

March 8 .....Jesus & a Samaritan Woman, who is Cautious but Respected

March 15&18.....Jesus & a Blind Man, who is Challenged but Blessed

March 22 & 25.....Jesus & Lazarus, who is Dead but Raised

We will find a little of each of these people in ourselves and will find Jesus reaching out to us just as he graciously reached out for each of these individuals. Join us for worship Sunday's at 9:00am and Wednesday's at 6:30pm except for the week of Spring Break during which there will be no worship on March 11.

Pastor Gary and his wife Linda will be traveling this spring March 1-23 and April 13-May 22. It will be for family in March and April and for a bucket list trip to the United Kingdom in May. Deacon Martha will provide pastoral care as well as preaching and presiding at worship on Sunday's while Debbie Poirier will conclude confirmation instruction as well as preaching and presiding at worship on Wednesday's.

May the Holy Spirit grow our faith, lead us in service to our neighbors, and show us how to care for God's creation during this Holy Lenten season.

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

### Prayers of Healing For Our Church Family

Lucy Martin; Nancy Zogleman; LuAnn Larson; Sharon Schwartz; Janet Krenz; Marie Weideman; Rod Martin; Bonnie Mickelson; The Kuehn Family; Suzette Zwiefelhofer; Deanna Stuckert; Judy Hedding (Stepmom of Pastor Gary); Renee Grambo; Kari Skaar.

### Prayers For the Saints

Prayers for the week of Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>: Casey, Corey and Stella Rosenbrook; Barbara Ross; Dennis and Val Rubenzer; Ashley Sarauer; Gina and Michael Sarauer; Gregory, Nichole and Theodore Sarauer; Barry, Melissa, Alexander and Morgan Sarauer; Erin, Bella and Christina Schell.

Prayers for the week of Mar. 8<sup>th</sup>: Josh, Tara, Briggs, Connor and Reid Schemenauer; Carly, Zachary and Madden Schimmel; Nancy Schindler; Virginia Schindler; Brad, Kim, Chloe and Paxton Schulze; Arlette Schuster; Sharon Schwartz.

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






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

Prayers for the week of Mar. 29<sup>th</sup>: 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.

The Altar Guild is always happy to add additional color to our church services by having fresh flowers on the altar. If you have a special family event (birthday, baptism, etc.) you would like to celebrate with your church family, we would love to share this celebration with you by having flowers on the altar. These flowers do not have to be purchased at a flower shop. They can be from your home garden. A flower chart is posted on the church entry way bulletin board. If you don't have a vase, there are several options in the altar guild room in one of the lower cabinets on the left side of the sink. If you would like the event posted on the video screen or in the bulletin, please put a note in Victoria's basket by her office door letting her know who donated flowers and if they are for a special event.

# MARCH 2026 CALENDAR

## Church News

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service 	<b>2</b> Preschool Pre-Registration Opens 8:30am Bible Study 3:30pm - 8:00pm Preschool Parent/Teacher Conferences	<b>3</b> 3:30pm - 8:00pm Preschool Parent/Teacher Conferences 6:15pm Preschool Committee Meeting	<b>4</b> 2:00pm Bible Study 4:30pm Lenten Soup & Sandwich Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Turn Clocks ahead 1 hour at midnight 
<b>8</b> Church Cleaning after Service & Coffee 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	<b>9</b> <b>First Day of Spring Break</b> 8:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10:30am Bloomer Clergy Association Mtg 2:00pm Bible Study	<b>12</b> 9:30am Pastor's Conference	<b>13</b> <b>Last Day of Spring Break</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Final Day of Preschool Read-a-thon fundraiser 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am St. John's Foundation Annual Meeting 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	<b>16</b> 8:30am Bible Study	<b>17</b> 1:00pm - 3:00pm Quilting Group 	<b>18</b> 2:00pm Bible Study 4:30pm Lenten Soup & Sandwich Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 8:00am - 4:00pm Luther Park "Walking Together" Event-Bethany, Rice Lake
<b>22</b>  9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service 3:00pm Easter Cantata-Refreshments to follow	<b>23</b> 8:30am Bible Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 2:00pm Bible Study 4:30pm Lenten Soup & Sandwich Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6:00pm Preschool Family Fun Night	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>  9:00am Palm Sunday Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	<b>30</b> 8:30am NO Bible Study Today	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 2:00pm NO Bible Study today	<b>2</b> 7:00pm Maundy Thursday	<b>3</b> 1:30pm Ecumenical Good Friday Service 7:00pm Good Friday Service	<b>4</b>

**Quilting Group**  
 Will be meeting on  
**Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>**  
 at 1:00-3:00 p.m.

**SEW CUTE!**  
*Everyone is welcome!!*



**Mark Your Calendar!**  
**NEW AUBURN COMMUNITY CHOIR CANTADA**  
 Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 at 3:00 p.m.



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

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Saturday, April 11 from 8am-1:30pm**

ELCA Women's Chippewa Valley Conference  
**DAY OF RENEWAL 2026**  
 • Spirit Lutheran Church, 1310 Main St., Eau Claire  
**Caring for God's Creation Beginning With You**

Details and registration information is located on bulletin boards at both church entrances.

**Next Cleaning Day is March 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Let's work together to keep our church beautiful!**

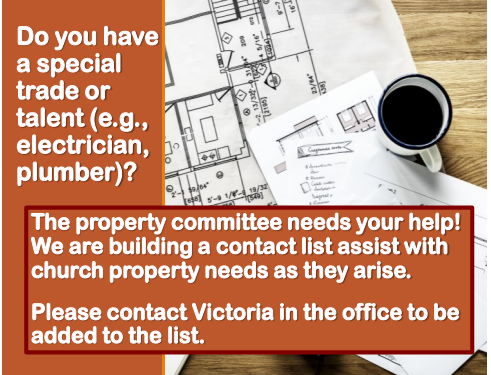
Church Cleaning after service 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month.



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 February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Call to Order** - Meeting was called to order at 5:59pm by Wendy LaGesse, council president.

**Opening Devotion** – Wendy LaGesse 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 Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.

**Approval of last Council Minutes** - A motion was made by Michelle Lane to approve the minutes from the January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026 meeting; seconded by Kay Anderson. Motion carried.

**Financial Report -**

	Year to Date (Jan-Jan 2026)
Income	\$ 18,224.86
Expenses	\$ 17,398.94
Difference	\$ 825.92

January Offerings	
Date	Total
1/5	\$ 5,062
1/12	\$ 2,495
1/20	\$ 2,397
1/26	\$ 631
Online	\$ 1,467
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,052</b>

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

Transfers: none

All money is insured through FDIC

A motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to accept the financial report. Seconded by Emmitt Anderson. Motion carried.

**Old Business-**

- A) Apartment Storage update: Room dividers were asked about by a congregation member and were allowed to take them, remaining unneeded items will be sold at a thrift sale in the spring.
- B) Church directory update: continuing to work on updating a few more responses have trickled in, will encourage people to submit updates through Easter.
- C) Council retreat: February 22 after church with Diane House. Meal: Pizza – Wendy; Salad & dessert - Janelle.
- D) Victoria’s office update: Wendy will check in with Jason Graski on where we are at with this project.
- E) Filing Cabinet update- one of the metal file Cabinets in hall has been emptied, Wendy will continue to clean out and recycle the items.
- F) Health care – Youth director will be contacting Portico to determine possibilities.
- G) Scooter that was donated many years ago that was stored in the basement has been removed
- H) Locking up of the Church – purchasing a drop box to be placed outside to store a key for the church. The key will be checked out from church office and a one-time code can be created for a person to access the key.  
 \*A motion was made by Tyler Halverson to purchase and install the lock/drop box for a church key; seconded by Emmitt. Motion carried.

**New Business-**

- A) Water Heater - the council considered water heater proposals from both Geissler Plumbing and Bohl & Proulx Plumbing. Currently the water heater is a gas water heater that was from 2006, the cost to repair/replace with another gas water heater ranged from \$2010 to \$13,805.00. To replace with an electric water heater ranged from \$1100 to \$3100, with an additional cost of electrical work for \$1065.00.  
 \*A motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to accept the proposal from Geissler Plumbing to install a 50 gallon electric water heater (\$1100) and to accept the electrical work proposal from B&B electric (\$1065). Seconded by Michele Lane. Motion Carried. (Abstained – Janelle Yeakey)
- B) Easter Cantata: March 22nd; 3:30pm Fellowship Committee will organize the reception.

*Minutes continued on page 5*

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

*(council meeting minutes continued)*

### Committee Reports

**Appreciation Days** – 2026: Secretary = April 22nd, Teacher = May 5th, Food Service = September 25th, Pastor = October 11th, Musician = November = 13th.

**Pastor's Report** – Pastor Gary will be out of town with family March 4th-23rd, April 13th-24th, April 27th-May 22nd, May 23rd- May27th. Coverage will happen between Martha and Debbie.

**Discipleship**- Mini stewardship emphasis will be coming in Spring.

**Fellowship Minutes** –

**Social Ministry Minutes** –

**Youth Minutes** –

**Preschool Minutes** –

**Property Minutes** –

**Worship & Music Minutes** –

**Call Committee** –

### Additional Items and Announcements

**Next Meeting:** March 9th at 6 pm

**Adjournment** - a motion was made at 7:06 pm by Tyler Halverson to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.

**Members Present:** Janelle Yeakey, Kay Anderson, Bridget Krejci, Michele Lane, Wendy LaGesse, Emmitt Anderson, Alicia Bonczyk, Tyler Halverson **Members Absent:** Jason Graski, Matt Larson, Gary Hedding, **Others present:** none.

**Join Us for  
Walking Together 2026!**

March 21, 8:00 - 4:00  
Bethany Lutheran - Rice Lake  
\$25 per participant

**To request a link for registration, email Victoria at [stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net](mailto:stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net)**




**For Love of Neighbor:  
A Palm Sunday Path to Unity,  
Welcome and Inclusion**

**MARCH 29, 2026**  
3:00-4:00 p.m.  
Trinity Lutheran Church Parking Lot  
1314 E Lexington Blvd, Eau Claire

*Flyers can be found on bulletin boards at both church entrances.*



We like to have homemade communion bread ideally for the 1st Sunday of each month. If you would like to make communion bread, there is a sign-up chart on the bulletin board in the church entry way. This is a great family project. The bread recipe can be found in the altar guild room on white board next to the sink.



**LENTEN SOUP & SANDWICH MEALS**

Each **Wednesday** during Lent, 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



# Youth & Family News

## Confirmation

This year's eighth-grade class will be confirmed on **Sunday, May 3rd**, a significant day.

Please send Amanda Larson, (amanda\_stjohnspreschool@aol.com) your child's full name, a photo, their faith statement, and a Bible verse by **April 22nd**. 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.

## Important Dates to Notice

There will be **NO Faith formation on Wednesday, March 11th**, due to **Spring Break**. We will see you all back for Faith Formation on **Wednesday, March 18th**.

## Lenten Suppers-Soup and Sandwich Dinners

Our JAM and confirmation families will be helping with dinner during the season of Lent. On February 25th, March 4th, March 18th, and March 25th, our confirmation groups will serve dinner, including a variety of soups and sandwiches. Slips were sent home with each student, and I will email all families a PDF of all assignments this week.

Assignments include:

- A crockpot of soup  
(5-6 students per week)
- 3 or 4 loaves of bread
- Meat and cheese
- 1 gallon of milk
- Dessert

## Group Leads and Substitutes Needed for JAM and Confirmation

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](mailto:stjohnslutheran.bloomer@gmail.com)

## Youth In Action

Our next YIA is **March 29th**.  
*Time is yet to be determined.*

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](mailto:amanda_stjohnspreschool@aol.com)).

We are looking for volunteers to read scripture on Sunday mornings. If you would like to read scripture, there is a sign-up chart on the bulletin board in the church entry way. Victoria will give you a copy of the readings for your Sunday.



# 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 March. This month, our themes 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 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 Monday, March 9th, through Friday, March 13th, for Spring Break as we follow the Bloomer School District's calendar

## Parent-Teacher Conferences

Our parent-teacher conferences were rescheduled for March. Please check out our sign-up forms on Brightwheel or contact Amanda Larson for more information.

## Pre-Registration for 2026-2027

Pre-registration will be opening on Monday, March 2nd for the 2026-2027 academic year. If anyone has any questions, please contact Amanda Larson – work mobile (715) 226-8207 or email [amanda\\_stjohnspreschool@aol.com](mailto: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.

## Read-a-Thon Fundraiser

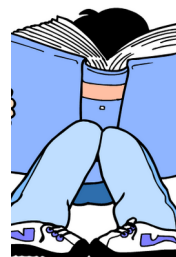
We will be hosting a Read-a-Thon fundraiser from Monday, February 23rd through Sunday, March 15th. If you would be interested in sponsoring a child or donating to the preschool, please contact Amanda Larson. This is such a fun way to promote early literacy to our students and their families while supporting the mission of raising funds to help purchase new program equipment (indoor and outdoor improvements) and materials for our preschool. Sponsorship pledges are due back on Thursday, March 19th.

## Family Fun Night/Open House

We are excited to host our second Family Fun Night of the 2025-2026 academic year on Friday, March 27st at 6:00PM. This event will also serve as an Open House. We hope that hosting an event like this will spread awareness of our program. You can expect this event to be geared toward families with children 4 years of age and under (older siblings are welcome to attend), featuring interactive story time, music, crafts, and snacks. All families who attend will be entered for a door prize (must be present to win). Please RSVP in advance via Facebook or with Amanda Larson so we can plan accordingly.

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

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

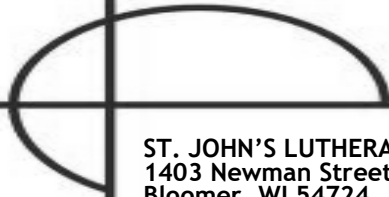


## READ-A-THON FUNDRAISER

Monday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> thru  
Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Funds raised will support the preschool program. Sponsor a student or the entire preschool. For more information, see the table in the Narthex or contact Amanda Larson.





**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)