



The Mustard Seed May 2018



May Adult Class Topics

**May 6th: ATWCFFADRM - Free For All
Discussion of Religious Matters**

**May 13th: On Death and Dying: General
Discussion / Free For All**

**May 20th: Psalm 24 - "The Psalm of the
Ascension" - Video and Discussion**

May 20th Last Day of Adult Class until Fall

WELCA Board Minutes

The April 15, 2018 meeting was called to order by President Pam Wright. Those in attendance were Kathy Gallmeyer, Cindy Mixdorf, Cassie Sage, Bobbi Seamans and Pam Wright.

Secretary's Report: Approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Not available.

Mission of Growth Report: Alice Wright donated a bunch of sheets. Approved.

Mission of Community Report: 1 Birthday, 1 Get Well, 1 Sympathy and 6 Easter cards sent. High School graduates are Melissa Boner, Eric Fettkether, Mackenzie Goeller, Jackson Hoef, Rylee Michels, Carli Teisinger and Sam Schrage. College graduates are Kory Kuenstling and Justi Speer.

Business: St. John's Bennington gave 7 / \$20 Cost Cutter gift cards, 1/\$20 and 2/\$25 Walmart gift cards and 2/\$20 Fareway gift cards to the Veterans for our Christmas project.

Reviewed the updated WELCA calling list. Thank you to Gary Mixdorf for creating and organizing the list.

Discussed the graduation reception. Will serve cupcakes, nuts and mints.

Mary Jane Averhoff will represent St. John's at the convention in June.

LSI sent out salad luncheon information. Submitted Kathy Gallmeyer

Church Council

President of the Congregation:
Dennis Magee 822-3105

Deacons:
Jeff Seamans 292-1967
Drew Speer 830-6820

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

Treasurer:
Brandy Zuck 721-9692

Secretary:
Kayla Stafford 215-7443

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 Youth Leader:
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



the blessings Christ has given us. Philemon: 4-6 (CEV)

Philemon, each time I mention you in my prayers, I thank God 5 I hear about your faith in our Lord Jesus and about your love for all of God's people. 6 As you share your faith with others, I pray that they may come to know all

We live in an interesting time. That's something to be able to remember and tell to our grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Marilyn and I just are getting back from a little vacation. I told the confirmation class last night that the day before (Tuesday the 24th) I had been on the West Coast in Spokane, Washington, traveled to Minneapolis, Minnesota and then to Des Moines and then home to Waterloo. All of that was in the span of about 18 hours.

I also thought of the persons who in 1848 (only 175 years ago) and the years following crossed the Missouri River at St. Joseph, Missouri and left with wagon pulled by oxen on the Oregon Trail and hoped that the animals and the equipment didn't break down and that the people would survive the 10-mile-a-day trip that took months to places like Portland and Spokane. They knew that the persons (parents and siblings) that they were leaving behind, they would probably never see again (for better or worse) in this lifetime. On our most recent trip we were not only able to stay in touch with cell-phones but have reported that you were having another snow-storm with ice here but also for you to find out that we were having sunny skies and 75 degree temperatures in Portland, Ore. (Hold the tomatoes, we brought the good weather back with us....we take credit for the good news, blame the weatherman for the bad). What is more than interesting...like other modern amazing things, that whole scenario of our communication borders on the miraculous!

For me, at least, who has gone from that period of time and from a one-room country school and helping to farm with horses? We lived like the Amish today.

I also went to the funeral of an exceptional woman the day we left. (The thought just occurred to me that I've been writing more about funerals lately....) She was 80 years young, a musician and a church organist with whom I had worked in another parish for 8 years, very capable, cooperative and energetic. I thought about the fact that the Norwegian ancestors who formed the parish of which she was a part brought with them a deep sense of the need to live by the faith they had learned and practiced in their native land and also to make certain that the faith would be learned and practiced by their children and other descendants in the new country to which they were coming. That needs to be respected!

Our German ancestors here at St. John's who formed this congregation in 1881, not long after the Oregon Trail was opened were of the same cut of cloth as the Norwegians. And we who live in this interesting, amazing, miraculous age that is so different in so many ways from theirs, may know and have the same interests and responsibilities.

I saw a message shirt the other day that announced: "Nothing works unless you do!" That's a great reminder of what makes for success in lots of things. Our descendants understood that in terms of spiritual opportunities and responsibilities. Thanks to all of you who share in that as well.

God bless us all, Pastor T.

Worship Time Changes on May 27th to 9 AM - Summer Schedule
