

The Mustard Seed*

Newsletter for members and friends of
St. John's Lutheran Church, Waterloo
(Bennington) ELCA



2025



Though there is still a chill in the air on occasion, the days are getting brighter, longer and warmer. Bulbs are emerging, trees are starting to set buds, and Easter decorations are prominent in stores. Yes, new life is on its way.

What does new life look like for you? Is it changing patterns? Is it trying new ideas? Is it planting something different this year? Is it being kind to yourself? Our God is a God who calls us into (see column, right)

Key dates to be aware of:

April 6: Sunday School at 9; worship @ 10 with communion, quilt blessing and special music.

13: Sunday School; 10 Worship; 3-4:30 1st HC Class

16: 4-5:30 p.m.: First HC class

17: Maundy Thursday worship at 7 with First Communion for our second grade students

18: Good Friday worship at 7.

19: Holy Saturday bonfire and stories of faith, 7 p.m.

20: Easter worship @7 AM followed by LYO Breakfast and Egg Hunt for younger youth.

21: Office closed

23: Confirmation, 7 pm

24: Synod Day of Renewal for Ministers—Camp EWALU

27: Last day of Sunday School; worship at 10; church council

May 4: Honor graduating HS seniors @ 10 worship.

11: Worship @ 10

18: Worship with communion @10.

25: Worship at 10. Switch to 9 a.m. church on June 1

newness, who calls us forward.

Easter sings of God's renewal! God's work doesn't stop at death. Easter proclaims that from an empty tomb and through a risen Christ!

On one of the walls in my basement, I have a poster near the workout area. It says, "Your speed doesn't matter. Forward is forward."

And it is true. What matters is to keep moving: in our physical lives, in our spiritual lives and more.

It can be easy to get caught up in the dizzying pace of life, thinking we have to get all things done all the time. But we don't.

When I buried a woman who died in her mid-80s a number of years ago, her daughters told me that their mother had told them, "You can have it all. Just not all at the same time." There's wisdom in that.

There's also freedom in that statement—and maybe even new life. Just remember: your speed doesn't matter. Forward is forward.

God is one who brings new life, regardless of our speed! Thanks be!

Note Newsletter Schedule:

Summer newsletter schedule will be **May-June** coming out in mid-May. **Articles due May 1.** The **July-August** edition will come out in mid-July. **Articles due July 3.** Please get items in accordingly. Pictures welcomed!

***Why "The Mustard Seed?"** In Matthew 17 and Luke 17, Jesus said that mustard seed size faith is enough. God is the one who makes things happen! Even a little belief is enough from us! This newsletter is a little glimpse into life here at SJB. Enjoy! We're also on Facebook! Look for the church page and the youth and Sunday school page, too

Council highlights

The council met on March 16. Opening reports were shared. February offerings were a bit low; weather did not help. Conversation about encouraging online giving and using the church website for that.

Pastor's report: the past month has been one mainly of preparing for Lenten worship, regular Sunday worship, writing curriculum for Sunday School and getting ready for First Communion Classes. Administrative work and a few visits also filled the month.

Sunday School is going well and will wrap up the end of April.

Deacons discussed the need for a little more instruction for communion servers since this is still new for SJB; pastor to send out note/month to servers.

Trustees: facility usage plan still under development; also discussing the memorial bench placement as part of outdoor worship area.

Old Business: Working on getting church Amazon account for Blink camera system. (Currently using a personal Amazon account for this.) Tabled the county property update.

New Business: Holy Week and Easter schedule reviewed.

Spring spruce-up day discussed. (Later discovered that dates will conflict with graduation, so this is on hold.)

Two accompanists will graduate, Britain and Cedric; office to contact Wartburg College for possible names.

Meeting adjourned @12:03 with The Lord's Prayer

Puzzle!

First, write the word that fits each definition. Then transfer those letters to the correct numbered lines below, completing John 20:17 (NIV). Finally, unscramble the circled letters to complete the sentence at the bottom.

1. Water that falls from the sky 1 2 3 4

2. Birds lay these in a nest 5 6 7 8

3. A newly hatched hen 9 10 11 12 13

4. These bloom in spring 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

5. A caterpillar transformed 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29

6. Dirt mixed with water 30 31 32

J 5 8 31 20 8 2 3 32 ... " I 2 30

2 20 12 25 4 32 11 4 6 24 16 30 29

F 2 23 10 18 26 2 4 32 29 16 22 1

F 2 24 10 25 19 23 16 30 29 G 16 32

2 4 32 29 16 31 1 G 16 32 "

John 20:17, NIV

Jesus has _____!

Answers: rain, eggs, chick, flowers, butterfly, mud; Jesus said ... "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." (John 20:17, NIV) Jesus has risen!

God Provides!

In the Sunday School lesson on March 23, about how God provides, we learned from Isaiah 55 that God provides for people. Following that, Bethany used one of the curriculum exploration ideas, and students and families made pine cone peanut butter birdseed feeders. God provides for birds and animals too!



Make one at home: find a pine cone, smear it with peanut butter, tie a string around it, and then roll it in bird seed on a plate or put the pine cone in a big enough can with birdseed in it so that you can shake, shake, shake the pinecone to get it coated.



Wreath Making with Julie Magee & Friends on March 2

Julie and friends taught a class on how to make an ornament wreath. Both Christmas and Easter were well represented!

Thanks to Deanne for the chili lunch and to all who brought side dishes and who came, too!



A picture is worth a thousand words: below, we are squishing together inside a prayer shawl to bring to life the lesson from March 16: Jesus' desire to gather up Jerusalem under his wings like a mother hen gathers up her chicks.

—Picture from Allyson Kitch.





EASTER SUNDAY



Festive Easter Worship at
7 a.m. Bring your friends and
family! Sing the Alleluias and
share in communion!

Breakfast Pizza after
worship, served by our
Lutheran Youth and
their families.

After breakfast egg hunt
for the younger youth
put on by the older youth
of the congregation.



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St. John's Lutheran Church (Bennington)

4110 East Mount Vernon Rd

Waterloo, IA 50703

worship@stjohnsbennington.com

319-291-6225

On the web: www.stjohnsbennington.com

Find and follow us on **Facebook**, too!

