

The Mustard Seed 2019

February Adult Class

Sundays at 8:45 AM

**February 3rd: ATWCFFADRM - All Time World Class
Free For All Discussion of Religious
Matters**

**February 10th: Family 5 - Stages: When Children
Leave Home**

February 17th: Family 6 - Stages: Retirement

February 24th: Cross Vision - Chapter 14

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:	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
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
President	Kayla Rathe	415-3230
Vice:	Ellie Magee	939-1530
Secretary:	Brooke Best	415-4351
Treasurer:	Corina Gray-Hesse	559-8663



The January 13, 2019 WELCA Meeting was called to order by President Pam Wright. Those in attendance were Cindy Mixdorf, Cassie Sage, Bobbi Seamans, Kim Ala, Pam Wright and Denise Pierce.

Secretary's Minutes: read by Denise Pierce. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: by Kim Ala. Approved.

Mission of Growth Report: Cindy Mixdorf shared a letter she received with information about the In-Gathering that is held in the spring and fall. Approved.

Mission of Community Report: 2 get well, 3 thinking of you were sent. Thank You's from Pastor T. and Cedar Valley Hospice were shared. Approved.

Business: ++The NE Iowa Synod gathering is on June 22. Pam received information on the registration forms and

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scholarship information. She will contact Diane Wills for some clarification to questions we had.

++On Friday, March 1st St. John's will be hosting the World Day of Prayer. It was decided the time would be 10 AM and will be serving coffee cake and muffins. Pam will let the other church's know about the time.

++Cassie mentioned that the price of stamps will be going up and that we should purchase a roll of stamps before the price increase. It was agreed to purchase them.

++We went through and updated the serving groups in the WELCA book.

Adjourn.

Denise Pierce, Secretary



Wednesday Night Evening Class

Wednesday, February 6th from 7 - 8 PM

Family 5: Discussing When Children Leave Home - Re-Establishing the Team

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Wednesday, February 20th from 7 - 8 PM

Family 6: Discussing Retirement Re-Establishing the Team



Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. —Ephesians 6:1-4



Do everything without complaining or arguing, 15 so that you may be innocent and pure as God's perfect children, who live in a world of corrupt and sinful people. You must shine among them like stars lighting up the sky, 16 as you offer them the message of life. If you do so, I have reason to be proud of you on the Day of Christ, because it will show that all my effort and work have not been wasted. Philippians 2:14-16 (TEV)

I need to explain some things about the letter of resignation I gave the Church Council last Sunday at the Council Meeting.

I'm resigning not because things have gone badly nor because of some kind of negative pique and not because I (nor I think you) are upset about things. On the contrary, as far as I know, things are basically going well. Many things have been wonderful to have been working with you. We certainly love you all. Rather, the reasons are outlined in the letter which will be handed out at the Annual Meeting and/or put into your boxes so everyone has access to it. The main problem is that I've slowed down physically and am not as mobile as I was at one time and in my opinion, the congregation deserves someone with more capable mobility. I creak and crawl. If you doubt that, sometime watch me try to crawl up into the stands for a Dunkerton basketball game or crawl down off the chancel staging and down the steps at worship at St. John's. I doubt that's going to get better, in spite of your concern for making mobility accommodations. There are also some timing factors in the life of the congregation involved.

I've been doing what I have for getting close to 60 years now, 58 to be exact. Think about the fact that people who work at John Deere do that for 35 and sometimes 40 years. Fifty-eight years goes a whole generation beyond that. Maybe their work is more difficult....I certainly would not say that it wasn't. But I will say that my work is hard enough.....at least I've heard more than one person say as people sometimes say of funeral directors: "I wouldn't want your job." There have been times when I wouldn't have wanted my work either!! Sixteen of those years have been working with you. That's longer than I've been anywhere. Nineteen of the other pastors who have served you here have served a shorter period of time, the longest for probably 8 or 9 years. Kids who are growing up in the parish today finishing high school would not remember any other pastor being here. There are some things that are good about that and some that probably aren't. My father served congregations until he was 80. I don't know if he could have gone much beyond that. But I'm four years beyond that and got started a year later.

As per the nuts and bolts of what's coming up....our agreement says that the congregation is to give two month's notice if she believes I've worked here long enough. You have had opportunities to give notice but it hasn't happened. I am to give two month's notice if I think that's the case. That is happening now. That time frame should allow us to take care of any "unfinished business". I suppose that is going to include cleaning up my "junk" in the pastor's office. (That's a joke!!) The year long-contract is up the end of August. (That isn't a joke!!) That's going to be the end of my work here under any circumstance. The kids have a cruise now scheduled for early September. That means that the two-month notice may last as long as 7 months from now or as soon as two months from now. For now, you will have to begin negotiations with the Northeast Iowa Synod Office as to the options that are going to "fit" for you and the next pastor (s) who will be working here with you. I wouldn't anticipate any problems with that but I won't be participatingor perhaps only in a rudimentary, basic way.... probably with some kind of exit conversation. Other than that, I step aside and they help you.

We love you all. We know some of the things with which you struggle and struggle with you. None of us would want that any other way. That's at the heart of good relationships.

God bless you and bless us all in the New Year. Pastor T.
