

**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: 4th - **No Sunday School; pool party kick-off was Saturday**  
Worship w/ Communion - 10 AM  
UNDECORATE the church to prepare for Epiphany
- Monday: 5th - Quilting - 9 AM
- Tuesday: 6th - Epiphany
- Wednesday: 7th - Pastor in Office - 4 PM  
Confirmation - 7 PM
- Thursday: 8th - Brenda in Office - 9 AM  
Pastor in Office - 10 AM
- Sunday: 11th - Sunday School - 9 AM  
Worship - 10 AM  
LYO Meeting

**About today:** *Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth. (Sundays and Seasons)*

**Pastor Beth will be spending time** with her daughter and son-in-law this week while they are home from Texas; she will be in and out of the office and can be contacted in the event of an emergency.

**Monthly Newsletter** - This past Tuesday, the newsletter was sent out via email, if you did not receive it, please let Brenda know, so she can make sure you get it. If you want a paper copy in your church mail box, also please let Brenda know. Thanks!

**St. John's Annual Meeting** is planned for Sunday, Feb. 1, after worship. Positions available this year are for a Deacon, Financial Secretary and Trustee. If interested talk to a current council member. Back up date for annual meeting is Sunday, Feb. 8.

**Prayer of the Day**      **Second Sunday of Christmas**      **1/4/26**  
Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through 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:**      **NEXT WEEK:**  
Accompanist: Sarah Best      Accompanist: Sarah Best  
Lector: Denise Pierce      Lector: Drew Speer  
Zoom Operator: Bobbi Seamans      Zoom Operator: Denise Pierce  
Acolyte: Deacons      Acolyte: Gracie Kienast  
Ushers: Jim and Kathy Mixdorf      Ushers: Joe and Teresa Stafford  
Communion Servers: Kim Rigdon and Jessica Huntley  
January Communion Bread Maker - Deanne Salisbury

**Fellowship**

- TODAY:**      **NEXT WEEK**  
Allie Happel      Gracie Kienast  
Family      Family

**Attendance**

- Christmas Eve Attendance: 157 plus 4 Zoom  
Last Sunday's Attendance: 33 plus 4 Zoom  
Last Month Attendance Average: 70

**All are welcomed at God's table at St. John's, Bennington today!** We will commune using little cups and gluten-free bread. White grape juice is available in the center of each tray. Those not communing are invited forward for a blessing, and all are welcome at God's table at St. John's!

**Sunday School resumes** next Sunday, January 11, 9 AM. The topic will be *A Light to the Nations (Light)* from Isaiah 42:1-9. Sunday School "Sing and Share" will be Jan. 18, with "Jesus Loves Me" being the song!

**Did you know?** Ancient and modern hymns pair together today.  
**Hymn 295** was written in the 5th century by Marcus Auerlius Clemens Prudentius. He was born in northern Spain. He was well-educated and served as a lawyer, judge, civil servant and scholar. At age 57, he gave all that up and withdrew to a monastery and devoted his life to prayer and writing. His longer poems became the basis for hymns such as 295.

**Hymn 857** is on the modern end of the spectrum. Rick Founds wrote the text to express delight in God. It was the number one worship song in the 1990s. Founds does research and development at a fiber optics company; he has written over 500 praise songs and been a worship leader since his teenage years.

**Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion.**  
**—Psalm 147:12**

**Order of Service**

- Prelude
- GATHER**  
Welcome and Announcements  
**#Gathering Song**      **ELW # 522**  
#Greeting      p. 203  
#Glory be to God      p. 204  
#Prayer of the Day (see left)      p. 205  
Children's Message

**WORD**

- Scripture Readings:      p. 205  
First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14  
#Gospel Acclamation      p. 205  
#Holy Gospel: John 1:[1-9] 10-18  
Sermon  
**Hymn of the Day**      **ELW # 295**  
#Apostles' Creed      p. 105  
#Prayers of Intercession  
Offering  
#Offertory Song      **ELW # 182**  
#Offertory Prayer

**MEAL**

- #The Great Thanksgiving      p. 206  
*and following pages.*  
The Lord's Prayer      p. 208  
Lamb of God      p. 208  
Distribution  
**Hymn During Distribution**      **ELW # 487**  
#Post Communion Prayer

**SEND**

- #Blessing      p. 209  
**#Sending Song**      **ELW # 857**
- Kids meet pastor in back during last verse of song to help; congregation response is "And have fun doing it!"***  
#Dismissal      p. 209  
#Postlude

# - Please stand as you are able

**ELW** - Cranberry Book