



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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Walking in the Easter Spirit

Last month I wrote about carrying on Easter in our lives, not letting it go for just Easter Sunday. Easterpalooza is a way to think faithfully about the power of Jesus' resurrection each and every day. We can do this in many ways and the traditional Christian practices can help: practices of prayer, devotionally reading scripture, worship, fellowship, service, and generosity have empowered Christians throughout the ages to grow in faith and faithful living. Martin Luther adds remembering our Baptism as another practice of Easterpalooza. He recalled each day that, through Baptism, he "was sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever".

We will celebrate the Easter and Baptismal claims on a number of our young people when they affirm God's claim Sunday, May 4, at their Confirmation. These Christians have matured through study with caring adults and will be taking more responsibilities for their continued growth. They are fine young people and I have been delighted that many have been active in our youth group as well. Please join us on May 4.

One faith practice we will look at more closely in May will be stewardship or Christian generosity. Our God is generous in creation. Our God is generous with the Holy Spirit upholding us in life. Our God generously "did not count equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself . . . even to death on a cross". This spirit of generosity has been given to us and we will look at how it draws us closer to God. I have a few stories I am eager to share with you.

There are seven more Sundays in the Easter season, so rejoice in living a merry Easterpalooza.

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 May 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

Family & Friends of Matthew Hellman; Tom Powell; Family & Friends of Robert Huhn (Eva Rihn's brother); Family & Friends of Alice Boese; Jason Rihn; Bert Tozer; The Kuehn Family; Suzette Zwiefelhofer; Lily Higbie; Kari Skaar; Rod Martin; Charlene Rosenbrook; Richard Anderson; Pat Prill; Deanna Stuckert; Edith Fleming; Kristi Swartz; Arlene Christianson; Renee Grambo; Wayne & Nancy Zogleman.

Prayers For the Saints

Prayers for the week of May 4th: Brian, Lori, Zachary, Zoe, Ava, Lexi and Madilyn Pielhop; Mary Poirier; Dalton, Miranda and Jade Pooler; Everett and Rose Marie Powell; James, Lori, Noah and Olivia Price; Aaron Prill.

Prayers for the week of May 11th: Amanda, Kyle, Harley, Josh, Kennady, Oakley, Sidney and Zinphany Prill; Derek Prill; Donald and Lisa Prill; Elijah Prill; Jacob Prill; Pat Prill; Kerry, Arianna, Isabella Rauscher; Rosanne Reid; Amanda, Gavin and Grant Richardson.

Prayers for the week of May 18th: Alan and Cecilia Rihn; Betty Rihn; Emily, Kort, Owen, Elaina and Ava Rihn; Eva Rihn; Janell and Mark Rihn; Jason, Jean, Leo and Wyatt Rihn; Jeff and Brandi Rihn; Jerry, Sylvia (Ford) and Blain Rihn; Joyce Rihn.

Prayers for the week of May 25th: Patti and Tyler Rihn; Ronnie, Kayla (Gunderson) and Henry Rihn; Rosella Rihn; Samantha Rogge; Andrew, Chassy, Cora and Corbin Roggenbuck; Daniel and Suzette Rosenbrook; Casey, Corey, Marielle and Stella Rosenbrook; Barbara Ross; Dennis and Val Rubenzer.

Call Committee Letter

Dear St. John's Family,

As we embark 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.









In the coming weeks, we will share detailed information regarding the survey's accessibility, providing clear instructions and support to ensure everyone can participate. We'll announce the specific dates, locations, and methods for completing the survey through various channels, including announcements during church services and updates on St. John's Facebook page.

The CAT survey is designed to ensure equitable participation, valuing each member's perspective equally, so that every voice contributes to this important decision-making process. Your thoughtful responses will be instrumental in guiding us towards selecting a pastor who resonates deeply with our congregation's needs and aspirations. We eagerly anticipate your participation and look forward to sharing updates as we progress.

Sincerely,
Wendy Lagesse

MAY 2025 CALENDAR

Church News

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast(cancelled) 9:00am Worship Service	28 8:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	29 6:00pm CPR/First Aid event	30 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	1	2	3 11:30am Funeral Lunch - Robert Huhn
4 9:00am Worship Service - Confirmation 10:00am Confirmation Reception following service 	5 8:30am Bible Study	6	7 2:00pm Bible Study 3:45pm - 4:30pm Fed & Forgiven 1st Communion Class 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation (last day) 6:30pm Worship Service-Celebrate Kids 	8 9:30am Pastor's Conference	9 Delivery of Flowers from Youth Fundraiser	10
11 HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY 9:00am Worship Service - 1st Communion 10:00am 1st Communion reception after service 	12 Last day of preschool for MWF Students 8:30am Bible Study 5:45pm Youth Committee Meeting	13 Last day of preschool for TTh Students 6:15pm Preschool Committee Meeting	14 9:00am - 10:30am Preschool picnic at North Park 2:00pm Bible Study 4:30pm VBS Meeting 5:30pm Faith Formation Volunteer Appreciation & Recap 6:30pm Worship Service	15	16  6:00pm - 7:15pm Preschool Graduation	17
18 9:00am Worship Service-Senior Recognition 10:00am Annual Meeting-St. John's Foundation 10:00am Senior Recognition Reception 	19 8:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	20 1:00pm - 3:00pm Quilting Group 	21 2:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Worship Service	22	23	24
25 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service 	26  Memorial Day-Office Closed	27 June Newsletter Submissions due	28 2:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Worship Service	29	30	31

Quilting Group
 Will be meeting on
May 20th
 at 1:00-3:00 p.m.

SEW CUTE!
Everyone is welcome!!



Wednesday Meals

We have only two **Wednesday Meals** remaining until we resume the meals in September. This Wednesday the meal is from 4:45 – 5:30 p.m. Wed. May 14th the meal is at 5:30 as part of the faith formation teacher appreciation meal.

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



United States of America



PLEASE SEND MAIL TO:
HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF RECEIVING MAIL FROM ALL 50 STATES!
 ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
 ATTN: PRESCHOOL
 1403 NEWMAN STREET
 BLOOMER, WI 54724

Church Council Meeting Minutes

April 28th, 2025

Call to Order - Meeting was called to order at 6:02 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 Wendy LaGessee. Motion carried.

Approval of last Council Minutes - A motion was made by Michele Lane to approve the minutes from the March 24th, 2025 meeting; seconded by Wendy LaGessee. Motion carried.

Financial Report -

	Year to Date (Jan-Mar 2025)
Income	\$ 46,662.49
Expenses	\$ 36,337.76
Difference	\$ 10,284.73

Transfers: none
February Offerings: \$ 13,600

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

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

All money is insured through FDIC

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

Old Business-

- A) Apartment Storage update: will discuss a plan in May
- B) GaGa pit:

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost	Source
plywood	1/2" 4'X8'	8	23.25	186	menards
wood	2X4 8ft	16	3.75	60	menards
paint	ditch boy baxbod plus exterior paint	1quart	28.98	28.98	menards
door hinges	natinal hardware 4" steel	16	2.99	47.84	menards
box nails	galvanized smooth shank box nails	1lb box	4.98	4.98	menards
screws		3lb box	23.99	71.97	menards
number stickers		1 package	2.00	2	menards
furring strips	1x3x8	8	2.07	16.56	menards
				0	
				0	
Total cost of materials				418.33	

A motion was made by Janelle Yeakey, seconded by Wendy LaGessee to approve the purchase of materials for the gaga pit proposed by Jacob Skaar. Motion carried.

C) Council retreat update from March 30th; discussion focused on where people are congregating instead of the church. Suggestions from discussion: 1) Fall Church picnic with games 2) Camp style worship on a Sunday 3) Implementing the return of toy bags for worship.

Minutes continued on page 5

April 28th Church Council Minutes *(Continued)* More Church News

(council meeting minutes continued)

D) Alter Guild sink – sink was draining slow, issue is now resolved along with water discharge along sidewalk.

E) Draft Revisions for constitution – Tyler shared a draft document via email from a previous council with potential revisions to the constitution. Any changes would need to be proposed 60 days before being brought to the congregation. Will revisit in May to look into the changing of the quorum number.

New Business –

Call Committee Update – Church Survey discussion to help fill out the Mission Site Profile
A motion was made by Dorene Turner to use up to \$1000 from the council fund to use Mustard Seed Consulting to survey the congregation to assist in the call process. Seconded Janelle Yeakey. Motion carried.

Council will need to begin the discussion of pay package for calling a new Pastor. Synod will be contacted to determine salary recommendations.

Committee Reports

- Appreciation Days – 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
Preschool Staff appreciation will be handled by the preschool committee.
**Volunteer appreciation breakfast was postponed due to low interest. **
- Pastor's Report -
- Discipleship—will focus on this group in May.
- Fellowship Minutes – Easter breakfast, approx. 50 people attended; next meeting will be August.
- Preschool Minutes—full enrollment for 2025-26, waiting list started.
- Social Ministry Minutes
- Property Minutes – an ant issue was located in the preschool/kitchen area. A pest control company was contacted by Amanda.
- Worship & Music Minutes – Easter service times will be checked.
- Youth Minutes— Confirmation and Senior Worship services occurring in May.
- Call Committee (see above)

Additional Items and Announcements

Next Meeting: May 19th at 6 pm

Adjournment - a motion was made at 7:16 pm by Janelle Yeakey to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tyler Halverson. Motion carried.

Members Present: Janelle Yeakey, Kay Anderson, Dorene Turner, Wendy LaGesse, Michele Lane, Tyler Halverson. Others Present: none. Members Absent: Aubrie Bohl, Kyle Prill, Gary Hedding, Jason Graski, Alicia Bonczyk.

Youth & Family News

First Communion

This year's First Communion will take place on **Sunday, May 11th**. A reception will follow the service downstairs in the dining hall to mark this milestone in their faith journeys. This is a special occasion for your child, and we hope you can join us in celebrating it. Contact Amanda Larson with any questions you may have.



Faith Formation Evaluation/ Teacher Appreciation Event

Wednesday, May 14th, we will be hosting our teacher appreciation/end-of-the-year review/evaluation event. Please RSVP to Amanda Larson if you can attend so we can plan accordingly for food. This event will be for all JAM teachers and assistant helpers, along with subs who played an active role in assisting on Wednesday nights.

Flower Fundraiser

As a reminder, flowers will be delivered on Friday, May 9th. Delivery time is TBA. Please contact Jean Rihn at 715-933-4161 or Amanda Larson at 715-226-8207 if you have any questions.

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 asap. 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.

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

Senior Recognition

We will be recognizing our seniors (graduates) on Sunday, May 18th. A reception will follow the service downstairs in the dining hall. This is a special occasion for your teen and we hope you can join us in celebrating it. Don't hesitate to contact Amanda Larson with any questions you may have.



Celebrate Children's Day

Planning ahead, our final day of Faith Formation for the 2024-2025 academic year will be Wednesday May 7th, 2024. We are hoping the weather will be nice enough to have activities outside as we did for our kick-off at the beginning of the year.

To celebrate our children, we will also focus on our youth during worship that evening. JAM students will sing a variety of songs they have learned during Faith Formation or from camp for the congregation as well.

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!

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.

Sneak Peek into the Program

Mrs. Larson has a lot packed into May as we wrap up the 2024-2025 academic year. During this month, our themes explored will include Dragons Love Tacos and Oh, the Places You'll Go (graduation). 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

We will be going to North Park on Wednesday, May 14th, from 9 to 10:30AM (weather permitting) as our final day for the 2024-2025 academic year. The parents will be responsible for transportation to and from the park. If you are interested in helping chaperone on this trip, please talk to Amanda Larson.

Graduation

It is hard to believe that our 2024-2025 academic year has come and gone! On Friday, May 16th, we will be holding graduation for this year's class in the sanctuary at 6PM. There will be a reception to follow in the dining hall. We are excited to celebrate our students as many of them continue their educational journey into 4K and Kindergarten!

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, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

Please help us reach our goal of getting mail from all 50 states before the end of our school year.

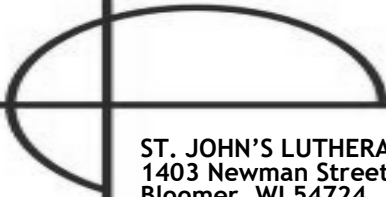
At Wednesday, May 7th
Worship Service

**CELEBRATE
CHILDREN!**

We celebrate children in a special way through their music and participation.

*Camp-Style
Worship Service*



	<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)

ATTENTION FAMILIES OF 1st COMMUNION CHILDREN



There is one 1st Communion Preparation Class remaining on **May 7th from 3:45-4:30pm**. 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 for any questions.

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

