

# The Mustard Seed 2019

## March Adult Class

**March 3rd: Family 6 - Stages: Retirement - Re-establishing the Team**

**March 10th: Family 7 - Stages: Helping Each Other Get Ready to Die - Re-establishing the Team**

**March 17th: ATWCFFADRM - Free For All Discussion of Religious Matters**

**March 24th: Family 8 - Stages: Conflict in Marriage A**

**March 31st: ATWCFFADRM - Free For All Discussion of Religious Matters**

St. John's Bennington Lutheran Church Council met on Sunday, January 20, 2019 after worship. Those present were Pastor Ericson, Jim Fettkether, Dennis Magee, Jerry Mixdorf, Jim Mixdorf, Jeff Seamans, Drew Speer, Pastor Thalacker and Brandy Zuck. Those absent were Joe Stafford and Kayla Stafford.

Meeting was called to order by Dennis Magee. Opening prayer given by Pastor Thalacker.

**Secretary's Minutes:** None.

**Financial Report:** given by Brandy Zuck.

**Financial Secretary's Report:** given by Jim Mixdorf. Both financial reports approved.

**President's Report:** by Dennis Magee. Letter from a former member of St. John's inquiring about burial in church cemetery. Jim Mixdorf will discuss with cemetery committee.

**Pastor's Report:** by Pastor Thalacker. Gideon's will present during February 10th worship service. Wartburg requested to bring an instrumental ensemble to a service. Decided not to pursue. Pastor Thalacker tendered his resignation to be effective in 2 months with the caveat that he is willing to continue to serve the congregation until the end of August if needed. Additionally, Pastor Ericson will end his service with Pastor Thalacker. To be further discussed at annual meeting.

**Old Business:** New potential council members.

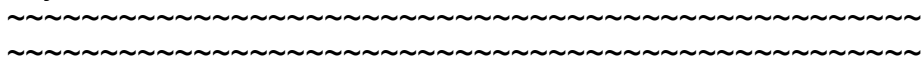
**New Business:** none.

### Church Council

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| President of the Congregation:   |          |
| Jeff Seamans                     | 292-1967 |
| Deacons:                         |          |
| Drew Speer                       | 830-6820 |
| Denise Pierce                    | 939-5623 |
| Trustees:                        |          |
| Jim Fettkether                   | 822-2482 |
| Joe Stafford                     | 822-2441 |
| Jerry Mixdorf                    | 822-7475 |
| Treasurer:                       |          |
| Brandy Zuck                      | 721-9692 |
| Secretary:                       |          |
| Kayla Stafford                   | 215-7443 |
| Financial Secretary:             |          |
| Brenda Clark                     | 822-4465 |
| <b>Finance Committee:</b>        |          |
| Bob Hansen                       | 822-7849 |
| Chris Michels                    | 269-9156 |
| <b>Women of the ELCA Leaders</b> |          |
| President:                       |          |
| Pam Wright                       | 827-3487 |
| Vice President:                  |          |
| Bobbi Seamans                    | 230-0016 |
| Secretary:                       |          |
| Denise Pierce                    | 939-5623 |
| Treasurer:                       |          |
| Kim Ala                          | 822-2486 |
| Mission of Growth:               |          |
| Cindy Mixdorf                    | 822-4503 |
| Mission of Community:            |          |
| Cassie Sage                      | 822-9470 |
| Wedding Coordinator:             |          |
| Mary Jane Averhoff               | 830-3449 |
| Emilee Miller                    | 939-8570 |
| Funeral Coordinator:             |          |
| Kathy Gallmeyer                  | 404-4131 |
| Teresa Stafford                  | 230-7445 |
| <b>The Staff</b>                 |          |
| Church Office:                   | 291-6225 |
| Pastor Thalacker                 | 287-7836 |
| Pastor Ericson                   | 277-1880 |
| Email: billthalacker@yahoo.com   |          |
| Secretary:                       |          |
| Brenda Clark                     | 822-4465 |
| cell phone                       | 290-2159 |
| worship@stjohnsbennington.com    |          |
| Janitor:                         |          |
| Cassie Sage                      | 822-9470 |
| Sunday School Superintendent:    |          |
| Kelli Snyder                     | 404-1214 |
| <b>LYO Youth Leader:</b>         |          |
| Teresa Stafford                  | 230-7445 |
| <b>President</b>                 |          |
| Kayla Rathe                      | 415-3230 |
| <b>Vice:</b> Ellie Magee         | 939-1530 |
| <b>Secretary:</b>                |          |
| Brooke Best                      | 415-4351 |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>                |          |
| Corina Gray-Hesse                | 559-8663 |

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**Announcements:** Annual Meeting will be next Sunday, January 27, 2019 after worship  
Adjourn



St. John's Bennington Lutheran Church Annual Meeting was held on Sunday January 27, 2019 after worship.

Meeting was called to order by Dennis Magee. Opening prayer was given by Pastor Thalacker.

**Secretary's Minutes:** by Kayla Stafford.

**President's Report:** by Dennis Magee. Thank you to the congregation.

**Financial Secretary's Report:** by Jim Mixdorf.

**Treasurer's Report:** by Brandy Zuck. Both financial reports approved.

**Yearly Budget Report:** by Brandy Zuck. Approved.

**Old Business:** none.

**New Business:** Pastor Retirement by Pastor Thalacker. Thank you to the congregation and the efforts throughout the year.

**Good news:** many baptisms; **Bad news:** worship attendance down. **Leaving / retirement announcement:** flexibility on the date (in 2 months or to end of contract date in August). **Process:** synod has congregation do a self-study. There may be a period of interim, part- or full-time, contract or not.

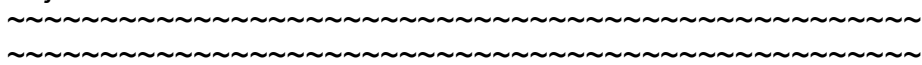
**Pastor Ericson** views his work in conjunction with Pastor Thalacker so will be leaving upon Pastor Thalacker's end of term. **Next steps by Jeff Seamans:** contact synod, council discussions, and call committee. **Call Committee:** Dawn Best, Jerry Mixdorf, Jeff Seamans, Kelli Snyder, Kayla Stafford, Quincy Zuck, Pam Wright.

**Lenten service and supper** discussion by Pastor Thalacker and Dennis Magee. WELCA no longer will be doing suppers on Wednesday nights. LYO had not discussed this - Teresa Stafford will talk with LYO students / parents. Ash Wednesday service and meal will continue. Lenten services will continue, meals from LYO are to be determined at this time.

**Council Terms to Vote on:** Deacon (formerly Dennis Magee) Denise Pierce for this position. Trustee (formerly Joe Stafford) Joe Stafford will stay on for this position. Financial Secretary (formerly Jim Mixdorf) Brenda Clark for this position. All approved for these replacements on council.

**Announcements:** Next council meeting will be on February 17, 2019 after worship.

Adjourn.



There was no February council meeting as worship was cancelled due to a snow storm.



**PVT Schrage, Samuel RN: 417**

A Co, 1st BN 19th IN

8775 Albanese Drive

BLDG 3240

Ft. Benning, GA 31905

(Left in December '18 for military)

**PVT Magee, Charles**

2nd Platoon, Evil Troop

5 - 15th CAV, 194th AR BDE

Ft. Benning, GA 31905

(Left in January '19 for military)

*Dear Lord,*

*Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the men and women who serve our country now and in the past, and for the sacrifices their families make so that we can all enjoy the blessing of freedom. We praise you for calling them to help protect us, and for giving them the courage and ability to do their jobs well. Guide their choices and their actions, Lord. Help them to see you working in their daily lives, whether in the field, at home, or abroad. Surround them with your mighty angels; protect them in your mercy; cover them with your grace. Guard their hearts while they are far from loved ones, and bless them with moments to cherish when they are together. Hold these families close, Lord. May they look to You for the strength and peace that only You can give. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen.*



***Words From Our Pastor:*** *He gives a command to the earth, and what he says is quickly done. 16 He spreads snow like a blanket and scatters frost like dust. 17 He sends hail like gravel; no one can endure the cold he sends! 18 Then he gives a command, and the ice melts; he sends the wind, and the water flows. Psalm 147:15-18 (TEV)*

I read the other day in the newspaper that in eight weeks the farmers will be planting corn. But for now, snow, snow, snow, snow....etc. with more on the way. That's what I hear almost everyone talking about right now, not corn planting. I heard on the weather report last night that we've already set a record for snow-fall for the month of February for Waterloo with more on the way....twice more this week. There was a TV news story (with pictures) that noted that people were running out of places to pile it up. I mentioned to Jim and Brenda the other day, that the very large snow piles were making me almost claustrophobic. The lanes in the streets keep getting more and more narrow.

The latitude of Palestine is close to that of central Texas and it's a relatively arid climate so/ but they do get snow once in a while....I seem to recall a tour guide saying sometime that Jerusalem gets measurable snow about once every six years I also recall that they've also gotten snow already this year on at least one occasion. Anyway the Bible and the Psalmist know about snow. It's mentioned about 2 ½ dozen times in the Bible as with references above. For the Psalmist things snow were and frost and hail were something of an amazement.

We may find other sources for the changes in the weather that we experience. We (for better or worse) are the children of the Enlightenment. We want to figure things out scientifically and underwrite the things that we believe rationally and have a reason for them. And we are sometimes amazed by that. But even more amazing for the Psalmist (I want to say this correctly) was God. The Psalmist didn't know about polar vortexes and high and low pressure areas and high and low fronts. The Psalmist could really find no other source for the changes experienced than the mind and hand and command of God.

Maybe that's not so bad. After all, don't people still say, "Everybody talks about the weather but no one does anything about it." Even I say when someone asks if I can't do something about the weather, "Sorry, I'm with sales, not management!"

I'm going to trust God to take care of the weather....but at the same time I'm ( a child of the Enlightenment) going to do what I can to take care of this earth on which we live. I suspect that God has given us some responsibility here for that along with some other things.

God bless you and bless us all in the New Year. Pastor T.

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**The Mustard Seed**

**St. John's Lutheran Church (Bennington)**  
**4110 East Mount Vernon Rd**  
**Waterloo , IA 50703**

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