

# The Mustard Seed\*

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



2025



By the time this reaches you, many fall routines will be underway—or we'll be on our way to figuring those routines out.

Finding and creating new routines can take time, energy and include some fits and starts. We can have things all figured out, only to have a curveball come our way.

One of my favorite sayings seems appropriate as we find our way into a new school year: Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape. Let's help each other find our way into a good year. Coming together on Sept. 7 for worship and service (see right column) is a strong way to start. Worshiping God and (see pg. 3)

## Key dates to be aware of:

**Sept. 3: 7 p.m. Confirmation Orientation**

**Sept. 7: 10 a.m. worship w/HC, followed by potluck and service projects**

**Sept. 10: 7 p.m. Confirmation**

**Sept. 14: SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS, 9 a.m.**

10 am: Worship with baptism of Mayva Jane Bedard  
LYO Meets after worship

**Sept. 17: 7 p.m. Confirmation**

**Sept. 21: 9 a.m. Sunday School; 10 a.m. worship w/HC; church council after worship**

**Sept. 24: 7 p.m. Confirmation**

**Sept. 28: 9 a.m. Sunday School; 10 a.m. worship w/Bible presentation.**

**Oct. 1: 7 p.m. Confirmation**

**Oct. 5: 9 a.m. Sunday School; 10 a.m. worship with HC**

**Oct. 8: NO CONFIRMATION— Dunkerton Homecoming Parade**

**Oct. 12: 9 a.m. Sunday School; 10 a.m. worship**

**Oct. 19: 9 a.m. Sunday School; 10 a.m. worship. Church council and LYO both meet after worship & fellowship**

## Potluck and Service Projects Set for Sept. 7

Worship at 10 a.m. then stay for the potluck we'll have after church as we move back into our fall programming schedule. Drinks and tableware provided.

After the potluck, we'll move into our service projects.

Indoor and outdoor service projects will be on tap for Sept. 7. The indoor projects will include assembling the school back packs for Lutheran World Relief.

The outdoor projects will include starting to clean the tombstones in the cemetery. We'll use warm water and bristle brushes to remove what we can. This will be a "no-chemicals" cleaning.

People are encouraged to donate ice-cream pails to help with the cleaning and scrub brushes, too, if they can. Thank you!

God's work. Our hands.



## Bibles to 3rd graders!

Third grade students Lincoln, Beau and Evelyn will receive their bibles during worship on Sept. 28. We're delighted to help families keep this faith promise!

**\*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





## VBS 2025

We *Zoomed in on God* through stories about creation, Esther, Jesus welcoming children and friendship. Music, snacks, crafts were all part of the day! Our pool party got rained out, but that meant more time to enjoy the pizza party the LYO provided! Thank you to everyone who helped!

### Music, right, included

Bethany leading a lively and energetic dance party of songs related to the day, and special music by Alivia. Alivia was fresh off from singing at the State Fair and sang "The Colors of the Wind."



**Middle:** Learning the story of Queen Esther with help from the older students. **Right:** Playing a game to help us learn that Jesus welcomes everyone just as we are!







Alex took the lead again this year in designing a cool photo-op area for check in, and Maggie had the butterfly clips ready so students could decorate them and then add their picture from VBS 2025.



**Pictured:** Help came in many forms Sunday: organizing the arrival and check-in process, decorating the photo-op area, being part of the skits, teaching the lessons, helping with crafts, shepherding children indoors and out, moving chairs, and being good sports all the way around! Thank you, SJB & friends!



#### ***Olson, continued.***

showing up for others both in our congregations and our communities matters as much or more than ever.

As we get those routines sorted and refined, then, I encourage you to continue to make God, worship, community, love, hope and gratitude a part of your everyday life.

Not every day will be easy, of course, and there may be days when we feel more scrambled than pulled together, but even in the midst of all that, God keeps showing up, because that is how God works. God shows up in all places and circumstances.

## **Church COUNCIL**

The church council met Aug. 17 after worship. Devotions and reports were shared.

Guest presenter Dawn Best shared information regarding the property boundaries of the Township cemetery and St. John's. Questions had arisen regarding property between the pine trees and the church cemetery. Survey photo and a survey sketch are now on file at church for reference should the council decide to do more with the property at some future time.

Pastor reported that she has been engaged with much preparation for VBS and for fall programming. Sunday School starts Sept. 14. Trying to get a few visits in, also, as well as meeting to get things ready for fall. Plans are in place for her upcoming weekend away.

Deacons were prepped to welcome worship leaders while pastor was away.

Trustees to make notes on how to shut off alarm system following episode earlier in the month. New censor was purchased to replace faulty one that triggered alarm. They will work on identifying attic access panels for future needs.

Finance to receive their money this month that has been sitting in general fund following movement to local control institutions.

In new business, plans were made for the annual "God's Work. Our Hands" day on Sept. 7 this year. Projects to include filling the LWR school kits, starting to clean the cemetery stones with warm water and bristle brushes.

Also began conversation about Pastor's Portico for 2026 as Portico is changing its categories. M/S/C to donate \$300 from Helping Hands to Cedar Valley Friends of the Family to help after a fire destroyed much of their building and storage.



Worship Time Change Starts Sept. 7:  
**Church is at 10!!**

## **Sunday School starts Sept. 14: 9 a.m.**

Contact Bethany and let her know you'll help! Classes for bigs and littles! Family members welcomed! Big group, music, lesson, craft and snack.



### **The Mustard Seed**

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