

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: 20th - Sunday School – 9 AM
Worship w/ Communion – 10 AM
Council Meeting
- Monday: 21st - Pastor in Office – 10 AM
- Tuesday: 22nd - First Day of Fall!
- Wednesday: 23rd - Pastor in Office – 4 PM
Confirmation – 7 PM
- Thursday: 24th - Brenda in Office – 9 AM
Pastor in Office – 10 AM
- Sunday: 27th - Sunday School – 9 AM
Worship – 10 AM

~~~~~  
**About today:** *Matthew narrates one of Jesus’ controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God’s mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God’s mercy we are all beggars. (Sundays and Seasons)*

**Thank you to everyone** who helped with Welcome Sunday! A terrific potluck, good conversation and indoor service projects made for a good morning together. Thanks to your generosity with school supplies, we packed 50 backpacks, a 25% increase! We made progress on finishing another mat for the Midwest Mission program. Outdoor projects got rained out. Even so, good job to all who helped!

**This morning we started another year of Sunday School. Hurray!** New this year, we will give our 3 year old preschool students a Frolic Preschool Bible. This will be our entry ritual going forward each year, too! Thank you to all our families for your involvement. If you’re interested in helping, please let Bethany know. There’s room for you!

**Bibles for third grade students** will be distributed Oct. 4 and Oct. 11. They will receive Connect Bibles, the bible we’ll use for grades 4-6 Sunday School!

**Prayer of the Day**     **Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**     **9/20/26**  
Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

~~~~~

Ministers of Worship

TODAY:	NEXT WEEK:
Accompanist: Alex Speer	Accompanist: Ahan Tandon
Lector: Bob Hansen	Lector: Jessica Huntley
Zoom Operator: Chris Hesse	Zoom Operator: Lukas Nelson
Acolyte: Gracie Kienast	Acolyte: Kinzley Stafford
Ushers: Marshall and Julie Mixdorf	Ushers: Dan and Deanne Salisbury
Communion Servers: Jon and Ronda Rathe	
September Altar Guild: Pam Wright, Bobbi Seamans, Kim Rigdon	

Fellowship

TODAY:	NEXT WEEK:
Allie Happel	Alivia Stafford
Family	Family

Attendance

Last Sunday’s Attendance: 60 plus 2 Zoom
Last Month Attendance Average: 37

~~~~~

**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!

**St. John’s WELCA** is having a Chicken and Noodles Lunch to Go! Meal includes chicken and noodles, roll, relish and bar. Pick up at church next Sunday, 9-27, from 11 – 12noon. **RSVP required**, so the women have enough food prepped. Sign up on the clipboard at church, contact Pam Wright or send an email to the church. **Freewill offering meal** will help fund a combination water fountain/bottle-filler. Thank you!

**Travel Fun Fall Field Trip** with NE IA Women of the ELCA is Saturday, October 17. Come join in an adventure exploring Waterloo/Cedar Falls sites. RSVP by October 1. See bulletin board for further details.

**The LORD is slow to anger and  
abounding in steadfast love.  
–Psalm 145:8**

**Order of Service**

Prelude

**GATHER**

Welcome and Announcements

**#Gathering Song**     **ELW # 685**

#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: Jonah 3:10—4:11

Second Lesson: Philippians 1:21-30

#Gospel Acclamation     p. 205

#Holy Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Sermon

**Hymn of the Day**     **ELW # 765**

#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

#Post Communion Prayer

**SEND**

#Blessing     p. 209

**#Sending Song**     **ELW # 669**

***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**