

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: 26th - Worship – 9 AM
Kayaking at George Wyth State Park – 1 PM
Monday: 27th - Brenda in Office – 9 AM
Pastor in Office - 10 AM
Wednesday: 29th - Pastor in Office – 1:30 PM
Thursday: 30th - Pastor in Office – 10 AM
Sunday: 2nd - Worship w/ Communion – 9 AM

About today: *As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today’s gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God’s reign, the great surprise is that God’s grace finds us first! (Sundays and Seasons)*

St. John’s Kayak is TODAY, 1 PM, at the George Wyth State Park; follow the sign that says “Alice Wyth Lake—boat ramp—fishing jetty.” Bring your own beverages/snacks, lifejackets, sunscreen, and kayaks if you have your own; otherwise Dan and Deanne have a number we can borrow from.

School Supply Drive for Lutheran World Relief has begun. For the backpacks we need: black and blue ink pens (not gel), unsharpened #2 pencils, pencil sharpeners, 2.5” erasers, blunt scissors, rulers with centimeters, packs of 16 or 24 crayons, and 70 page spiral notebooks. We will be packing 40 backpacks this fall.

Pastor Beth to participate in Grandview University’s “The Jordan Project,” a 10-month program. The goals of this project are to: provide radical hospitality, equip pastors and congregation members with opportunities for their history, values and mission; walk alongside the congregation as they innovate. Result will be a congregation-community project. Pastor will be in Des Moines August 3 – 5 for the program launch and to meet her cohort group. Upon her return, she’ll put together a team of folks to work alongside her via alternating in-person guided meetings and Zoom sessions.

Prayer of the Day **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost** **7/26/26**
Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Ministers of Worship

TODAY:	NEXT WEEK:
Accompanist: Summer Lim	Accompanist: Alex Speer
Lector: Dawn Best	Lector: Jessica Huntley
Zoom Operator: TBA	Zoom Operator: Bobbi Seamans
Acolyte: Deacons	Acolyte: Deacons
Ushers: Larry and Dawn Best	Ushers: Jim and Kathy Mixdorf
	Communion Servers: Joe and Teresa Stafford
	August Communion Bread Maker: Deanne Salisbury

Fellowship

TODAY:	NEXT WEEK:
Allie Happel	Alivia Stafford
Family	Family

Attendance

Last Sunday’s Attendance: 38 plus 2 Zoom
Last Month Attendance Average: 43

Vacation Bible School LINK: <https://forms.gle/T9evAY4UZ1`I6U9p8>
-there is still time to get signed up as vacation bible school is planned for Sunday, August 9 starting at 2:30 PM here at the church. We are preparing to take the kids into “Galaxy: Launching on a Mission of God’s Love.” We will then have a pizza supper followed by swimming at the Tripoli pool from 6-8 PM. If you are able to help, you can sign up on the link. The clipboard will come around again today, too.

Did you know? Hymn #793, Be Thou My Vision, is an Irish hymn found in two eighth century manuscripts in the Royal Irish Academy Library. It is a *lorica* or breastplate, defined as a prayer for protection. In this case, today’s hymn is seen as a prayer for the indwelling of Christ and for his attributes to imbue, surround and guide a person. People may also recognize this tune as it’s the accompaniment for *Lord of All Hopefulness*. (Material from Hymnal Companion to ELW.)

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding.
–Psalm 119:130

Order of Service
Blue Book

Prelude
GATHER
Welcome and Announcements
Gathering Song **ELW # 532**
#Greeting p. 46
#Scripture Song p. 47
#Prayer of the Day (see left)
Children’s Message
WORD
Scripture Readings
First Lesson: 1 Kings 3:5-12
Second Lesson: Romans 8:26-39
#Gospel acclamation p. 48
#The Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
Sermon
Hymn of the Day **WOV # 783**
#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 # 793**
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