

❖ The Mustard Seed September 2018 ❖

Adult Class Topics for September

- September 2nd:** No Adult Class. Labor Day Weekend.
- September 9th: Rally Sunday—** I Want to go Where There Ain't No Telephone Poles
- September 16th: Cross Vision -** Introduction and Chapter 1
- September 23rd: ATWCFFADRM -** the All-Time-World-Class-Free-For-All-Discussion-of-Religious-Matters.
- September 30th: Cross Vision -** Chapter 2 & 3

Council Minutes

The St. John's Bennington Lutheran Church Semi-Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, July 29, 2018 after worship in the fellowship hall. There was a sign in sheet for those in attendance to sign. The meeting was called to order by President Dennis Magee. Opening prayer was given by Pastor Thalacker.

Secretary's Minutes: read by Kayla Stafford. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer Report: given by Brandy Zuck.

Financial Secretary Report: given by Jim Mixdorf.

All financial reports were approved.

Finance Committee: report on investments given by Bob Hansen.

President's Report: none.

Pastor's Report: Given by Pastor Thalacker and Pastor Ericson. Thanked the great people in the congregation, the work we are prepared for, the work we have done, and all we continue to do. Pastors have organized their schedules and the Adult Sunday School plan for upcoming year.

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

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Old Business: Scholarship Committee by Jeff Seamans. The committee's recommendation is to change the requirement to a point system; thus, a 2.0 rather than a C average. Approved.

Refrigerator okay now, keep checking.

Fire Alarms by Jerry Mixdorf. System has to be certified and Hawkeye Alarms will come next month to do that. Jeff Seamans stated it is approximately \$200 for the dedicated phone line for system.

Pictorial Directory update by Pastor Thalacker. We are waiting for them to get a proof done. Bobbi Seamans is waiting for the newest proof to come (should be by July 31st).

Announcements: Next Council Meeting will be Sunday, August 19th after worship.

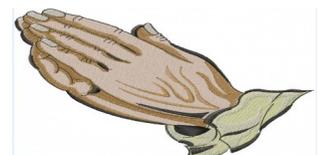
Motion made to adjourn.

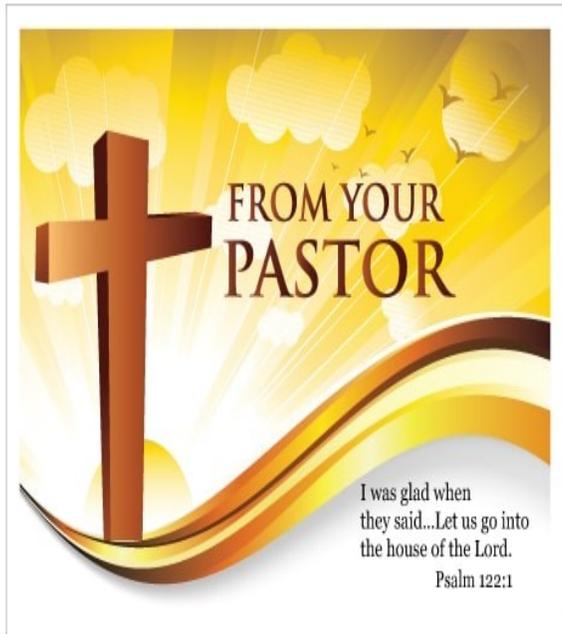
All stood and said The Lord's Prayer



**Come join Pastor Thalacker on Wednesday evenings at 6 PM
Wednesday—Weekend—Worship**

Dear Lord, I thank Thee for the
privilege of prayer,
And the comfort to know Thou art
ever there;
Be it in time of plenty or in great
need,
That when I pray Thou wilt give
heed.
I study the Bible – Thy message
for me,
For in it is contained salvation's
plea.
In prayer I place my petition be-
fore Thee,
That which rests upon my heart so
heavily.
There is so much for which I am
thankful,
And how Thou has blest us all so
bountiful;
May I ever be mindful of Thy love
for man,
And that we need to show our love
to Thee as a Christian.
I pray not for myself alone, but for
all of mankind,
And would that they all would one
day be Thine.
I Thank Thee for Thy kingdom
and in it being a citizen,
And pray that all I do will be gen-
uine.
Prayer brings me closer to God
each day,
And the closer I am, the more dif-
ficult to be pulled away.
Prayer helps keep my mind on an
even keel,
And only before Thee, O Lord, will
I be found to kneel.
We are so thankful, dear God, for
Thy Son on the cross,
For without His sacrifice, we'd
miss heaven, such a loss;
Christ is our only access to Thee,
It's through Him we must go, if in
heaven we want to be.





(Jesus said) “If you continue in my Word, you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” (John 8) and (Jesus said) “I am the way, the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father but by me.” (John 14)

Not long ago (5-8-18) in the Des Moines Register in the USA today section, an article appeared that was titled “Morality vs. Reality.” The gist of the article was directed to asking the question about what the author of the article believed or indicated to be an adversarial relationship between morality (the question of what is “right” and what is “wrong”) and reality (what is the experience of what is “true” and what is “false” (we might call that “fake news”). In other words, the question being raised was whether what is right or wrong is opposed to the way the real world works / reality.

The article was thought-provoking (if ms-leading) in that it set as opposite things that are not opposites. The opposite of reality is not morality. It’s fantasy or delusion. And the opposite of morality is not reality. It’s immorality.

We have a son who is a legal public defender. He talks about persons with whom he works as his clients making “bad decisions” / immoral decisions that get them in trouble with the law. Their “bad decisions” become thoughts and actions based on false information / self-deception / fantasies about something....perhaps the lack of consequences for “bad decisions”....or that they can “get away with”....or that they are justified in some way....or something or other of other things. That becomes “fake news” even if the fact that we can do that kind of thing is part of the real world. There probably isn’t much cure for that kind of stupidity....only control.

Every Sunday when the congregation gathers for worship we challenge that mistaken “fake news” in the confessional with which we begin the service. We say, “If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us (I John 1) .

We should really never omit that every Sunday or any day. It’s how the old, sinful person is put to death and a new person committed to what is right / good / healthful / just arises. In reality / fact, every Sunday we should never omit calling ourselves and each other to consider what is right and what is wrong and to challenge ourselves and our self-deceptions / fantasies / delusions about ourselves. Anything less than that is self-deception. If we can be open to the Holy Spirit’s power to do that, it can only be to our benefit in helping us to see how things really are and we can live in a real / true world and not one of fake news..

God bless us all,
Pastor T.



Begins Bright and Early

Sunday, September 9th at 8:45 AM

Followed by Worship at 10 AM

The Mustard Seed

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

