

# The Mustard Seed 2019

## May Adult Class

**May 5th: ATWCFFADRM - Free For All  
Discussion of Religious Matters**

**May 12th: Cross Vision - Chapter 16 and  
Postscript**

**May 19th: ATWCFFADRM - Free For All  
Discussion of Religious Matters**

**St. John's Bennington Lutheran Church Council** met on Sunday, March 17, 2019 after worship. Meeting was called to order by President Jeff Seamans. Pastor Thalacker opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Secretary's Minutes:** None.

**Treasurer Report:** by Brandy Zuck. Approved.

**Financial Secretary Report:** by Brenda Clark. Approved.

**President's Report:** by Jeff Seamans. Shared a thank you from Brett Rathe for the scholarship; provided information on the Northeast Iowa Synod Assembly meeting; Pastor Brackett will meet with the council and call committee at 7 PM on April 4th.

**Pastor's Report:** Made correction to the council contact list.

**Committee Report:** Finance Committee –approved Gary Mixdorf to be on the committee. Cemetery Committee – approved Jerry Gallmeyer to be on the committee. Approved.

**New Business:** Brenda Clark inquired about contacting Wartburg student organists for the summer. Approved.

*Cont. on Page 2*

### 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
	Gary Mixdorf	822-4503
<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
<u>President</u>	Kayla Rathe	415-3230
<u>Vice:</u>	Ellie Magee	939-1530
<u>Secretary:</u>	Brooke Best	415-4351
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Corina Gray-Hesse	559-8663

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**Announcements:** Next council meeting will be April 14th. Adjourn. All stood and said The Lord's Prayer.

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**St. John's Bennington Lutheran Church Council** met on Sunday, April 14, 2019 after worship.

Present: Brenda Clark, Jim Fettkether, Jerry Mixdorf, Denise Pierce, Jeff Seamans, Joe Stafford, Kayla Stafford and Pastor Thalacker. Absent: Pastor Ericson, Drew Speer and Brandy Zuck. Meeting called to order by President Jeff Seamans. Pastor Thalacker opened with a prayer.

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

**Treasurer Report:** by Jeff Seamans.

**Financial Secretary's Report:** by Brenda Clark  
Financial reports approved.

**President's Report:** none

**Pastor's Report:** by Pastor Thalacker. Exit interview distributed. Certification of Completion of All Obligations will be coming.

**Deacon's Report:** by Denise Pierce. Oven in the kitchen isn't working; WELCA is replacing before Easter service on Sunday.

**Cemetery Report:** Double checking costs and layout. At getting church plot on computer.

**Call Committee:** Pastor Brackett gave 4 congregations to look into, Jeff Seamans made calls to the President of 3 of those churches. Kayla Stafford is Chair of the Call Committee. Next steps for Council: Determine financials and pastoral options. Next steps for Call Committee is direction for Congregational Mission Profile and congregation survey.

**New Business:** Should we have a hand railing up to the altar? Decided to look into a permanent rail on the side. Outside column with some broken bricks.

**Announcements:** next council meeting will be May 19th after worship. Adjourn. All stood and said The Lord's Prayer.



On April 14, 2019 the WELCA Meeting was called to order by President Pam Wright. Those in attendance were Kim Ala, Bobbi Seamans, Cindy Mixdorf, Cassie Sage, Pam Wright and Denise Pierce.

Secretary's Report: Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Approved.

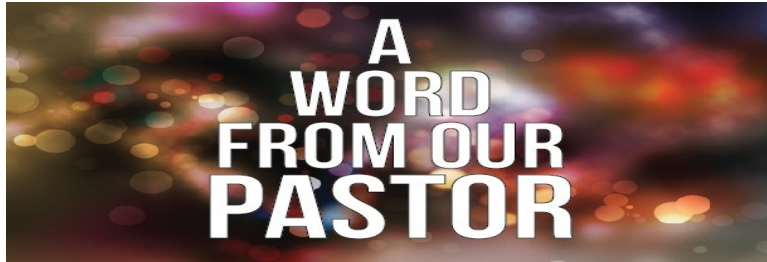
Mission of Growth: Kim Ala donated dish towels for the kitchen and Joyce Dedor embroidered St. John's on the towels. Approved.

Mission of Community: 1 birthday, 1 get well, 1 thinking of you, 3 sympathy, 7 Easter, and 1 baby card sent. Approved.

New Business: Graduation reception will be April 28th. There is 3 high school and 1 or 2 college graduates. The board members will supply the cupcakes, Pam will make the mints and get the flowers, and Cindy will get the nuts.

Talked about getting a committee together to plan the retirement party for Pastor Thalacker and Pastor Ericson. We talked about having the party on August 18, 2019.

Kim said she had trouble with the stove for the Kuenstling funeral and after looking into it decided it had a bad board in it. Since the LYO Easter breakfast is next Sunday WELCA decided to purchase a new stove. Adjourn.



*“Bing justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5*

Here’s something to think about . . .

We all have certain things that we believe about life . . . things of which we are certain.

How do we know that those things are correct? On what basis do we make whatever judgments we make about that kind of thing? Do we, for example take someone else’s word about what is true? Or do we choose to think that things are correct because it “makes sense to us?” Or do we say, “I need to check this out for myself to be absolutely certain.” Or do we say, “I’ll believe it when I see it.” Or we may ask, “Is this scientifically verifiable?” Or we may ask what is it to “believe” at all? What is “faith”? How is faith different / the same as “opinion”?

Right now our book group is reading a book that asks those kinds of questions . . . how peoples’ “faith” or belief have changed in the last 1000 years or in the time period that goes back to the early Middle Ages. It’s titled, The Birth of Modern Belief. It’s a history book about beliefs written by an English University professor.

One of the points the author of the book is trying to make is the observation that over the course of the last 450 years (beginning from about 100 years after the Reformation) those kinds of questions about how and why “modern” people “think about things” has changed. It notes that we don’t “think” like people did 500 years ago.

So (for better or worse) that has happened and “modern” people think about things differently. What has happened has been both widely discussed with many differences of opinion. Many persons have disagreed on the subject.

It seems to me that those changes have created some difficult results among which are the polarities that have enveloped our society. These realities and questions are among the most pressing and have created some of the differences we experience today.

In the Church we talk and think a lot about “faith”. So what do we “believe” about “faith” today? Does that matter? It seems to me that it’s in all of our best interests to be paying some attention to the matter of how people “think about” things today . . . and what they believe.

. . . Something to think about . . .

God bless you and bless us all as we wait for summer to come.

Pastor T.



**In December the Sunday School kids started**

**working on one of their favorite mission projects called God's Global Barnyard. Each family received a special bank to start collecting loose change in. With the help of the congregation the Sunday School was able to raise \$600. On April 7th the kids were able to go shopping for the animals they wanted to give. We purchased 3 pigs, 4 roosters, 2 goats, 9 sets of 10 chickens, 1 set of honeybees, 2 sets of farming tools and 3 shares of a cow. Again we would like to Thank everyone for your help with this Mission! Blessings, Denise Pierce**

**Just A Note to Let You Know I've Moved**

**May Mixdorf  
3720 Village Place,  
Apt 5501  
Waterloo, Iowa 50702**

**Cell - 415-2468  
Home - 291-8537**



**Sunday School**

**Needs 2 teachers for the 1st - 3rd grade classroom starting this Fall. Contact Kelli Snyder if interested.**

**The Mustard Seed**

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

