

❖ The Mustard Seed February 2018 ❖

February Sunday Adult Class Topics

February 4th: ATWCFFADRM - Free For All Discussion of Religious Matters

February 11th: On Death and Dying: Chapter 5: "Third Stage: Bargaining" Pages 82-85

February 18th: ATWCFFADRM - Free For All Discussion of Religious Matters

February 25th: On Death and Dying: Chapter 6: "Fourth Stage: Depression" Pages 86-111

Council Minutes

The St. John's Bennington Lutheran Church Council met on Sunday, January 14, 2018 after worship.

Members present were Pastor Thalacker, Pastor Ericson, Jim Mixdorf, Augusta Sires, Jeff Seamans, Brandy Zuck, Dennis Magee and Jerry Mixdorf. Members absent were Randy Wright, Jim Fettkether and Joe Stafford. Dennis Magee called the meeting to order. Pastor Thalacker opened with a prayer.

Secretary's Minutes: by Augusta Sires. Approved as read.

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. Shared thank you note from Pastor Thalacker for Christmas gift from congregation.

Pastor's Report: by Pastor Thalacker. General updates provided. Pastor Ericson shared information about service plans up until May 2018.

Deacon's Report: by Dennis Magee. Fire alarm system will be installed soon by members of the congregation. Plan to clean ceiling fans and potentially replace light bulbs as well while lift is on site.

Trustee's Report: none.

Other Committees: Council has an opening for a deacon and secretary beginning in February 2018. If interested, speak with Pastor Thalacker or a current council member.

Old Business:

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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 Superintendent:	
Teresa Stafford	230-7445
LYO President	
Quincy Van Thournout	415-5972
Vice: Eleanore Magee	939-1530
Secretary:	
Melissa Boner	215-3349
Treasurer:	
Kayla Rathe	415-3230
Historian:	
Brooke Best	415-4351

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1. Budget—Brandy Zuck presented proposed budget for 2018. Budget approved as read.

2. Road Signs —Discussion tabled until next meeting. Information continues to be gathered.

New Business: none.

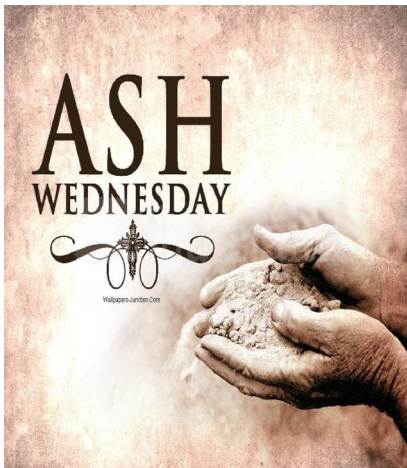
Announcements: Next council meeting will be February 18, 2018 after worship. Annual meeting is January 28, 2018.

Adjourn.

All stood and said The Lord’s Prayer.

Augusta Sires, Council Secretary

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February 14th

Worship

with

Communion

7 PM



WELCA held their meeting on January 14, 2018 . The 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: Received a donation of \$500 from Phyllis Mixdorf. Report approved.

Mission of Growth Report: Working on quilts. Received a donation of a box of thread and will see if Karen Averhoff would like to use for the quilt tops she is making. Will be donating some thicker quilts to Bremwood as they are to thick to ship for Lutheran World Relief. Approved.

Mission of Community Report: Sent 4 Thinking of You and 3 Sympathy cards. Received Thank You cards from Pastor Ericson and Lutheran Services in Iowa. Approved.

Business:

1. Still working on Songs of Praise covers and index.
2. Getting prices for plastic table coverings to use on rectangular tables for funerals. The table surfaces worn and scratched.
3. Reviewed the Women’s Directory for 2018.
4. Will send out due reminders.
5. Discussed dish towel issue. Users are to wash and return the towels. Will check to be sure it is posted in kitchen rules.

The Season of Lent



GOD SPEAKS - LEARNING TO HEAR HIS VOICE - “WORDS”

February 14th: Ash Wednesday WELCA Group 1 - Supper

February 21st: Wednesday Lent Youth Group - Supper

February 28th: Wednesday Lent WELCA Group 2 - Supper

Lent Supper is at 5:45 PM Followed by Worship at 7 PM



A Pastor's Thoughts

“ Finally, let the mighty strength of the Lord make you strong. 11 Put on all the armor that God gives, so you can defend yourself against the devil’s tricks. 12 We are not fighting against humans. We are fighting against forces and authorities and against rulers of darkness and powers in the spiritual world. 13 So put on all the armor that God gives. Then when that evil day comes, you will be able to defend yourself. And when the battle is over, you will still be standing firm. ” - Ephesians 6:10-13 (CEV)

Bear with me....for the last several days in my mind I’ve been turning over an illustration that may be of some use for us all....try this on for size....

In confirmation class last night I asked the class if they would rather practice a sport or play in the game. The answer the six of them gave was unanimous: every one of them would rather play in the game than practice.

I guess that’s not a surprise. One of the biggest complaints you will hear about sports participation from parents is that they don’t think their kids get to play enough in the games. And probably the biggest reason that kids drop out of sports is that “they don’t get to play enough.” Just doing practice and being part of the team often isn’t enough. Kids want to get in the game. The coach is fortunate if he / she can play them all!

Now some people like to practice.....for example, I like to practice golf because it gives me a chance to make adjustments and develop consistency with shot-making. But the real purpose of the practice is to get to play in the game or the match or the meet or whatever. Wouldn’t it be strange if someone only wanted to practice....never missed a practice....but on the day of the game didn’t show up when they were supposed to be a starter?

Don’t get me wrong! The practice is good too! It’s when we practice that we develop our muscle memory that produces consistent skills that we apply when push comes to shove and we play the game.

And Christian education is like that too. I told the catechumens that if confirmation instruction is like practice, the coming to worship on Sunday morning is like playing the game.

Sunday morning is not (of course) the only time we play the game. Thinking here of our annual meeting and Annual Report....playing the game also happens when we teach SCS or share in our various mission projects here and around the world that feed the hungry and quilt people who need quilts and support schools, institutions of mercy and pray for our brothers and sisters and represent our congregation in community service and are a good neighbor, etc.

Remember says the Apostle....this is a critical contest. ***We are not fighting against humans. We are fighting against forces and authorities and against rulers of darkness and powers in the spiritual world.*** The apostle reminds us that we cannot even see the enemy because the enemy has a spiritual dimension.... and by definition what is spiritual cannot be seen. But (the point is) we are on the floor / court / diamond depending on the resources God supplies to the best of our personal abilities. We and every Christian may think of themselves as in the game....

We have an annual meeting on the day this Mustard Seed is being delivered in our boxes. In a number of ways, the Annual Report tells us how we played the game. We have the chance to put something on the scoreboard. Thanks for all your effort! Only with Jesus we can know are we on the winning side.

God bless us all, Pastor T.



Next Meeting is February 11th

8:45 AM - Sunday School

10 AM - Worship Service

11 AM - LYO Meeting

Johnson / Magee Families in charge of February Meeting



If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13:1-13



Dear Members of St. John's,
Thank you so much for your Christmas greeting and most generous gift. Barb and I will use the money to help with our Jamaican mission trip expenses. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and love. It is a pleasure to serve you by sharing in the preaching and teaching at St. John. May God continue to bless our ministry together as we support each other in faith and reach out with the good news of Jesus Christ. In Him,
Pr. Bob and Barb Ericson.

The Mustard Seed

St. John's Lutheran Church (Bennington)
4110 East Mount Vernon Rd
Waterloo , IA 50703

