

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: 22nd - Sunday School - 9 AM
 Worship - 10 AM
 Monday: 23rd - Pastor in Office - 10 AM
 Wednesday: 25th - Pastor in Office - 4 PM
 Confirmation - 7 PM
 Thursday: 26th - Brenda in Office - 9 AM
 Pastor in Office - 10 AM
 Lutheran Day on the Hill, Des Moines
 Sunday: 1st - Sunday School - 9 AM
 Worship w/ Communion - 10 AM

About today: Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead. (Sundays and Seasons)

Today's Sunday School lesson was about 'Adam & Eve, (Consequence)' from Genesis 2:15-17; Genesis 3:1-7. Next Sunday, March 1, the lesson will be about 'Jesus and Nicodemus, (Eternal)' from John 3:1-17.

Please let Bethany know of your availability to help with Sunday School as we come into the last couple of months of classes. Thank you!

Lent Services - next one will be on Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 7 PM and on Good Friday, April 3 at 7 PM. Easter worship will be on April 5, at 7 AM and the LYO Easter Breakfast will follow worship.

First Communion instruction will be for those in 2nd grade. Those families will receive an email. Tentative dates are March 28 and 29 for two identical session; families will need to attend only one of those sessions with a parent or grandparent along with the 2nd grader.

First Communion will then be shared on Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 7 PM worship.

Prayer of the Day First Sunday in Lent 2/22/26

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Ministers of Worship

TODAY:

Accompanist: Kevin Du
 Lector: Dawn Best
 Zoom Operator: Lukas Nelson
 Acolyte: Lillian Pierce
 Ushers: Marshall and Julie Mixdorf

NEXT WEEK:

Accompanist: Laurie Thome
 Lector: Denise Pierce
 Zoom Operator: Denise Pierce
 Acolyte: Kai Snyder
 Ushers: Dan and Deanne Salisbury
 Communion Servers: Jon and Ronda Rathe

March Communion Bread Maker: Mary Ann Miller

Fellowship

TODAY:

Lillian and Greyson Pierce
 Family

NEXT WEEK:

Alivia Stafford
 Family

Attendance

Last Sunday's Attendance: 61 plus 3 Zoom
 Ash Wednesday Attendance: 40
 Last Month Attendance Average: 38

Special Mission Collection: Paper products! From now through May 24, we will gather paper products of various kinds for the Dunkerton Food Bank. Denise S says "there's always a need." Please bring in paper towels, napkins, toilet paper, paper plates/bowls/glasses anytime between now and May 24. Thank you!

Did you know? Hymn 338 was written originally as meditation by Elizabeth Clephane the year before she died. Clephane was born in Edinburgh; when father died, she and her two sisters moved near the home of Sir Walter Scott. While there, they devoted themselves to works of charity. Even though Clephane had been sickly from her youth, she served the poor and despite her own health was known as "Sunbeam." She died before she was 39. Clephane's hymns were popularized in the US by Ira Sankey, musical assistant to the revivalist Dwight Moody. (*Hymnal Companion to ELW*, pg. 133.)

**Mercy embraces those
 who trust in the LORD.**
 —Psalm 32:10

Order of Service
Blue Book

Prelude

GATHER

Welcome and Announcements
Gathering Song **ELW # 338**
 #Greeting p. 46
 #Scripture Song p. 47
 #Prayer of the Day (see left)
 Children's Message

WORD

Scripture Readings
 First Lesson: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
 Second Lesson: Romans 5:12-19
 #Gospel acclamation p. 48
 #The Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11
 Sermon
Hymn of the Day **ELW # 808**
 #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 # 613**

**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