



# 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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### Christian Guardrails

October is a time when the education of young people in our congregation really launches off. Last year confirmands dug into the Old and New Testaments of the Bible to grow trust in the words of Scripture which are used by the Holy Spirit to inspire faith and lead us in life. This year we will be looking at the Apostles' Creed as a statement of faith that summarizes the key elements of what we understand about God. We learn to appreciate how God blessed us with creation; the life, death and resurrection of Jesus; and continues to bless us with the presence of the Holy Spirit who always calls us with grace and truth to live our lives as followers of Jesus.

The Creed acts like foul ball lines on a baseball field. Christian worship can be different, we can pray with folded hands or upraised hands, we can sing contemporary songs or 16th century chorales, we can be loud or quiet, and we can practice our faith in many ways, and when these different styles proclaim Jesus Christ and him crucified and risen, they are fair balls. If we say that Jesus didn't rise from the dead, God didn't create our universe, or that the Holy Spirit is not with us today, the creed tells us that is a foul ball. As we confess our faith through the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed, we remember the acts of grace that God has done and will do in our lives and our faith is revived.

I am grateful for all those who have returned their estimates of giving. It is not too late to return those to St. John's, if you haven't gotten around to it yet. God continues to be generous to us in every aspect of our lives, and we respond with generosity through this congregation so that Jesus is proclaimed and the world is served in his name.

**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 October 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

The Kuehn Family; Richard Anderson; Kari Skaar; Pat Prill; Suzette Zwiefelhofer; Rod Martin; Renee Grambo; Edith Fleming; Kristi Swartz; Arlene Christianson; Deanna Stuckert; Wayne & Nancy Zogleman.

### Prayers For the Saints

Prayers for the week of Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>: Sara, Connor and Gavin Gehrig; Don and Kathy Geissler; Jessica Gengler; Jill and Steve Gengler; Lauren Gengler; Brett, Stephanie (Gengler), Blakely and Braelyn Hilger; Debra and Jerry Gillette; Alan, Haley (Pierce), Keenah and Larissa Gingras.

Prayers for the week of Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>: Dianne Goettl; Lisa and Ted Goettl; Isabel Gozalez; Renee, Scott, Cayce, Charlie, Dalton and Gunnar Grambo; Heidi, Jason, Brock, Emslee, Jerzei, Kordell Graski; Kayla (Gunderson), Ronnie, Harper and Henry Rihn.

Prayers for the week of Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>: Nicholas Halom and the Halom Family; Beth, Tyler, Lauren and Leo Halverson; Margery Hansen; Christine, Jason (Rego), Braelyn, Brooks Hanson; Debra, Kevin, Darion and Samuel Hanson; Dorothy Hassemmer; Pastor Gary Hedding and family.

Prayers for the week of Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>: Jan and Rich Helgeson; Alana Helland; Cheryl and David Helland; Anna and Christopher Hilger; Joseph and Kathleen Hilger; Lucas Hilger; Jason, Laurice, Abrina, Gabe and Isabelle Hillman; Amanda and Aubree Holm.

## 2025 Confirmation Faith Statements

Saint John's has impacted my life by teaching me that God will always be there for me in the hard time, the easy times, and when I needed him most. Saint John's has helped me grow my faith in God. It has also given me a faith family.








**2 Chronicles 15:7** - "But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded."

St. John's has helped me learn my relationship with god and how he is always with us. They have made me so comfortable to ask questions and not be afraid to speak up. I will be thankful for St. John's and always have St. John apart of my life.

**Jeremiah 29:11** - God has already handled what you're worrying about.

# OCTOBER 2025 CALENDAR

## Church News

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> 10:00am Campstyle Worship Service at Special Time 11:00am Charcoal Chicken Dinner	<b>29</b> 8:30am Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> 2:00pm Bible Study 4:30pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Church Council Town Hall Meeting 	<b>6</b> 8:30am Bible Study	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Final Day of Butter Braid Orders 10:30am Bloomer Clergy Association Mtg 2:00pm Bible Study 4:30pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	<b>9</b> 9:30am Pastor's Conference	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	<b>13</b> Preschool Calendar Fundraiser begins 8:30am Bible Study	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 2:00pm Bible Study 4:30pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	<b>16</b> 	<b>17</b> 5:00pm Rehearsal -Bowe	<b>18</b> 2:00pm Marriage Celebration- Dalton & Katie Bowe
<b>19</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Fellowship after service 5:30pm Youth In Action (Escape Room) Time TBD 	<b>20</b> Preschool Goal Setting Day 8:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	<b>21</b>  Preschool Goal Setting Day 1:00pm - 3:00pm Quilting Group	<b>22</b> 2:00pm Bible Study 4:30pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	<b>23</b>  Preschool Apple Orchard Field Trip Preschool Closed 7:00pm - 11:59pm Youth "Pseudo Lock-In"	<b>24</b> Preschool Closed YIA-Field of Screams Haunted Trail	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>  10:00am Worship Service - Special Time, Reformation 11:00am Soup & Chili Potluck	<b>27</b> 8:30am Bible Study	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  Preschool Halloween Class Party 2:00pm Bible Study 4:30pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	<b>30</b> Preschool Halloween Class Party	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> Daylight Savings (Fall back at 2am Sunday)

Church Council  
Town Hall Meeting  
Sunday Oct 5<sup>th</sup> after  
worship

Join us for an open discussion  
with the council.  
Your input is valued.

### WEDNESDAY MEALS

Every **Wednesday** 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

### Soup & Chili Potluck

Date: Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>  
Time: After worship service

### Quilting Group

Will be meeting on  
**October 21<sup>st</sup>**  
at 1:00-3:00 p.m.



Everyone is welcome!!

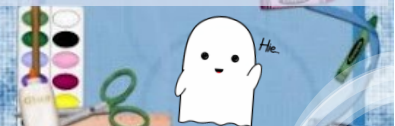
### BUTTERBRAID FUNDRAISER

Butterbraid fundraiser  
is in progress now!  
And will Continue  
until **Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>**. Order  
forms are available in  
the Narthex or  
request one from the  
Youth Director,  
Amanda.



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

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



Cost is \$15 per calendar. Pre-order forms will  
be located in the narthex on the table.

# Church Council Meeting Minutes September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Call to Order** - Meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm by Dorene Turner, Council President.

**Opening Devotion** – Dorene 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 August 18th, 2025 meeting; seconded by Aubrie Bohl. Motion carried.

**Financial Report -**

	Year to Date (Jan-Aug 2025)
Income	\$ 116,421.20
Expenses	\$ 109,902.68
Difference	\$ 6,518.52

Transfers: none

August Offerings	
Date	Total
8/3	\$ 2,670
8/10	\$0 (Fair Svc)
8/17	\$ 2,173
8/24	\$ 2,570
8/31	\$ 1,592
Online	\$ 1,566

CD's	\$76,000	\$200,000
Location	Security Financial Bank	Security Financial Bank
% APR	4.25	5.25
Timeframe	7 months	15 months
Expires	3-12-25	11-6-25

All money is insured through FDIC

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

**Old Business-**

A) Apartment Storage update: Apartment Storage List; printed and shared with committees for feedback on items to keep.

B) Computer update- Computers for the staff and balcony were delivered and set up on 9/12

C) Gaga pit: Thank you Jacob Skaar for building the gaga pit, it was placed on Sunday afternoon (9-7-25) and was used on Rally Day. A motion was made by Tyler Halverson to use \$44 from council fund to cover remaining cost of the gaga pit. Seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.

D) Church directory update: Council is working to update membership information; all members are asked to fill out a new membership form so the church has accurate contact information. Membership forms are available in the Narthex or online. Janelle Yeakey will work with Victoria to update membership information.

E) Estimate of Giving – letter on stewardship and estimate of giving was shared with the congregation; please return by September 28th.

F) Implementing council retreat suggestions:

1. Fall Church picnic with games, Camp style worship on Sunday September 28th
2. Discussion on the return of the toy bags for worship.

G) Town Hall Meeting Dates- October 5th. Council Members Available: Kay Anderson, Janelle Yeakey

H) Draft Revisions for constitution – email was shared with recommended wording to change the constitution quorum number to 30.

*C10.04. Fifty Thirty voting members shall constitute a quorum.*

*C10.04.01. A quorum shall be constituted of at least fifty thirty voting members being present.*

*The current roll of members as classified in \*C8.02. shall be made available at each meeting of this congregation. The annual meeting of this congregation shall be held the following Sunday in the absence of a quorum. In the absence of a quorum at the originally scheduled date and time of the annual meeting of this congregation, the make up date shall be the next date utilized. In the absence of a quorum at the make up date, the congregation president and rostered leader shall determine a meeting date to occur as soon as possible.*

*Minutes continued on page 5*

# Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> Church Council Minutes

## (Continued)

*(council meeting minutes continued)*

A motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to present the recommended changes on the constitution and bylaws from the 2025 annual meeting for ratification to the congregation for the 2026 annual meeting.

Seconded by Tyler Halverson. Motion carried.

### New Business –

A) Constitution changes from the Synod – Pastor Gary shared constitution changes that were approved at the Synod level for the council to bring to the congregation. A motion was made by Tyler Halverson to forward the proposed constitution changes, with the exception of C10.02, to the congregation for vote at the 2026 annual meeting. Seconded by Dorene Turner. Motion carried.

**Note:** C10.02 change: In St. John's constitution a special Congregation Meeting may be called upon a written request of 25 voting members, the proposed change from the Synod was to change this to a percentage of the congregation.

B) Bat concerns in the building. A motion was made by Janelle Yeakey to accept the recommendations of Prompt Action Pest Control to take care of the bat issue, and to cover the cost using the council fund. Seconded by Tyler Halverson. Motion carried.

A motion was made on 9/17 via email by Janelle Yeakey to allow Prompt Pest Control to take care of the bee issue at church with money coming from the Council Fund. Seconded by Kay Anderson. Motion carried.

Yes - 7 No - 0 No response - 3

C) Extending interim contracts: A motion was made by Tyler Halverson to extend the interim contracts for Pastor Gary Hedding, Deacon Martha Libersky, and SAM Debbie Poirier. Seconded by Janelle Yeakey. Motion carried.

### Committee Reports

**Pastor's Report** – discussion on including transfers & new members; will work to update at the next council meeting

**Appreciation Days** – **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  
A motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to purchase a \$25 restaurant gift card to show appreciation for our food service worker. Seconded by Kay Anderson. Motion carried.

**Fellowship Minutes** – **Upcoming events:** Chili & Soup Potluck on October 26th following worship  
Gifts for Kids sponsorship (November)

A motion was made by Tyler Halverson to move the worship time on Reformation Sunday October 26th to 10 am. Seconded by Jason Graski. Motion carried. A motion was made by Tyler Halverson to allow a second offering in November to collect money to sponsor a family through the Gift for Kids program by the Bloomer Chamber. Seconded by Alicia Bonczyk

**Youth Minutes** – A survey was sent to families at the end of August to discuss a possible time change to the Wednesday schedule. Current Schedule: 4:30 --5:15PM Dinner; 5:15-5:30PM Large Group; 5:30-6:15PM classes; 6:30PM Church. Proposed Schedule: 4:15/4:30--5:00PM Dinner; 5:00-5:15PM Large Group; 5:15-6:00PM classes; 6:15 PM Church. **Survey Responses:** 23 respondents

Which schedule above works for your family to attend Faith Formation on Wednesday evenings?

Current Schedule: 26.1% (6 responses) Proposed Change: 43.5% (10 responses)

Both option work: 30.4% (7 responses) Note: there was also a question for families to leave comments

A motion was made via email on 8/25 by Janelle Yeakey to keep the Faith Formation time the same, with the addition of starting dinner at 4:30. Seconded by Dorene Turner. Motion carried. Yes - 6 No - 1 No response - 3  
The Council discussed the Wednesday evening schedule and will revisit it in the spring.

**Preschool Minutes** – full enrollment, start of the school year is going well.

**Property Minutes** – Thank you to Erik Larson for your years of service to the property committee.

**Call Committee** – Pastor Gary will contact the Synod prior to the Town Hall meeting if needed.

### Additional Items and Announcements

A) Discussion on how to inform congregation of medical supplies available for medical emergencies

B) Nominating Committee will be discussed in October

C) Next Meeting: October 13th at 6 pm.

**Adjournment** - a motion was made at 7:40 pm by Alicia Bonczyk to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tyler Halverson. Motion carried. Members Present: Janelle Yeakey, Kay Anderson, Dorene Turner, Tyler Halverson, Michele Lane, Aubrie Bohl, Gary Hedding, Alicia Bonczyk, Jason Graski. Members Absent: Kyle Prill, Wendy LaGessee, LaGessee. Motion carried. **Members Present:** Janelle Yeakey, Kay Anderson, Dorene Turner, Wendy LaGessee,

# Youth & Family News

## QUAKE

Middle and high school students, save the following dates. This year's Quake event will be held in Wisconsin Dells from **February 13 to 15**.

We are excited about this opportunity for our youth, as it has been successful in the past. Early Bird rates go through November 13th, so contact Amanda Larson for more information today!

## Field of Screams—Haunted Trail

Friday, October 24th, the high school students with Youth in Action have been invited to participate in a fright-tastic event at the Field of Screams. If you have a student who would like to participate, please contact **Amanda Larson (715-279-6962)** or **Jean Rihn (715-933-4161)**.

## Butter Braid Fundraiser

Our Butter Braid fundraiser is up and running! Don't miss out on placing your order before it closes. This fundraiser opportunity will last until Wednesday, October 8th. Butter Braids are scheduled to arrive on Wednesday, November 5th, at 6:00 PM .



## Group Leads and Substitutes Needed for JAM and Confirmation this Fall

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 will be an Escape Room up in Rice Lake on Sunday, October 19th. Please note that we need a headcount so that we can ensure that we have enough vehicles to transport students and so that we can secure the escape rooms ahead of time. We are looking forward to working with our high school youth to plan some super fun monthly events for the 2025-2026 academic year.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Amanda Larson (715-279-6962 mobile, [amanda\\_stjohnspreschool@aol.com](mailto:amanda_stjohnspreschool@aol.com)).

## LOCK-IN

On Thursday, October 23rd, from 7PM to 12AM (midnight), we will have a pseudo lock-in for students in 6th—12th grade since there is no school for parent-teacher conferences. Come enjoy some games/activities, Halloween movies, baking, and more! The Youth Committee will provide lunch. Friends are welcome and encouraged to attend! For more information or to RSVP, please contact Amanda Larson at [amanda\\_stjohnspreschool@aol.com](mailto:amanda_stjohnspreschool@aol.com) or 715-568-5446 (church).



# NEWS FROM PRESCHOOL STAFF! Creation Care Survey Invitation

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 the month of October. During this spooktacular month, our various themes that will be explored are Apples and Orchards, All Things Autumn, and Pumpkin Patch. 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 closed Thursday, October 23rd, through Friday, October 24th. We hope that our students enjoy the day with their families, and we look forward to having them back in class on the 27th and 28th.

### Goal Setting Day / Teacher-Parent Conferences

Instead of our "scheduled" teacher-parent conferences, we will be hosting a goal-setting/check-in day on October 20th and 21st. Please check out our sign-up forms on our counter or contact Amanda Larson for more information.

### Field Trip – Family Roots Orchard

On Thursday, October 23rd, we will be taking our students to Family Roots Orchard in Chippewa Falls to enjoy some fall festivities at their apple orchard. Although this is our second field trip, this will be our "big" field trip of the year, where our students will have the opportunity to ride a big school bus. It will be a super fun (and hopefully warm-weathered) day.

### Halloween Class Parties

We will be having our class Halloween parties on Wednesday, October 29th, and Thursday, October 30th. It should be a couple of festive days for the children to enjoy. Parents can bring in a fun treat if desired, and costumes are encouraged but not required.

### Calendar Fundraiser

Calendar pre-orders will begin on Monday, October 13th. If you would like to purchase a calendar created by our students to support our preschool program, please contact Amanda Larson or fill out the order form located on the preschool's counter or on the table in the narthex.

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The NWSWI Creation Care Team is asking members of congregations to complete a 3-question survey. They would like to identify how many members are using renewable resources in their homes and businesses.

Thank you for your input!

Please use this QR Code to take the survey:



[https://us20.list-manage.com/survey?u=8223cda518f84a0743e6a7bde&id=f6671c1837&e=%7CUNIQUID%7C\\*](https://us20.list-manage.com/survey?u=8223cda518f84a0743e6a7bde&id=f6671c1837&e=%7CUNIQUID%7C*)

	<b>ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 1403 Newman Street Bloomer, WI 54724
	ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  715-568-5446 Email: stjohndl-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)

**Call Committee Update**

Dear Church Family,  
I'm writing to share some exciting news regarding our search for a new pastor. The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) has been successfully submitted, marking a significant step forward in this important process. We are now actively engaging in the search, and we're confident that we'll find a wonderful leader to guide our congregation.

I extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you who participated in the recent survey. Your thoughtful responses provided invaluable insight into our church community and its needs, significantly enriching the MSP and helping to paint a clear and accurate picture for potential candidates. A special thank you also goes to the tireless members of the Call Committee. Your time, dedication, and hard work in completing the MSP have been truly remarkable. We deeply appreciate your commitment and the countless hours you've invested in this crucial undertaking.

We believe the video showcasing our community and church provides a compelling and positive portrayal of the vibrant environment awaiting our future pastor. It highlights the warmth, spirit, and unique character of our fellowship, and we're optimistic it will attract many qualified and passionate individuals to consider joining us.

We'll keep you updated throughout the search process and look forward to sharing news as it unfolds. In the meantime, please continue to pray for guidance as we seek God's direction in this important decision.