

**St John's Lutheran Church - Bennington**  
**Church 291-6225**  
**Website: [www.stjohnsbennington.com](http://www.stjohnsbennington.com)**  
**Pastor Beth A. Olson 319-483-8135**

**THIS WEEK AT ST JOHN'S**

Sunday: 25th	- Sunday School - 9 AM
	Worship - 10 AM
Monday: 26th	- Pastor in Office - 10 AM
Wednesday: 28th	- Pastor in Office - 4 PM
	Confirmation - 7 PM
Thursday: 29th	- Brenda in Office - 9 AM
	Pastor in Office - 10 AM
Sunday: 1st	- Sunday School - 9 AM
	Worship w/ Communion - 10 AM
	Annual Meeting

**About today:** Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy. (Sundays and Seasons)

**Thank you** to Denise Pierce for leading our worship service today! Denise is part of a trio of lay worship leaders we have at St John's, and we're thankful for them! Our sermon comes from the familiar website “A Sermon for Every Sunday” which features preachers from different faith traditions. Pastor Beth is taking a Sunday off before we make the move into Lent in a few short weeks.

**Today's Sunday School** lesson was about ‘*United in Christ (United)*’ from 1 Corinthians 1:10-18. Next Sunday, February 1, they will talk about ‘*The Beatitudes (Blessed)*’ from Matthew 5:1-12. Please let Bethany know which day you'll be able to teach the “Littles” class. Pastor Beth generally covers the “Bigs” class.

**Did you know?** Camp EWALU registration for 2026 is now open! Go to [www.ewalu.org](http://www.ewalu.org) to learn more! Construction is also underway to renovate Cedar Lodge (the main dining hall). St John's has contributed to this renovation! Dedication of the newly renovated lodge is slated for Aug. 28-30, and will include a concert by Peter Mayer, singer and songwriter from Stillwater, MN, with 11 albums to his credit. Find him on Spotify.

**Prayer of the Day**      **Third Sunday after Epiphany**      **1/25/26**

Lord God, your loving kindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen

**Ministers of Worship**

**TODAY:**

Accompanist: Laurie Thome  
Lector: Bob Hansen  
Zoom Operator: Chris Hesse  
Acolyte: Kai Snyder  
Ushers: Randy and Pam Wright;  
Kim Rigdon

**NEXT WEEK:**

Accompanist: Alex Speer  
Lector: Deanne Salisbury  
Zoom Operator: Denise Pierce  
Acolyte: Gracie Kienast  
Ushers: Greg and Denise Pierce;  
Justin Pierce  
Communion Servers: Joe and Teresa Stafford

**Fellowship**

**TODAY:**

Colin and Kai Snyder  
Family

**NEXT WEEK**

Aidan Hesse  
Family

**Attendance**

Last Sunday's Attendance: 49

Last Month Attendance Average: 70

**St. John's Annual Meeting** is next Sunday, February 1, after worship. We are hoping everyone will attend to review 2025 and look ahead to 2026. Council positions that are available for you to be a part of are: Deacon, Trustee and Financial Secretary. Back up date for the annual meeting will be Sunday, February 8.

**Please check your church mailboxes** for your 2026 offering envelopes. Also, we have online giving available through the church website. Go to [www.stjohnsbennington.com](http://www.stjohnsbennington.com), click on the offering link and set up your secure account with Vanco Services. Whether giving online or in person, your faithful, generous and regular offerings help make possible the mission and ministry God calls us through this special congregation. Thank you for your offerings! They do matter, and we're grateful.

**Lent begins Feb. 18** with Ash Wednesday worship at 7 p.m. During the season of Lent, we will also have First Communion instruction for those in grades 2 and up; families of our second graders will receive an email. First Communion will then be shared on Maundy Thursday, April 2, at the 7 pm service. We will also have a Good Friday service on April 3, also at 7.

**The LORD is my light and my salvation.** —Psalm 27:1

**Order of Service**  
**Blue Book**

Prelude	<b>GATHER</b>
Welcome and Announcements	
<b>Gathering Song</b>	<b>ELW # 513</b>
#Greeting	p. 46
#Scripture Song	p. 47
#Prayer of the Day (see left)	
Children's Message	

**WORD**

Scripture Readings	
First Lesson: Isaiah 9:1-4	
Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18	
#Gospel acclamation	p. 48
#The Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23	
Sermon	
<b>Hymn of the Day</b>	<b>ELW # 798</b>
#Apostles' Creed	p. 49
#Confession and Forgiveness	p. 50
#Sharing the Peace	
Offering	
#Offertory Song	p. 50
#Offertory Prayer	p. 51
#Prayers of Intercession	
#The Lord's Prayer	p. 52

**SEND**

#Blessing	p. 53
<b>Sending Song:</b>	<b>ELW # 674</b>

*Kids meet pastor in back during last verse of song to help; congregation response is “And have fun doing it!”*

#Dismissal

#Postlude

# - Please stand as you are able  
**WOW** - Blue Book  
**ELW** - Cranberry Book