

**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: 3rd - Sunday School - 9 AM
Worship w/ Communion - 10 AM
Exec Team budget prep mtg—
small conference room- 11 AM
- Monday: 4th - Quilting - 9 AM
Pastor in Office - 10 AM
- Wednesday: 6th - Pastor in Office - 4 PM; Confirmation - 7 PM
- Thursday: 7th - Brenda in Office - 9 AM; Pastor in Office - 10 AM
- Saturday: 9th - Maddens use Fellowship Hall
- Sunday: 10th - Sunday School - 9 AM: party and costumes
Worship - 10 AM
LYO pizza and bowling: get your numbers to Kelli!
WELCA Meeting
Kuenstlings use Fellowship Hall

About today: Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come. (Sundays and Seasons)

Poinsettias for the Christmas Eve worship service are \$10 this year. Please fill out a form in the manila envelope on the table outside the sanctuary and put your money along w/ the form back in the envelope **by December 11.**

Sunday School next week will be part Christmas party/part costume preparation for Dec. 17. Families are welcome to stay and help especially with costuming and labeling.

It's a clipboard Sunday for the Christmas program! Listen for how you can be involved. There's room for everyone!

Thank you to Teresa Stafford for the beautiful flowers on the altar today!

LYO Pizza and bowling is next Sunday after church. Please let Kelli know how many are coming from your family/friend group.

Advent Blessing Prayer First Sunday of Advent 12/3/23

Praise to you, O God our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace. Amen

Ministers of Worship

TODAY:

Ushers: Snyder Family
Lector: Kelli or Colin Snyder
Accompanist: Laurie Thome
Acolyte: Jackson Fuelling
Zoom Operator: Kirby Marquart

NEXT WEEK:

Ushers: Josh Hoffman / Jerry Mixdorf
Lector: Josh Hoffman
Accompanist: Britain Atkins
Acolyte: Clayton Zuck
Zoom Operator: Lukas Nelson

Fellowship

TODAY:

Noah and Ava Fuelling
Family

NEXT WEEK

Alex Huntley
Family

Attendance

Last Sunday's Attendance: 32 plus 1 Zoom

All are welcomed at God's table at St. John's, Bennington today! Gluten-free communion kits are available as are those with grape juice. Simply indicate to the pastor that you need gluten-free and she will give you a gluten-free kit. Those not communing are invited forward for a blessing.

The church council is seeking a deacon, a trustee and a council secretary to serve for a three year term. Deacons tend the worship, outreach and education life of the church, and Trustees tend to property and financial matters. The council secretary takes the minutes and posts those to the pastor and secretary. Time commitment is typically one meeting a month after church on the third Sunday. Extra duties involve helping with worship, meeting with business reps as needed and prepping for clean-up days as schedules allow. Please consider if God may be calling you to serve in this way. New terms start after the January annual meeting.

2023 Ushers / Lectors please let Brenda know if you **do not** want to be on the 2024 rotation, as she will start assembling the 2024 schedule next week. **If you want to be an usher or lector** let Brenda know in the office.

Dunkerton Community Christmas is tonight 5-7 pm at the Dunkerton Community Hall. Homemade soups, fun activities and Santa. Lighting of tree at 6 pm. Free will donation. Non-perishable food items and toiletries are welcomed for the local food bank.

**Let your face shine upon us,
and we shall be saved.
—Psalm 80:7**

Order of Service

Prelude

GATHER

Welcome and Announcements
Confession and Forgiveness
(back of prayer list)
#Gathering Song ELW # 257 vs. 1-4
#Greeting p. 203
Advent Wreath Lighting
Advent Blessing Prayer (see left)
Advent Song: We Light a Candle, vs. 1

Children's Message

WORD

Scripture Readings: p. 205
First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9
Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
#Gospel Acclamation p. 205
#The Gospel: Mark 13:24-37
Sermon
Hymn of the Day ELW # 244
#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
#Post Communion Prayer

SEND

#Blessing p. 209
#Sending Song ELW # 257 vs. 5-8

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