

# The Mustard Seed 2019

## January Adult Sunday Class

**January 6th: Cross Vision - Chapter 13**

**January 13th: Family 3 - Stages: Raising Children - Re-Establishing the Team**

**January 20th: Cross Vision - Chapter 14**

**January 27th: Family 4 - Stages: When Teens Are at Home - Re-Establishing the Team**

The St. John's Bennington Lutheran Church Council met on Sunday, December 16, 2018 after worship.

Those present for the meeting were Pastor Ericson, Jim Fettkether, Dennis Magee, Jerry Mixdorf, Jim Mixdorf, Jeff Seamans, Drew Speer, Kayla Stafford, Pastor Thalacker and Brandy Zuck. Absent was Joe Stafford.

The meeting was called to order by President Dennis Magee. Opening prayer was given by Pastor Thalacker.

**Secretary's Minutes:** read by Kayla Stafford. Approved.

**Financial Treasurer Report:** by Brandy Zuck. Approved.

**Financial Secretary Report:** by Jim Mixdorf. The December 9th, 2018 loose funds from the Children's Christmas program offering will be given to the Sunday School to donate for God's Global Barnyard. Discussed yearly giving. Report was approved.

**President's Report:** by Dennis Magee. Discussion on where to donate the budgeted Helping Hands funds. The funds will be given to: Letter from Northeastern Iowa Synod to create flood buckets for communities- \$150; Safe T

Cont. on Page 2

### 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
<b>Finance Committee:</b>		
	Bob Hansen	822-7849
	Ronda Rathe	822-3324
	Chris Michels	269-9156
<b>Women of the ELCA Leaders</b>		
President:	Pam Wright	827-3487
Vice President:	Bobbi Seamans	230-0016
Secretary:	Denise Pierce	939-5623
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
	Teresa Stafford	230-7445
<b>The Staff</b>		
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
<b>LYO Youth Leader:</b>	Teresa Stafford	230-7445
<b>President</b>	Kayla Rathe	415-3230
<b>Vice:</b>	Ellie Magee	939-1530
<b>Secretary:</b>	Brooke Best	415-4351
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Corina Gray-Hesse	559-8663

*Cont.. from Page 1*

Homes- \$150; Jeff also discussed a displaced family from California wild-fires now in the Jesup community- \$500. Motion made to utilize the remainder of the Helping Hands budget. Approved.

**Pastor's Report:** by Pastor Thalacker. Schedule proposal and financial discussion.

**Deacon's Report:** Jeff Seamans replaced the AED pads.

**Budget Committee:** overview given by Brandy Zuck. Discussion of proposed budget. Approved.

**Old Business:** Committee has 3 positions at term limit: **Deacon, Trustee and Financial Secretary.**

**New Business:** Fall programming brought up by Pastor Thalacker. Will further discuss at Annual Meeting. Jerry Mixdorf informed council of Dave Smith calling and asked to give a Gideons presentation in February - will be about 5 minutes to talk to the congregation.

**Announcements:** Next council meeting January 20th. Adjourn.

All stood and said The Lord's Prayer



The Dunkerton High School National Honor Society would like to thank the congregation for your very generous donations of non-perishable food items, turkeys and money for their Thanksgiving food drive. They were able to provide 6 families from the school with a very generous box of food for their Thanksgiving meal. There was money left over plus money from their treasury to also provide basic clothes items for 4 children from the school for Christmas. Thank you again for your support.



The WELCA Meeting was held on December 9, 2018 after worship. President Pam Wright called the meeting to order. Those in attendance were Cindy Mixdorf, Cassie Sage, Bobbi Seamans, Pam Wright, Kim Ala, Denise Pierce and visitor Mary Ann Miller.

**Secretary's Report:** Approved as read

**Treasurer's Report:** The income in November was \$741.08 and that was from the Thank offering, Noisy Offering and Group 2 dues. Approved.

**Mission of Growth:** No report.

**Mission of Community:** 2 birthday, 2 get well, 1 sympathy and 5 Christmas cards were sent. Approved.

**Business:** Discussed donating \$300.00 to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank and designating the money going for milk. Kim Ala will contact the food bank to get more information. Ronda Rathe will deliver the gifts to the Adopt a Family for us. Bobbie Seamans will take the donations we received to the Cedar Valley Hospice this week. We updated the WELCA Book for 2019.

Adjourn.

Secretary, Denise Pierce



*...God is wise and powerful! Praise him forever and ever. 21 He controls the times and the seasons; he makes and unmakes kings; it is he who gives wisdom and understanding. 22 He reveals things that are deep and secret; he knows what is hidden in darkness, and he himself is surrounded by light. 23 I praise you and honor you, God of my ancestors. You have given me wisdom and strength; you have answered my prayer and shown us what to tell the king."*

*Daniel 2:20-23 (TEV)*

Daniel and all of King Nebuchadnezzar's royal advisors were under the king's death sentence. It was only a whisker away from being done.

In the second year of his rule, the king had suffered from a dream and wanted to know what it meant and was determined to ask his national royal advisors about it. But there was a trick to it all: the king did not tell the advisors what the dream was; instead, (unbeknownst to Daniel) he asked his advisors to tell him what he had dreamed and what it meant.

His advisors told him that was impossible and no matter who the king asked they would not be able to tell him what the dream meant without knowing what was the dream. The king got really mad, said the advisors were a bunch of frauds, that if they really knew what they were doing they would know what he had dreamed (this is like reading the king's mind in a dream) and sentenced them all (including Daniel and his friends) to death.

When Daniel found out about it, he asked for a little more time and in a vision that night God told him what was the content of the dream and what it meant.

The long and short of it all was that Daniel got a stay of execution, explained what the king had dreamed and what it meant to Nebuchadnezzar, saved his own life and that of his friends and also the lives of the other royal advisors, and he and his friends were richly rewarded by the king. (Daniel 2)

And here, all along you were thinking that the times in which we live are governed by capricious, unstable, fluctuating, irregular decisions and hours of which we are hardly aware what is going to happen next. Imagine living in Daniel's time and under his conditions!

But you will notice that Daniel didn't get anxious or blow his cool. Instead he prayed and God answered his prayer.

I'm writing this as the year comes to a close. It's been interesting to say the least. The year ahead promises to be interesting as well. In many ways, it's like the king's dream of which he wants to tell no-one. It's closed to the knowledge of everyone except God and God has not chosen yet to open it to anyone to say nothing of what it's going to mean.

But like Daniel prays (above vs. 21), it remains true: "*He controls the times and the seasons; he makes and unmakes kings; it is he who gives wisdom and understanding.*"

I trust we can count on that for the year ahead and enter it without anxiety and not blow our cool. We like Daniel, can trust that the God who can control the times and seasons that are certainly not in our control is able to keep us in safety and provide for our needs, whatever those are going to be.

God bless us all in the New Year, Pastor T.



**January 27th**

**After Worship**



**Wednesday Evening Family Study**

**January 2nd 7 PM - 8 PM**

**Study 3: Raising Children  
Re-Establishing the Team**

**January 23rd 7 PM - 8 PM**

**Study 4: When Teens Are At Home  
Re-Establishing the Team**

**The Mustard Seed**

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

