



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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A Generous God, A Generous People

September brings two ministries that I am really anticipating. Faith Formation begins Wednesday, September 10 for our young people. Jesus is proclaimed through music, education, fellowship, and worship. The participation and energy of our children and young adults is exciting to see. The maturing faith in and understanding of God's grace makes me grateful to the adults who mentor and care for our young people. The questions those in confirmation ask proves the Holy Spirit is active in their lives. The Bible unfolds for all ages with good news of the God who comes to us in Jesus Christ through that Holy Spirit. I can't wait.

A Generous God, A Generous People is the theme for our Christian stewardship ministry for this fall. The appointed readings for worship from Luke have given us much about which to think and pray. Biblical stewardship is about a right relationship between us, our money, and God. The world claims that our value as humans, our security and our hope for the future depend on how much we have. Scripture tells us that our value, our security and our hope are secured in the life death and resurrection of Jesus. We are free to be generous. Generosity - like worship, prayer, reading our Bibles, and Christian fellowship - is a practice that draws us closer to God.

One way to grow in generosity is to increase our giving to God through St. John's by 0.5% of our income. It isn't a large increase but it is safe and sustainable. The easiest way to do the math is to look at annual income, move the decimal point four places to the left, and that would be the increase in weekly giving. For instance if \$35,000 is annual income, move the decimal point four places to the left and \$3.50 is the increase in giving to God.

This month you will receive an Estimate of Giving form that helps the congregation get an idea of the financial resources it will have to pursue the ministries that God is calling us to do and prepare us to call our next pastor. A sample of how it will look can be found on page 8 (address page).

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 September 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

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 Sept. 7th: Terri, Zach, Aubrie and Kaitlyn Bohl; Alicia, Andrew, Alexis, Colton and Kiley Bonczyk; Brenda and Randy Bowe; Dalton, Katie, Joselyn and Kendel Bowe; Kadan, Alyssa and Levi Brabec; Jay, Kari, Cody and Kiley Braun.

Prayers for the week of Sept. 14th: Joe, Kelly, Kendall and Kolten Burgess; Brianna Buske; Janelle and Raymond Buske; Ryan Buske; Brian, Cathy, Mitch and Tylor Calkins; Marsha Callstrom; Ben Carlson; Kyle, Stephanie and Karter Chevrier; Arlene and Harley Christianson.

Prayers for the week of Sept. 21st: Josh, Malia, Colt and Huck Clements; Jeff Cole; Brandon, Emily, Bonnie and Elouise Corbin; Thomas and Kylie Culver; Kelly, Laken and Tavyn (Jones) Custer; Jacqueline and Jay Dachel; Pamela Dachel; Payton Dachel; Keenan, Samantha, Ivy and Jennings Dahl; Andrew, Alyson, Everett and Anson Downs.

Prayers for the week of Sept. 28th: Steven Durch; Steve, Danielle (Rihn), Asher and Emersyn Eisenhuth; Judy and Teena Ellison; Adam, Tracia, Connor and Mason Ewings; Jackie and Tom Ewings; Daniel and Kathleen Faschingbauer; Evelyn Ferstenou; Jackie, Monty, Addison and Brycen Fetting; Edith Fleming.

2025 Confirmation Faith Statements

I believe that God loves me and has a plan for my life. I am grateful for the gift of faith and for the opportunity to grow in my understanding of God. Our church offers a welcoming community full of kids and adults who have helped grow in my faith.

1 Timothy 4:12—Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.






I think of God as the creator of heaven and earth. I find him mostly outdoors while hunting and fishing. I find him there because I am with the beautiful creations he has made. The interaction with the animals helps keep me humble.

St. Johns has helped me connect with God by the understanding of how he created the heaven and earth. I learn the most in the confirmation classes and going to Luther Park Bible Camp. I find him most at the activities and the bible studies. Our pastor and the leaders of the confirmation group are awesome with answering the questions you could have about God the Father.

Genesis 24:3 - Take your bow and a quiver full of arrows and go out into the open country to hunt some wild game for me.

SEPTEMBER 2025 CALENDAR

Church News

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	1 LABOR DAY - Office Closed 8:30am No Bible Study today	2	3 2:00pm Bible Study	4	5	6
7  9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Grandparents Day - Pie & Ice Cream Social	8  First Day of M-W-F Preschool Classes 8:30am Bible Study	9  First Day of T-Th Preschool Classes 1:00pm - 3:00pm Quilting Group	10  10:30am Bloomer Clergy Association Mtg 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm - 5:15pm Wednesday Meals - Rally Day 5:15pm - 6:15pm Rally Day for J.A.M. - Games 6:30pm Worship Service - Celebrate Kids, Rally Day	11 9:30am Pastor's Conference	12	13
14 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service	15 8:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	16 6:15pm Preschool Committee Meeting	17 Butter Braid Fundraiser Begins 2:00pm No Bible Study today 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	18	19	20
21  9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Stay for Coffee & Community after service. 10:15am Youth Committee Meeting 5:30pm - 7:30pm Youth In Action	22 8:30am Bible Study	23	24 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	25	26	27
28  10:00am Campstyle Worship Service at Special Time 11:00am Charcoal Chicken Dinner	29 8:30am Bible Study	30	1 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:15pm - 6:15pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship Service	2	3	4

Quilting Group
 Will be meeting on **September 9th**
 at 1:00-3:00 p.m.

SEW CUTE!
Everyone is welcome!!



Fall Church Picnic
Sunday September 28th

10:00 am - Camp Style Worship at St. John's
 11:00 am - Charcoal Chicken Dinner
 Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share



Next Cleaning Day is Sept 14th
Let's work together to keep our church beautiful!



Celebrate Grandparents Day
Sunday, September 7th

Pie & Ice Cream Social following worship



Church Council Town Hall Meeting
Sunday Oct 5th after worship

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

CHURCH AT THE FAIR
ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Thank you so much for your participation and generosity for this fundraising service for local students. We are pleased to report to you that the total offering was \$1439.00 and was given to the Blackhawk Education Foundation for school supplies for students.

THANK YOU!!

Church Council Meeting Minutes

August 18th, 2025

Call to Order - Meeting was called to order at 6:02 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 Aubrie Bohl. Motion carried.

Approval of last Council Minutes - A motion was made by Wendy LaGesse to approve the minutes from the July 21st, 2025 meeting; seconded by Dorene Turner. Motion carried.

Financial Report -

	Year to Date (Jan-Jul 2025)
Income	\$ 106,024.44
Expenses	\$ 93,100.53
Difference	\$ 12,923.91

Transfers: none

July Offerings	
Date	Total
7/6	5,017
7/13	1,827
7/20	1,999
7/27	3,520
Online	781

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 on 8/12 by Dorene Turner to keep the CD at Secutrity Financial bank for 7 months @ 4.25% interest and to take the earned interest of \$3,800.00 to place in the council fund. Seconded by Wendy LaGesse. Motion carried with yes votes from Dorene, Wendy, Kay, Aubrie, Janelle, and Tyler.

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

Old Business-

A) Apartment Storage update: Apartment Storage List; was share with the council. The items at the apartments do not need to be moved but the church should be aware of what is stored over there. Janelle Yeakey will work to share the list with committees/staff to see what items need to be kept versus removed.

B) Pastor Salary: Submitted with Mission Site Profile to the Synod.

C) Draft Revisions for constitution – email was shared with possible changes to the constitution about changing the quorum number to 30, discussion occurred regarding potential changes. Council will revisit at the next meeting.

D) Call Committee update: A motion was made on 8/5 by Alicia Bonczyk to approve the MSP and video to be submitted to the Synod. Seconded by Janelle Yeakey. Motion carried with yes votes from Dorene, Aubrie, Alicia, Wendy, and Janelle. MSP and video have been accepted by the Synod and were posted on Friday 8/15. Please note that the Synod has a limited number of Pastors available for positions, so we will need to be patient as we wait for candidates.

E) Computers—A motion was made on 7/29 by Wendy LaGesse to approve the quote from Krista Computers and to use money from the council fund to cover costs of computers. Seconded by Janelle Yeakey. Motion carried with yes votes from Wendy, Janelle, Dorene, Kay, Aubrie, Alicia and Tyler. Krista Computers has visited the church; computers have been ordered and partial payment made.

F) Church cleaning: THANK YOU to the anonymous donor of a Kirby Vacuum cleaner/ shampooer.

Minutes continued on page 5

August 18th Church Council Minutes *(Continued)*

Confirmation Faith Statement

(council meeting minutes continued)

G) Church Directory Update – Starting September 14th through end of September; congregation members will be asked to fill out new membership forms to update our files. The membership forms will be included in the September and October Newsletters.

H) Implementing council retreat suggestions: Camp style worship & Fall church picnic with games will happen on Sunday Sept 28th.

I) Donation for Texas: Michelle Lane will be working with Victoria to send our donations in for Thrivent. Council will match the money collected.

J) Gaga pit: Jacob Skaar will deliver before Rally day and would like to have a picture taken with him and the kids. They are painting the pit with oil-based paint to protect it better outside.

New Business –

A) Town Hall Meeting Dates- October 5th

Committee Reports

- Pastor's Report—Will begin stewardship/estimates of giving on September 14th, to coincide with updated membership forms.
- 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
- Discipleship -
- Fellowship Minutes – next meeting will be August 24th
- Social Ministry Minutes –
- Youth Minutes – discussion about potential change in Faith Formation and Wednesday service times. A survey will be sent to Faith Formation families to gain input.
- Preschool Minutes –
- Property Minutes – Dorene and Jeff Turner fixed the gates for the playground on 8/17; Jason Graski will be in contact with the property committee about the potential culvert upgrades this Fall.
- Worship & Music Minutes –
- A motion was made by Wendy LaGessee to change the September 28th worship time to 10 am to accommodate the Camp Style Worship and meal. Seconded by Kay Anderson. Motion carried.
- Call Committee (see above)

Additional Items and Announcements: Next Meeting: September 15th at 6 pm.

Adjournment - a motion was made at 7:41pm by Janelle Yeakey to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Wendy LaGessee. Motion carried. **Members Present:** Janelle Yeakey, Kay Anderson, Dorene Turner, Wendy LaGessee, Michele Lane, Aubrie Bohl, Jason Graski. **Members Absent:** Gary Hedding, Alicia Bonczyk, Kyle Prill, Tyler Halver-son.

Faith Statement

My faith in God has transformed my life in many ways, beginning with how carefully I consider my actions - whether I am sinning, breaking a commandment, influencing someone else's life, or causing my family to feel sadness, shame, or frustration. My faith has given me something to hold onto when all else feels dark. It has showed me the light and taught me to run towards it.

Genesis 1:1-3 - In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 2the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. 3Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

Youth & Family News

2025 Confirmation Faith Statements

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!

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

Save the Date: Rally Day for J.A.M.

I hope that everyone's summer vacation has been full of fun and some relaxation. These past two months flew by, and we are getting ready for JAM to start back up for the 2025-2026 academic year. Our first day for our Wednesday night Faith Formation will take place on **Wednesday, September 10th**. After a fun night of dinner (4:30-5:15PM) and games (5:15-6:15PM), JAM students will be singing during service at **6:30PM**. Please register your student(s) on our website:

<https://www.stjohns-bloomer.org/youth.html>

Youth In Action

With the school year quickly approaching, our first Youth in Action planning night will take place **Sunday, Sept. 21st, from 5:30 to 7:30PM** at the church. 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).

Butter Braid Fundraiser

Our Butter Braid fundraiser will officially kick off on **September 17th, 2025!** This fundraiser opportunity will last until **Wednesday, October 8th**. Butter Braids are scheduled to arrive on **Wednesday, November 5th, at 6:00 PM**.

Save the Date: Students Led Service (Camp Style)

Save the date! We will be having a student-led worship on **Sunday, September 28th, at 10:00AM** with lunch and activities to follow. Please keep an eye on your emails for more information regarding this service.

Faith Statement

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, and His Son Jesus Christ, who died for my sins and rose again. I will commit to live by God's word and spread my faith through him. I am very fortunate to be surrounded by faithful people. My family has supported my faith in god, and set a good example for me to be a faithful follower. I believe through my faith and thoughtful prayer that God will carry me through difficult times all throughout my life.

Psalms 32:8 - I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

NEWS FROM PRESCHOOL STAFF!

Confirmation Faith Statement

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: amada_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. 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.

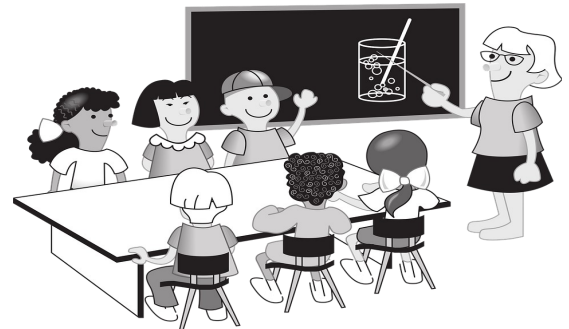
First Days of School

Monday, September 8th, and Tuesday, September 9th, are the first days of school for the 2025-2026 academic year. We are thrilled and ready to welcome students back into the building. We hope that students have a wonderful school experience this year.



Family Fun Night

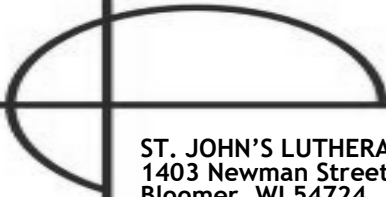
We hosted our first Family Fun Night of the 2025-2026 academic year on Monday, August 12th. At this event, we welcomed thirteen families to kick off the school year, which drew over 50 people. We hope to host events like this throughout the year for our families and the community. You can expect this event to be geared toward families with children 4 years of age and under (older siblings are welcome to attend). These events will include interactive story time, music, crafts and snacks. All families who attend will be entered for a door prize (you must be present to win).



Faith Statement

A few months ago, I heard a sermon about how God is always there for us. He always has time to listen, no matter how many people are calling for Him. Wherever you are, whatever you need to say—whether it's a quick prayer, a moment of doubt, or if it's been a long time—God wants to hear it. Even when we've sinned or wandered away, God is still there—ready to forgive, guide us, and welcome us back with open arms. The St. John's congregation has done an incredible job of making me feel welcome and that I truly belong. They've helped me realize that connecting with God is so much more than sitting in a pew and praying. It's dancing in the aisles singing songs. It's showing up to confirmation and forming bonds with people I might never have expected. It's growing closer to Him by noticing the little things that make me smile inside. I am so grateful to be part of this amazing community and feel truly blessed to have grown in my faith surrounded by such love, encouragement, and support.

Romans 8:28 – “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.”

	<p>ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 1403 Newman Street Bloomer, WI 54724</p>
	<p>ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED</p> <p>715-568-5446 Email: stjohndl-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)
 paddleg@gmail.com (Pastor Gary)

With thanksgiving to God and by the generosity inspired in me/us through the Holy Spirit, I/we estimate that we will give \$_____ / week / month / year (circle one) to God through St. John's Lutheran Church. May this offering enable God's ministry to grow faithfully and effectively through this congregation.

Please let us know if:

this represents a growth in giving by 0.5%

this represents a growth in giving

Name: _____

Thank you for this estimate of giving. We know that changes in circumstances may cause changes in actual giving. Let us know if we can help.

Thank you for your prayerful and thoughtful consideration.

Pastor Gary Hedding