



# St. John's Lutheran Church

## Mission Statement:

*"Growing disciples who eagerly share Christ's Love!"*

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Church News-  
Calendar

Council Meeting  
Minutes

Letter from Pastor  
Gary Hedding

Youth & Preschool  
News

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### The Pains and Blessings at Times of Transition

A time of interim in a congregation is full of transitions. The most obvious and often the most difficult is the absence of a pastor who many knew and trusted. It is important to spend some time missing or even grieving the loss of a pastor who had become a significant part of your lives. The position of a parish pastor is highly relational in addition to being someone who performs leadership, preaching, and caring tasks. Those relationships are hard to leave behind. Sometimes, people just don't feel right coming to worship with interim preachers and presiders in place of the pastor they enjoyed so well. Still, Jesus is still present in the Word and in the Sacraments. The presence of the community of grace at St. John's with their warmth and familiarity are important in a time of transition as well. These are great comforts for the loss of that pastor and enable people to manage the transitions with grace and hope.

An interim pastor is not intended to replace a previous pastor, nor to settle so solidly within the congregation that they might make the coming transition to the next settled pastor be another time of grieving. Still, an interim pastor has a highly relational calling. I really enjoyed the confirmation and high school lock-in on October 18th. The students were fun loving young people who clearly had developed a community of faith that drew them together. Many of them demonstrated well developed leadership among their peers. The adult leaders were respected and as giddy as the kids.

I have been welcomed to Bible studies and my time with council and committee leadership have been cordial and kind and that has convinced me that ministry is in good hands at St. John's Lutheran Church. I am eager to meet more of you and to worship with you, sharing your mission of "Growing disciples who eagerly share Christ's love".

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 November 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

Jim Custer; Richard Anderson; Pat Prill; Kari Skaar; Betty Enyeart; Arlene Christianson; Deanna Stuckert; Rebecca Alman; Jason Rihn; Wayne & Nancy Zogleman (Amanda's grandparents); Stella; Edith Fleming; Steve Trubshaw; Carson (family friend of Kristine Mickelson); Kristi Swartz; Julie Wittrock; Sarah Wittrock; Art Klingenberg; Dohna Kerckhove (Pat Prill's daughter); Renee Grambo.

### Prayers For the Saints

Prayers for the week of Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>: Jessica Anderson; Karen Anderson; Kay and Richard Anderson; Doug, Shellie, Tayler and Zachary Asher; Karlien Asplund; Matt and Penni Asplund; Jodi, Nate, Allie, Jackson, Kinsley and Madelyn Aubart.

Prayers for the week of Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>: Justin, Stacey, Bentley, Journey and Riley Babbit; Kay Baier; Yvonne Baier; Greg, Tasha, Trey, Ava, Brodie and Dylan Baker; Bruce and Karen Barlow; Jerome, Kristie, Alicia and Ryan Benson.

Prayers for the week of Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>: Jill, Mark, Karsten and Madi Bergh; Matthew, Melissa, Claire and Tyler Berlin; Dale and Rita Bitney; Albert and Merlene Blaha; Lydia, Steven, Chase and Reagan Blaha; Annie and Bill Bleskacek.

Prayers for the week of Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>: Brian, Laura, Jake, John, Jonah, Leah Bleskacek; Joselyn, Nathan, Lauren, Ryan Bleskacek; Alice Boese; Annie and Larry Boese; Bryan, Mary, Blake and Tenley Boese; Nicole Boese; Patricia Boettcher.

#### *Saints who have passed away*

Carolyn Bergh  
Melvyn Crisp  
Janet Rogge  
Lorraine Reetz  
Mervin Marquardt  
Arnold Windsor

#### *Saints who have been baptized*


Abraham William Sarauer  
Kendel Marie Bowe  
Jade Alexandra Pooler  
Braelyn Jo Hicks  
Marielle Karen Rosenbrook  
Matthew Derek Larson  
Westley Michael Misener  
Weston William North

# NOVEMBER 2024 CALENDAR

## Church News

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> 10:00am Worship Service SPECIAL TIME 11:00am Chili Cook-Off	<b>28</b> Deadline for Newsletter Submissions 8:30am Bible Study	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Preschool Halloween Party 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	<b>31</b> Preschool Halloween Party	<b>1</b> No Preschool 4:00pm Budget Committee Meeting	<b>2</b> 11:30am Funeral-Arne Windsor, 10:30 visitation
<b>3</b> 9:00am Worship Service	<b>4</b> 8:30am Bible Study 5:45pm Youth Committee Meeting	<b>5</b> 6:00pm Delivery of Butterbraid orders 	<b>6</b> 10:30am Bloomer Clergy Association Mtg 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:00am Worship Service 5:30pm Youth In Action	<b>11</b> 8:30am Bible Study	<b>12</b> 6:00pm Preschool Committee Meeting	<b>13</b> 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation	<b>14</b> 9:30am Pastor's Conference	<b>15</b>  7:00pm - 11:59pm Pseudo Lock-in, Confirmation/High School	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:00am Worship Service-Hunter's Blessing	<b>18</b> 8:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	<b>19</b> 1:00pm - 4:00pm Quilting Group 	<b>20</b> 10:30am - 11:30am Preschool Thanksgiving Feast 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	<b>21</b> 10:30am - 11:30am Preschool Thanksgiving Feast	<b>22</b> Preschool Vacation	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00am Worship Service 7:00pm Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at First Congregational UCC	<b>25</b> Deadline for Newsletter Submissions Preschool Vacation	<b>26</b> Preschool Vacation	<b>27</b> Preschool Vacation	<b>28 Bloomer Community Turkey Trot</b> HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Office Closed Preschool Vacation 	<b>29</b> Office Open Until Noon Preschool Vacation	<b>30</b>

**Sunday, November 17**  
**Worship Service**  
**Pink & Orange Sunday**  
  
**Hunter's Blessing**  
**Mark your calendar!!**

**WEDNESDAY MEALS**  
 Every Wednesday from 4:45 - 5:30 p.m. come and join your friends and family at St. John's for a **DELICIOUS** meal!  
  
**NOTE:** There will not be a meal on Wednesday, Nov. 27 in observance of Thanksgiving.

**Quilting Group**  
 Will be meeting on **Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>** at 1:00-4:00 p.m.  
  
*Everyone is welcome!!*

**8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BLOOMER TURKEY TROT**  
  
**FINISH!**  
**Thursday, Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.**  
**Starting line up is at the Moose Lodge**  
**Go to [www. Bloomerlakeassn.org](http://www.Bloomerlakeassn.org) to register**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**  
  
**ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**at 7:00pm**  
**SERVICE AT**  
**First Congregational UCC Church**  
**1324 15<sup>th</sup> Ave., Bloomer**

**The YOUTH are running a Hygiene Drive for the Hawks Corner.**  
 A full list of needs can be found at the donation box in the narthex and includes items **such as:**  
**Soap Brushes Deodorant Chapstick**  
 If you have any further questions, please contact Amanda Larson at 715-568-5446 [amanda\\_stjohnspreschool@aol.com](mailto:amanda_stjohnspreschool@aol.com), or Jean Rihn (715-933-4161).  


# Church Council Meeting Minutes October 22, 2024

**Call to Order** - Meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Dorene Turner, Council President.

**Opening Devotion** – Led by Dorene Turner.

**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 Sarah Wittrock to approve the minutes from the September 16th, 2024 meeting; seconded by Kay Anderson. Motion carried.

**Financial Report -**

	Year to Date (Jan-Aug 2024)
Income	\$ 175,280.64
Expenses	\$ 171,149.10
Difference	\$ 4,131.54

September Offering income: \$8,537  
9/27 - \$2200 transferred from council fund to potentially cover payroll on 9/30, money was not needed to cover payroll but will remain in general fund.

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

Note: Budget Committee was created to begin the budget process for 2025. Budget committee will consist of Kay Anderson (treasurer), Victoria Prince-Silvas (Financial Secretary), Alicia Bonczyk, Jamie Keller, and Pastor Gary. A motion was made by Sarah Wittrock to accept the financial report. Seconded by Jeff Cole. Motion carried.

**Old Business-**

Town Appreciation acknowledgement: November 13th = Musician

A motion was made by Sarah Wittrock to honor our regular musicians with \$25 in chamber bonus bucks. Seconded by Janelle Yeakey. Motion carried.

Change of service time for Chili Cook off: start time 10 AM. The fellowship committee recommended that in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness month that the money be donated to the Family Support Center in Chippewa Falls.

Confirmation/Wednesday night service update: Debbie Poirier is leading confirmation and Debbie and Pastor Gary will coordinate who is covering the Wednesday service each week.

**New Business –**

Bulletin order of worship suggestion – this option will continue to be explored on what information to place in the bulletin.

Budget and nominating committees for the annual meeting in January. Budget Committee – see above in financial report.

Nominating Committee – the council brainstormed potential members. Council members whose terms are up: Jeff Cole, Jamie Keller, Sarah Wittrock.

Christmas Services— Christmas Eve 4 pm & 8pm, Christmas Day 9 am.

*Minutes continued on page 5*

# Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> Church Council Minutes *(Continued)* MORE CHURCH NEWS

*(council meeting minutes continued)*

## **New Business Continued**

**Wednesday Night Service Update** – continuing to create a schedule on coverage, note that there may be weeks with no Wednesday service at this time.

**Bulletin Suggestion** - Congregation member suggested adding order of worship to bulletin. A sample from another church was shared. We will begin to include a short layout in the bulletin.

**Town Hall outcome** – see old business above.

**October Meeting** – will need to discuss creating budget and nominating committees for the annual meeting in January

## **Committee Reports**

- Appreciation Days: **October 8th**-Pastor Day (2nd Sunday of October), **November 22nd**- International Musician Day, **December 5th**-Volunteer Day, Youth Director Appreciation Day?
- Pastor's Report - A motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to welcome Marielle Karen, Braelyn Jo, and Wesley Michael through baptism, and to transfer membership to the church triumphant for Carolyn Bergh. Seconded by Janelle Yeakey. Motion carried.
- Discipleship – needs to be started again, council will brainstorm potential members.
- Fellowship Minutes
- Preschool—Discussion about current staffing, looking for a preschool assistant. New student has joined the MWF class. New app “Brightwheel” is being used to communicate with families, allows online payments for those interested.
- Social Ministry Minutes –
- Property Minutes – Fall cleaning day focused on the downstairs area. Note that for the spring cleaning day, the preschool area needs new plastic for the mulched areas.
- Worship & Music Minutes –
- Youth Minutes – Lock in was a success, ButterBraid fundraiser wrapped up and will be delivered in November, Wisconsin Dells Quake information shared with families.

## **Additional Items and Announcements**

Next Meeting: Monday November 18th at 6 pm

Adjournment - a motion was made at 8:19 pm by Sarah Wittrock to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kay Anderson. Motion carried.

Members Present: Janelle Yeakey, Dorene Turner, Kay Anderson, Jamie Keller, Jeff Cole, Alicia Bonczyk, Sarah Wittrock, Aubrie Bohl, Jason Graski. Others Present: Gary Heading, Amanda Larson  
Members Absent: Kyle Prill



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](mailto:SueNehring@bloomer.net)

# Church, Youth & Family

## Save the Date: YOUTH IN ACTION

Our next Youth in Action night will take place on **Sunday, November 10th**, from 5:00 to 7:30PM. We will begin at the church and then head out to grab some ingredients for a bake-off! It will be a fun night that you don't want to miss out on! If you have any questions, please reach out to Amanda Larson (715-279-6962 mobile or email: [amanda\\_stjohnspreschool@aol.com](mailto:amanda_stjohnspreschool@aol.com)).

## Substitutes Needed for JAM Fall '24

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

## Pizza Coupons

Coupons from our pizza fundraiser are still available for purchase. Although the fundraiser is over, you can contact Amanda Larson if you are interested in purchasing any pizzas from Fat Boys, Valley Tavern, or Harm's Way.

## Pseudo Lock-In

Our November Pseudo Lock-In will be on **Friday, November 15th** from 7:00PM until midnight. Come to St. John's for a night of games, snacks, and a whole lot of shenanigans! While this isn't a full-night lock-in, it's sure to be a good time, nonetheless. Please bring a snack to share if you're able. let us know that information as well.

## Christmas Pageant

This year's Christmas pageant will be on **Wednesday, December 18th**. If your child has received a part, please make sure they bring their script each week. Dinner will be held from 4:45 to 5:45PM prior to the pageant beginning, and we will be serving Christmas cookies after the pageant. If you are willing to bring in a plate of cookies to share, please contact Amanda Larson.

## Important Dates to Notice

There will be **NO faith formation on Wednesday, November 27th**, due to Thanksgiving/Fall break. We hope that all our students and their families have a wonderful week and Thanksgiving holiday. Safe travels to all those who will be traveling, and good luck to all our hunters. We look forward to seeing everyone again on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Quake

Middle and high school students, save the following dates. This year's Quake event will be held in Wisconsin Dells from **February 14 to 16**. On **Wednesday, Nov. 6th** at 6:30pm, will be a brief meeting to discuss Quake. Please join us in the dining hall to learn about Quake and register your student if interested. Early Bird rates go through **November 14<sup>th</sup>**, so contact Amanda Larson for more information today!

## BUTTERBRAID FUNDRAISER

Butterbraid orders are sent! Pick-up will be

**Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**

Contact Amanda for updates on your order or any questions.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!**



# NEWS FROM PRESCHOOL STAFF!

## Amanda



### Registration for 2024-25

Enrollment for the 2024-25 academic year is still open. There are 4 spaces open in our Monday/Wednesday/Friday class. Our enrollment is at capacity for our Tuesday/Thursday class. Please consider getting on our waitlist if you want your child to become a part of our program.

It has already been a fantastic start to the school year!

If you want 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 a great option if your child is not old enough to enroll in 4K, but you want them to work on certain skills, if they will be attending 4K in the afternoon, or if you are waiting for them to go to school until kindergarten. For more information, you can message us on Facebook, call us at 715-568-5446 ext. 14, or email: [amanda\\_stjohnspreschool@aol.com](mailto: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 November. During this spooktacular month, our themes explored will include Woodland Animals & Habits and Harvest & Thanksgiving. 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.

### Field Trip - Family Roots Orchard

On Thursday, October 3rd, we had such a wonderful time visiting Family Roots Orchard! A huge thank you to the orchard staff for being so welcoming and accommodating to our group. The kids (and adults!) had a blast learning about the different types of apples, how they're grown, and tasting them fresh from the trees!



### Important Dates to Save

We will be closed from Friday, November 22nd, through Friday, November 29th, for Thanksgiving Break. We hope our students enjoy the day with their families and look forward to having them back in class on Monday, December 2nd and Tuesday, December 3rd.

### Thanksgiving Family Feast

This year, we will host our Thanksgiving Family Feasts on Wednesday, November 20th (MWF group) and Thursday, November 21st (TTH group). Our students and their families are invited to join us at 10:30AM to enjoy a little Thanksgiving feast before we enter our Fall break. Sign-up sheets for our families to bring food or beverages are on the preschool counter. We are excited to have this opportunity for our students and families again.

### Calendar Fundraiser

Exciting news, everyone! Our calendar fundraiser pre-orders are now open! Get ready to be blown away by our students' stunning artwork for the calendar. Show your support for the preschool by purchasing a calendar. Take advantage of this opportunity to own a piece of our students' incredible talent! The calendars are being sold for \$15. If you want to purchase during our pre-order, please message us on Facebook Messenger, email [amanda\\_stjohnspreschool@aol.com](mailto:amanda_stjohnspreschool@aol.com), or call 715-568-5446. Get ready to grab your calendars before the Christmas break!

### Trick or Treating Safety

On Monday, October 21st, and Thursday, October 24th, Police Sargent Beyer, Brittany, and their darling police pup, Keeta, came for a visit. Officer Beyer read the book Ten Orange Pumpkins. After he had finished reading, he talked about the importance of safety while trick-or-treating. We are grateful for their service to our community and that they were able to take time out of their schedules to meet with our classes.





**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)

**FAMILIES LIKE YOU  
 ARE AMAZIN'**



**IF YOU WISH TO DONATE TO  
 OUR CLASSROOM PLEASE  
 SCAN THE QR CODE!  
 THANK YOU SO MUCH!**



**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**





