

The Mustard Seed*

Newsletter for members and friends of
St. John's Lutheran Church, Waterloo
(Bennington) ELCA



2024



A word from Pastor Beth

It seems like Spring has taken a little while to get here. We were teased early with warmer temps and then the cold and wind came back. The prophet Habakkuk reminds us that "If the vision seems slow, wait for it. It will come."

Waiting can be hard—really difficult, in fact, especially when it feels like so many factors are out of our control. But God has promised that God is still at work, and though the waiting is a challenge, God is in the midst of it with us.

Key dates to be aware of:

May 5: 10 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Graduate recognition Sunday for Corina Gray, Wapsie Valley High School

Guest pastor will be Pastor Liz Retz, chaplain at Unity Point Hospital. (Pastor Beth will be in Columbus, Ohio, watching her daughter receive her Master of Social Work degree.)

May 12: 10 a.m. Worship

May 19: 10 a.m. Worship with communion. Pentecost: color of the day is red.

May 26: 10 a.m. worship. (Time change is June 2)

June 1: C3 Synod Event: Creative Collaborative Congregations. Ministry Fair with more than 20 workshops, worship with a worship band, round table conversations and a service project to support area food pantries. The event starts at 9, is open to all, and costs \$50/person. SJB will pick up the cost of your registration. Two workshop times in the morning and two in the afternoon. Play an instrument? Join the worship band! You'll get the music ahead of time. See the insert with this newsletter.

June 2: Church time change. Worship is at 9 a.m.

St. John's Scholarship

Once again it's time to apply for the SJB scholarship.

Persons applying must have completed at least a semester of their post high-school education.

Firm deadline to apply for the funding is June 1.

Details and the form are on the St. John website, stjohnsbennington.com

Battle for Betsy = Baskets for Betsy

The major fundraising event "Battle for Betsy" is scheduled for June 29.

Betsy McDougall's family started this event in 2020 to help Betsy in her battle with early onset dementia.

There are multiple ways to get involved; go to the Facebook site for details. Last year's event raised more than \$49,000

Here at SJB, we're putting out the call for baskets from SJB for the silent auction.

Betsy was an active member of SJB, and we had her service here on Oct. 15, 2021.

Need ideas for baskets? Go to Google or Pinterest for ideas.

Talk to Bobbi Seamans for information. Baskets can be brought to the church before May 1.

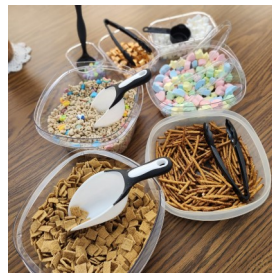
Thank you in advance!

Correction from last month: Quilt tops that come in need to be 65" x 85" in order to allow room for a hem. We regret the error.

***Why "The Mustard Seed?"** In Matthew 17 and Luke 17, Jesus said that mustard seed size faith is enough. God is the one who makes things happen! Even a little belief is enough from us! This newsletter is a little glimpse into life here at SJB. Enjoy! We're also on Facebook! Look for the church page and the youth and Sunday school page, too

Spring Sunday School! 1. We learned about St. Patrick, and the Kitch and Nelson families brought Pot-O-Gold snack mix and beaded bracelets. 2. We learned that Jesus brings and gives peace, and the Rottinghaus, Billington and Wheeler families helped us make peace plates and peace cookies. We also played a peace game with Pastor Beth. 3. Rus and Tony show us and tell us about mat making as part of Midwest Mission, an organization associated with the United Methodist Church. The Snyder and Speer families helped with logistics and snacks. The congregation donated hundreds of plastic sacks! 4. See page 3 for learning about Jesus the cornerstone, led by Jerry Gallmeyer,

1.



2.



3.



After working hard on a mat, Eleanor and Ruby show us that snacks help!



We learned that each mat takes about 500 grocery sacks. The loom will remain set up at SJB, so feel free to help when it works for you! Directions for how to cut the bags and make the PLARN (plastic yarn) will be posted. The mat making process is similar to weaving potholders on a loom. To firm up the mat, a person can snug up the strings by hand or by using the old-fashioned potato masher that's now on-site. Your work means someone won't have to sleep on the bare ground!



4. Jerry Gallmeyer, retired mason, spent time with the students on April 28. He shared his tools, talked about bricklaying and shared how important it is to have a good foundation. The cornerstone matters! We tied that in with our Acts text about Jesus being the cornerstone for us.

Pictured here is Mr. Jerry checking on the “building structure snacks” made possible by Maggie Rottinghaus. The students also got their own piece of Anamosa limestone to decorate as a remembrance of the importance of a good foundation!



Making Birthday Cake Kits!

Here’s another you can “take the cake,” SJB! Elsewhere in this newsletter is an insert about creating birthday kits to be shared with food pantry sites in the synod. You can bring your cake kits to church by May 26 and we’ll get them to the C3 gathering. Help make someone’s birthday brighter by your care!



You can also learn more by going to the synod website, www.neiasynod.org and reading about the first ever C3 event!

Church council notes:

The church council met on April 21 after worship.

Financial reports shared by Amy and Jim. Amy informed group that Church Mutual will have a new name, and we will have the same representative.

Pastor reported on the new C3 event coming up and encouraged people to attend. More information will be forthcoming. She also talked about how as the congregational needs for care arise due to health and aging-related issues, she wants to explore creating a Care Callers program here. Lay people who are interested would be trained to bring the care of the congregation to people. This builds on natural care we already have, incorporating things that we already do such as calls, cards and visits, but it would also add in the elements of prayer and communion.

Old business saw the council get updates on St Grubby’s day projects, the CPR training options, the memorial tree planting and facility usage and access planning.

New business discussed determining the date to recognize our senior. Summer planning was also discussed: worship schedule change is June 2, with church at 9 a.m. Fellowship activities to be aware of include the parade in July and doing a cookout and having games at the July semi-annual meeting. Josh to oversee grilling.

Summer collections to include birthday cake kits in May, snacks for Alive and Running in June, and school supplies for the LWR kits in July and August. September collection is TBD.

Council engaged in conversation about how best to receive art for the church and M-S-C to have a policy in place that includes both pastoral and council approval ahead of time so that the council is empowered to accept or decline gifts. Concern is for precedence, artistic and theological integrity and for having an approach in place that accords flexibility of response and gives guides for suitability.

May 2024 – Give a Gift to LSI: Support Mothers across Iowa

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 12. Did you know LSI brings hope and healing to mothers in each of our service lines? Here are just a few examples:

The Child Care Business Development program in our Immigrant and Refugee Community Services prepares women, often mothers, to run an in-home childcare business. This small business opportunity allows them to provide for their family and ensure their children receive culturally appropriate care.

Many mothers benefit from our Foster Care and Adoption services, whether they be mothers who are blessed with a child through adoption or foster mothers who provide love and guidance to children from all paths of life.

Early Childhood Services prepares mothers-to-be for birth and raising a child. Additionally, home visitation programs help ensure a strong support system for young parents across the state.

These are just three examples of how LSI serves mothers in Iowa. This Mother's Day, we encourage you to give a gift in honor of your mother or motherly figure to ensure mothers around the state receive the care and support they deserve.

EWALU Camp Work Day: May 4

Join volunteers, families, and church groups to help Ewalu get ready for the summer season. Take time to explore camp and meet staff and other volunteers. Come Friday evening to spend the night at Ewalu, free of charge (RSVP required).

A variety of projects are being prepared for all ages and abilities. If you can't be here for the weekend, we have plenty of things for volunteers at any time. Call us!

Ewalu address is 37776 Alpha Ave., Strawberry Point, IA (Camp entrance 3 miles west of town, on Hwy 3)

WORK DAY SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 4: Volunteer Work Day

8:00 a.m. Arrival and breakfast

9:00 a.m. Work Projects

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Work Projects

4:00 p.m. Departure



Contact with questions: Phone Paul Frantsen at 563-933-4700 or email property@ewalu.org

Let us know you're coming! Phone Diane Parker at 563-933-4700 or email office@ewalu.org