



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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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

May is a month that explodes with the Holy Spirit!

The Holy Spirit is always with us and is forever working faith in our lives, drawing us closer to God, emboldening us in witness and service, and filling us with what the apostle Paul wrote as the fruits of the Spirit - "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). Still, there are some times when the work of the Holy Spirit is more evident.

May brings Confirmation Sunday, May 3, when young men and women will present themselves within the congregation to affirm the faith the Holy Spirit has been maturing in them since their baptisms.

May 10 St. John's will recognize other young women and men who will graduate from schools. We understand that the Holy Spirit escorts us through all the various parts of our lives, maturing our character, our intellect, our self-understanding, and our vocations. Graduation is a milestone that we acknowledge is full of the Holy Spirit.

Nurtured by Scripture and participating in Holy Communion, the Holy Spirit is doing just what Martin Luther wrote about in the Small Catechism. "I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith."

May the Holy Spirit call and keep you and with Jesus through all that comes.

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

Charlie Rose Vanis (Rosemarie's granddaughter); Family & Friends of Peggy Cole; Kari Skaar; Larson Family; Mitch Fanetti; Nancy Zogleman; LuAnn Larson; Janet Krenz; Lucy Martin; Marie Weideman; Deanna Stuckert; Suzette Zwiefelhofer; Renee Grambo; Bonnie Mickelson; Rod Martin; The Kuehn Family.

Prayers For the Saints

Prayers for the week of May 3rd: Amanda, Jeremy, DeLaney and Dyllon Zwiefelhofer; Garret, Kari, Trey and Skylar Zwiefelhofer; Suzette Zwiefelhofer; Adam, Liz (Bohl), Emmitt, Henry and Lucy Anderson; Jessica Anderson; Karen Anderson; Kay and Richard Anderson.

Prayers for the week of May 10th: Doug, Shellie, Tayler and Zachary Asher; Karlien Asplund; Matt and Penni Asplund; Jodi, Nate, Allie, Jackson, Kinsley and Madelyn Aubart; Justin, Stacey, Bentley, Journey and Riley Babbit.

Prayers for the week of May 17th: Yvonne Baier; Greg, Tasha, Trey, Ava, Brodie and Dylan Baker; Bruce and Karen Barlow; Kevin, Nichole, Beau and Hadley Bathke; Jerome, Kristie, Alicia, Ryan Benson; Jill, Mark, Karsten and Madi Bergh.

Prayers for the week of May 24th: Matthew, Melissa, Claire and Tyler Berlin; Dale and Rita Bitney; Albert and Merlene Blaha; Lydia, Steven, Chase and Reagan Blaha; Annie and Bill Bleskacek; Brian, Laura, Jake, John, Jonah and Leah Bleskacek.

Prayers for the week of May 31st: Joselyn, Nathan, Lauren, Ryan Bleskacek; Annie and Larry Boese; Bryan, Mary, Blake, Brooks and Tenley Boese; Nicole Boese; Patricia Boettcher; Terri, Zach, Aubrie and Kaitlyn Bohl.

At Wednesday, May 6th
Worship Service

CELEBRATE CHILDREN!

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

*Camp-Style
Worship Service*



High School Senior Recognition service
Sunday, May 10th

Come and celebrate the graduating class of 2026 and give them the encouragement for the future that lies ahead! (Reception to follow)



CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. JOHN'S MAY 2026 CONFIRMANDS!

Mikaela Marie Fanetti
Brock Robert Graski
Bentley Edward Kroening
Owen Scott McCurdy
Trevin Daniel Richardson
Tatum Lee Steinmetz
Brekyn Allen Stern
Brinlee Kae Thomley



St. John's WELCA is looking for people who would like to assist them in the preparation of food for funeral lunches and/or help set up, serve, and clean up afterward. These are important times for families and friends of those who pass on. Sign-up sheets for those interested and willing to help with this important ministry are on the Welcome Desk by the main entrance.

MAY 2026 CALENDAR

Church News

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service 12:00pm Funeral-Scott Powell	27 8:30am Bible Study	28 11:00am Funeral Peggy Cole	29 2:00pm Bible Study 4:30pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	30 4:30pm VBS Prep Meeting at Our Savior's	1	2
3 9:00am Worship Service-Confirmation 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	4 8:30am Bible Study	5	6 Final Day-Croissant Crown Fundraiser 2:00pm Bible Study 4:30pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation-Final Until September 6:30pm Worship Service-Celebrate Kids	7 12:00pm - 1:00pm National Day of Prayer -North Park	8	9
10 9:00am Worship Service-Senior Recognition 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	11 8:30am Bible Study	12	13 9:00am - 11:00am Preschool North Park Day 10:30am Bloomer Clergy Association Mtg 2:00pm Bible Study 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation RECAP Meal-For Teachers/Volunteers	14 Last Day for 3K Preschool 9:30am Pastor's Conference 6:00pm Preschool Graduation	15 Delivery Day for "Croissant Crowns" Youth Fundraiser	16
17 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am St. John's Foundation Annual Meeting Church Cleaning after Service & Coffee	18 8:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	19 1:00pm - 3:00pm Quilting Group	20 2:00pm Bible Study	21	22	23
24 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	25 Memorial Day - Office Closed NO Bible Study Today	26 6:15pm Preschool Committee Meeting	27 2:00pm Bible Study	28	29	30
31 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	1 8:30am Bible Study	2	3 2:00pm Bible Study	4 Last Day for 4K Preschool	5	6

Quilting Group
 Will be meeting on
Tuesday, May 19th
 at 1:00-3:00 p.m.

SEW CUTE!
Everyone is welcome!!

ONE MORE WEDNESDAY MEAL
 On May 6th
 Then **ON PAUSE** until it starts again in **September!**

4:30-5:15 p.m.
\$7 or \$20 per family

St. John's
 Foundation
 Annual Meeting

Re-Scheduled for Sunday,
 May 17 following the 9
 a.m. service.

Church Council Meeting Minutes

April 20th, 2026

Call to Order - Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm 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 Alicia Bonczyk to approve the minutes from the March 19th, 2026 meeting; seconded by Emmitt Anderson. Motion carried.

Financial Report -

	Year to Date (Jan-Mar 2026)
Income	\$ 50,058.50
Expenses	\$ 46,967.04
Difference	\$ 3,091.46

March Offerings	
Date	Total
3/1	\$ 3,589
3/8	\$ 1,282
3/15	No service
3/22	\$ 2,157
3/29	\$ 2,782
Online	\$ 1,125
Total	\$ 10,935

CD's	\$76,000	\$200,000
Location	Security Financial Bank	Security Financial Bank
% APR	4.00	4.25
Timeframe	12 months	12 months
Expires	3-12-26	11-7-26

Transfers: none

All money is insured through FDIC

A motion was made via email on 3/12 by Kay Anderson to keep the \$76,000 CD at Security Financial Bank for 12 months at an interest rate of 4%, the interest of \$1,861.73 would be placed in the Council Fund. Seconded by Matt Larson. Motion carried with 8 yes votes

A motion was made by Wendy LaGesse to accept the financial report. Seconded by Emmitt Andereson. Motion carried.

Old Business-

- A) Apartment Storage update: remaining unneeded items will be sold at a thrift sale in the spring. June 5&6th- city wide thrift sale; items sold as goodwill donation; set up Thursday 4th. Donations can be dropped off ahead of time (more info to come) – point of contact will be Wendy LaGesse. Janelle Yeakey will create a volunteer sign up and organize what needs to stay.
 - B) Church directory update: individual emails sent on 3/8 to those without a response, online form is now shut off; approx. 180 no responses (note: 50 do not have an email listed); Kay will work to make contact via phone with those who have not responded.
 - C) Victoria’s Office update: purchased and delivered; will be working to install.
 - D) Filing Cabinet update–removing current contents continues to be worked on.
 - E) Health care for Youth Director Position – A motion was made by Michele Lane to rescind the offer for Portico effective March 31st. Seconded by Emmitt Anderson. Motion carried.
- Note:** Further discussion needs to be had about future benefits offered for staff, need to determine which staff and how much will be contributed by the church.
- F) Lock Box – installed on parking lot side of church, ‘WeHere’ app will be used to monitor key usage
 - G) Color Copier – contract is signed, new copier was installed
 - H) Town Hall Meeting – 1) council will be gathering bids for painting, carpet, and parking lot repairs. 2) Discussion about how to invite people back to church who have been absent, council will be looking into postcards to send out.
 - I) Checking account debit cards – no update; Wendy will contact the bank for list of cards.

Minutes continued on page 5

Apr. 20th Church Council Minutes (Continued) More Church News

(council meeting minutes continued)

- H) Easter Cantata Update – thanks to all those who have volunteered to bring treats, directions for the reception were shared with the fellowship committee.
- I) Lock Box – purchased, will be installed soon.

New Business –

- A) Youth Director/Preschool Director/Teacher – Amanda has been medically cleared to return to work, and will be returning at a part time capacity through May. A motion was made by Janelle Yeakey that Amanda would return at 50% capacity and pay would also be at 50% through the end of May. Seconded by Jason Graski. Motion carried.
- B) Dishwasher – large dishwasher is not working; Tom Ewings will be looking into how to repair
- C) Brickwork — Andy Bonczyk shared about the vine removal. The top 4 ft of bell tower joints need repair; stone on entryways also needs to be caulked to avoid further damage. A quote will be shared with council. Thank you Andy for taking down the vines!
- D) Obituary notices – suggestion to share with permission on Facebook page.

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 is working with 2 new families to join, suggestion to include information about Eau Claire in the MSP to share with potential pastor candidates. Pastor Gary will be traveling with family in May.

Discipleship-

Fellowship Minutes – Easter Cantata – all went well, concert was well attended, and church was full; Easter Breakfast – approx. 55 people were served. Thank you to everyone who helped with both events! Suggestion was made to combine the volunteer appreciation breakfast with the annual meeting brunch.

Social Ministry Minutes –

Youth Minutes – pcoming events: confirmation, senior recognition.

Preschool Minutes – preschool committee members are needed from the congregation.

Property Minutes – The vines on the front of the church will be removed in the next few weeks to prevent damage to the building. Thank you to the Bonczyks for making this happen.

Worship & Music Minutes –

Call Committee – no new updates

Additional Items and Announcements

Next Meeting: May 18th at 6 pm.

Adjournment - a motion was made at 8:15 pm by Michele Lane to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Emmitt Anderson. Motion carried.

Members Present: Janelle Yeakey, Kay Anderson, Bridget Krejci, Michele Lane, Wendy LaGessee, Emmitt Anderson, Matt Larson, Alicia Bonczyk, Gary Hedding, Jason Graski. **Members Absent:** Tyler Halverson. **Others present:** Amanda Larson, Andy Bonczyk.

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.

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.



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.



Youth and Family News

Confirmation

This year's eighth-grade class will be confirmed on **Sunday, May 3rd**, a significant day. This is a special occasion for your child, and we hope you can join us in celebrating it. A reception will follow the service downstairs in the dining hall. Don't hesitate to get in touch with Amanda Larson with any questions you may have.

YOUTH SPRING FUNDRAISER

Butter Braid's **Croissant Crowns** fundraiser continues through **Wed., May 6**. These are frozen single servings that are **GREAT** for breakfast. There are six servings in each package for **\$20**, some packages with sweet and some six-packs have savory breakfast meals. Order forms are located in the church narthex.

DELIVERY SET FOR MAY 16th



Faith Formation Evaluation/ Teacher Appreciation Event

Wednesday, May 13th at 5:15PM 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, confirmation guides, assistant helpers, and subs who actively assist on Wednesday nights.

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:

stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net

Luther Park Registration Now Open

Summer camp registration for Luther Park is officially open! This year's theme is "Wear Love – Colossians 3:12." 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 up to two weeks (*does not include registration or canteen*).

Please contact Amanda Larson if you have any additional questions regarding reimbursement.

Senior Recognition Sunday, May 10 at 9:00 a.m. Worship Service

Save the date! We will recognize our seniors (graduates) May 10th. A reception will follow the service downstairs in the dining hall. This is a special occasion for your child, 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

Our final day of Faith Formation for the 2025-2026 academic year will be **Wednesday, May 6th**. 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.

NEWS FROM PRESCHOOL STAFF

Church News

Amanda



Registration for 2026-2027

Enrollment for the 2026-2027 academic year is OPEN, with LIMITED spots available!

14

Monday - Thursday (4-day option)

14

Monday/Wednesday -or- Tuesday/Thursday (2-day options)

If you are looking for a high-quality preschool program, please consider enrolling your child with us this Fall. Students can register for our morning program if they are between the ages of 3 and 5. This program is an excellent option if your child is not old enough to enroll in 4K but you want them to work on specific skills; if they will be attending 4K in the afternoon [Talk to us about 4K busing!]; or if you are waiting for them to go to school until kindergarten.

For more information, message us on Facebook, call 715-568-5446 ext. 14, email amanda_stjohnspreschool@aol.com, or text 715-226-8207 work mobile.

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 Kim Schulze if you have any questions about this opportunity. As always, we appreciate your continued support.

Sneak Peek Into the Program

Mrs. Schulze has a lot packed into May as we wrap up the 2025-2026 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 13th, from 9 to 11AM (weather permitting) as our final day for the 2025-2026 academic year. The parents will be responsible for transportation to and from the park. Adults are required to stay at the park for this event.

Graduation

It is hard to believe that our 2025-2026 academic year has come and gone! On Thursday, May 14th, 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!

Next Cleaning Day
is **May 17th**.
Let's work together
to keep our church
beautiful!

Church Cleaning after
service 2nd Sunday of
the Month. Pushed to
3rd Sunday in May
due to May 10th
Senior Recognition.





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)