

St John's Lutheran Church - Bennington
Church 291-6225
Website: www.stjohnsbennington.com
Pastor Beth A. Olson 319-483-8135

THIS WEEK AT ST JOHN'S

- Sunday: 30th - Sunday School Christmas Program Practice- 9 AM
Worship - 10 AM
Decorate Church after Worship
- Monday: 1st - Quilting - 9 AM
Pastor in Office - 10 AM
- Wednesday: 3rd - Pastor in Office - 4 PM
Confirmation - 7 PM
- Thursday: 4th - Brenda in Office - 9 AM
Pastor in Office - 10 AM
- Sunday: 7th - Sunday School Christmas Program Practice - 9 AM
Worship w/ Communion - 10 AM
LYO - outing and lunch
Council Meeting

About today: *The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God. (Sundays and Seasons)*

Today after worship we will decorate the church for Christmas. Please stay to help get things ready. The more, the merrier!

Sunday School kids have started practicing for the annual Christmas Program. The program will be on Sunday, Dec. 21, at 10 AM.

Next Sunday, St John's will be leading Christmas caroling at the Dunkerton Community Christmas. Be at the hall by 5:30 to sing and then we will sing again when the Christmas tree is lit at 6. The community Christmas event goes from 5-7 pm. It includes a soup supper, Santa Claus, silent auction and activities for kids and families. They will be collecting personal care items and non-perishable food for the Dunkerton Food Bank. Free will donation.

Advent Prayer **First Sunday of Advent** **11/30/25**

God of hope, awaken our hearts to you as we begin this new church year. Fill our hearts with hopeful anticipation of your coming so that when Jesus arrives, we are ready to receive him in our hearts, minds and lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord, who draws near to all humanity in love. Amen.

Ministers of Worship

- TODAY:** **NEXT WEEK:**
- Accompanist: Ahan Tandon Accompanist: Alex Speer
Lector: Bob Hansen Lector: Drew Speer
Zoom Operator: TBD Zoom Operator: Lukas Nelson
Acolyte: Kai Snyder Acolyte: Hannah Zuck
Ushers: Greg and Denise Pierce; Ushers: Larry and Dawn Best
Justin Pierce Communion Servers: Joe and Teresa Stafford

Fellowship

- TODAY:** **NEXT WEEK:**
- Kristen Best Clayton and Hannah Zuck
Family Family

Attendance

- Last Sunday's Attendance: 50 plus 2 Zoom
Last Month Attendance Average: 57

Poinsettias for the Christmas Eve worship service are \$13.00 this year. Please fill out a form in the manila envelope on the table outside the sanctuary and put your money along with the form back in the envelope by December 15.

The St. John's WELCA Christmas Family tree is up in the narthex with tags for you to take and purchase items for a family in need. Please have the gift wrapped, the tag taped on the gift and returned by December 7. If you want the women to do the shopping, you can put money in the fish bowl beside the tree. Thanks for helping a family in need at Christmas!

St. John's Christmas Choir will start practicing Sunday, Dec. 14, after church. Everyone grades 4 and up is encouraged to be a part of our informal, pick-up choir.

We are seeking donations of candy for the Christmas Eve treat sacks we hand out after the service. Please have to church by December 17.

**I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the
LORD." —Psalm 122:1**

Order of Service
Blue Book

- Prelude
- GATHER**
- Welcome and Announcements
- Gathering Song** **ELW # 266**
- #Greeting p. 46
- #Scripture Song p. 47
- Children's Message/Advent
Song —see insert
- Advent litany and candle lighting
- Advent Prayer (see left)

WORD

- Scripture Readings
- First Lesson: Isaiah 2:1-5
- Second Lesson: Romans 13:11-14
- #Gospel acclamation p. 48
- #The Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44
- Sermon
- Hymn of the Day** **ELW # 250**
- #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
- Sending Song:** **ELW # 239**
- Kids meet pastor in back during last
verse of song to help; congregation
response is "And have fun doing it!"***
- #Dismissal p. 53
- #Postlude

- Please stand as you are able
WOV - Blue Book
ELW - Cranberry Book