

The Mustard Seed

September of 2017

Adult Class Schedule of Topics

Adult Class Resumes September 10th at 8:45 AM

September 10th: Rally Sunday - Philippians: Letter of Joy - "Introduction"

September 17th: Part 11: "I'm gonna' go where there ain't no telephone poles" - A discussion of rural life and the rural church...problems / potential

September 24th: Philippians: Letter of Joy - "This Is My Prayer" - Philippians 1:1-11

Council Minutes

The St. John's Bennington Lutheran Church Council met on Sunday, August 20, 2017 after worship.

Members present were Pastor Thalacker, Jim Mixdorf, Jerry Mixdorf, Dennis Magee, Augusta Sires, Jim Fettkether, Joe Stafford, Jeff Seamans and Brandy Zuck. Member absent was Randy Wright.

Dennis Magee called the meeting to order. Pastor Thalacker opened with a prayer.

Dawn Best and Teresa Stafford attended to speak about Thrivent. No longer need permission from congregation to use Thrivent Choice Dollars. This money will be kept in a separate account that Treasurer will monitor. Up to Council's discre-

tion regarding how to utilize funds with congregation's input. Current funds will be used towards windows.

Secretary's Minutes: Were not shared due to low attendance at July meeting, no business to review.

Treasurer's Report: by Brandy Zuck.

Financial Secretary's Report: by Jim Mixdorf. All financial reports approved as read.

President's Report: by Dennis Magee. Thanks to all for their help with recent large projects.

Pastor's Report: by Pastor Thalacker. General updates provided.

Trustee's Report: by Jerry Mixdorf. Thank you to Jim Clark for assisting with putting caps on roof. Provided update on window installation.

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Church Council

President of the Congregation:
Randy Wright 230-6656

Deacons:
Dennis Magee 822-3105
Jeff Seamans 292-1967

Trustees:
Jim Fettkether 822-2482
Joe Stafford 822-2441
Jerry Mixdorf 822-7475

Treasurer:
Brandy Zuck 721-9692

Secretary:
Augusta Sires 230-6548

Financial Secretary:
Jim Mixdorf 232-9464

Finance Committee:
Bob Hansen 822-7849
Ronda Rathe 822-3324
Chris Michels 269-9156

Women of the ELCA Leaders
President:
Pam Wright 827-3487

Vice President:
Bobbi Seamans 230-0016

Secretary:
Kathy Gallmeyer 404-4131

Treasurer:
Kim Ala 822-2486

Mission of Growth:
Cindy Mixdorf 822-4503

Mission of Community:
Cassie Sage 822-9470

Wedding Coordinator:
Mary Jane Averhoff 830-3449
Emilee Miller 939-8570

Funeral Coordinator:
Kathy Gallmeyer 404-4131

The Staff
Church Office: 291-6225

Pastor Thalacker 287-7836
Pastor Ericson 277-1880

Email: billthalacker@yahoo.com
Secretary:

Brenda Clark 822-4465
cell phone 290-2159
worship@stjohnsbennington.com

Janitor:
Cassie Sage 822-9470

Sunday School Superintendent:
Kelli Snyder 404-1214

LYO President
Charlie Magee 404-0261

Vice: Kristina Happel 290-7547

Secretary:
Jenna Salisbury 415-7401

Treasurer:
Melissa Boner 215-3349

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Other Committee's: by Jeff Seamans. Shared website activity. Have been seeing up to 1,000 visitors each month since new website was made live.

Old Business:

1. Road Signs - by Dennis Magee. Council reviewed sign designs. Joe Stafford checking on permission to post signs. Council will review information from Joe and select vendor at September meeting before proceeding.
2. Opportunity for Giving - by Pastor Thalacker. Reviewed envelopes. Council provided feedback.
3. Cemetery Fence and Sign - by Jeff Seamans. Council discussed and approved the Clark's proceeding with this project using money from the Memorial Fund. Approved.

New Business: none.

Announcements: Next Council Meeting will be September 17, 2017 after worship.

Adjourn.

All stood and said The Lord's Prayer.

Augusta Sires, Secretary

WELCA MINUTES

The August 6, 2017 WELCA meeting was called to order by President Pam Wright. Those in attendance were Kim Ala, Kathy Gallmeyer, Cindy Mixdorf, Cassie Sage, Bobbi Seamans and Pam Wright.

Secretary's Report: Approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Pam placed an order for 48 School Bags and they should be in this week. Approved.

Mission of Growth: 50 quilts are completed and boxed up. St. Peter's Church dropped off 1 box and 2 bags of 12" x 12" quilt squares. Karen Averhoff volunteered to sew them together. Approved.

Mission of Community: 7 Thinking of You, 2 Get Well, 1 Thank You and 2 Wedding cards and 1 Wedding Cross were sent. We are running low on wedding crosses. Approved to order more.

Business: We will make cards to honor our Veterans. Date set for Thursday, September 21st at 4 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a brown bag lunch and drink. Need to identify who the Veteran's from St. John's are. Pam will contact Nancy Goeller and Liberty Happel to see if they want to be added to a serving group and / or altar guild. Bobbi will ask Jeff to check into the cleaning and sealing of the silver communion set.

Adjourn.

Kathy Gallmeyer, Secretary

UPDATE: THRIVENT MEMBERS

In 2010 Thrivent Financial started a charitable grant program that allowed Thrivent members to designate their Thrivent Choice money that they earned according to the policies they carry with Thrivent Financial. As of May, 2017, St. John's has been very fortunate to have received almost \$5,000.00 in Choice Dollars. That money has been accounted for in a separate budget item in the checking account. It is deposited in the church checking account as members designate it. At the semi-annual meeting in July, new windows for the church were voted to be replaced. It was decided to use the Choice Dollars toward that project. Teresa Stafford and Dawn Best understood that the Thrivent members needed to give their approval for this to happen. A letter was composed to give to the Thrivent members. Upon checking with the main Thrivent office it was learned that the members no longer have to give their approval. They were told that once the money comes to the church it is for the church to use. Dawn and Teresa talked to the church council to inform them of this. After discussion it was agreed to continue to keep the dollar amounts in the separate account. If the council comes up with a project in the future that the Choice Dollars might be used for, it will be discussed with us. If you have questions or concerns, PLEASE talk to Dawn or Teresa.

you can pray for
anything, and if you
have faith, you will
receive it.

matthew 21:22



*“Let love be genuine.
Hate what is evil, hold fast to
what is good.” – Romans 12:9*

Two thoughts are running in my mind as I sit down to write this.

The one thought has to do with Labor Day that’s upcoming in a few days.

The celebration of Labor Day is somewhat unique to this country which is its origin. People always have and do work. Work (along with the home and government) is known and regarded as an “order of creation”, that is, **work, home, and government** are a kind of three-legged stool on which all of society is based and sits. Every society in every place for as far into the past as we can see and for as far into the future as we can peer is going to depend on the three realities. We find them in the Biblical account of the Garden of Eden, in all of history, today, and into the future. The three are the “Orders of Creation”.

On Labor Day we call special attention to labor....to work and it’s importance for the structure of society.

We periodically have some problems with that. I read a little article the other day in which people who weren’t working, who were depending on others to provide for them, were criticized and told to “get a job”. Even in the comics, teen age Jeremy in “Zits” this last summer has been encouraged by his dad Walt to get some kind of a job....any kind. Jeremy finally lands a job at the zoo about which he knows nothing and however badly he does that, “it’s a job”. We really do expect that of everyone except those in the most dire straits. This past week one of our grandsons who is a recent college graduate passed a test for which he has been studying and that has opened for him certain job opportunities for which he’s been hoping. We properly gave him congratulations. We love to work. It gives us a sense of accomplishment. The income maintains us and makes it possible for us to be generous and help others. Our nation and others keep careful track of employment and unemployment figures. There are whole professions (one of our daughters is an employment attorney) that are devoted to the orderly conduct of business and work.

The other thought has to do with the Reformation.

We sometimes forget that one of the main emphasis of the Reformation was on what was called, “the priesthood of **all** believers” with the emphasis on the “all”. The reformers insisted that all honest labor that served people in constructive ways was “godly” work / approved by God from the Day of Creation and was to be respected and honored from a religious point of view regardless how human beings might consider it. Before Luther’s time, people had been taught to believe that only the persons who worked and served in specifically **religious** vocations that directly served the church were to be more respected than other vocations.

But the Reformation changed that. In certain instances Luther reversed the valuation and taught that the lay vocations were **more** valuable in the eyes of God than “religious” work. He said that it could be more clearly seen that people who did that work were in facts serving and helping the neighbor more than people who devoted themselves strictly to religious concerns.

So what do you think about that? Can it in fact be true that the Christian love of which St. Paul speaks can be worked out where **you** are working. We all can certainly hope for that.

God bless us all,
Pastor T.



The Bremwood campus in Waverly is in need of towel bundles and birthday bags for their residents. They are asking for YOUR help in getting the supplies needed to make these kits. The items needed for the towel bundles are: bath towels, wash cloths, toothbrushes / paste, shampoo and conditioner, solid deodorant, body wash, chap stick, lip gloss, combs and hairbrushes. For the birthday bags they need: cake mix & frosting, water bottles, water flavorings, deck of cards, packs gum, candy bars, granola bars, lip gloss, small flashlight, small alarm clock, ear buds and sticky notepads. Check out the display in the narthex for ideas. The campus is also in need of pillows and mattress pads.

The Mustard Seed

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