



The Mustard Seed September 2021



St. John's Bennington Lutheran Church 140th Anniversary Celebration



***On Rally Sunday, September 12th
we are planning a celebration with the
return of our students to Sunday School at
9:15 a.m. followed by worship at 10:15 a.m.***

***This year we will also be celebrating
St. John's 140th anniversary!***

***This monumental celebration will include a
lunch of pork loin, party potatoes, 'tornado
salad' and cookies. There will be bags and
other games to play, following worship.
Please do your best to rsvp through the
Facebook or website link so we know how
much to prepare OR leave a message on
the answering machine here at church.***

***We are looking forward to seeing
all of you!***

Church Council

President of the Congregation:	
Denise Pierce	939-5623
Deacons:	
Jeff Seamans	230-0668
Dan Salisbury	290-7031
Trustees:	
Joe Stafford	822-2441
Willy Wolff	415-7186
Jerry Mixdorf	415-0126
Treasurer:	
Brandy Zuck	721-9692
Secretary:	
Deanne Kuenstling	240-1128
Financial Secretary:	
Brenda Clark	290-2159
Finance Committee:	
Gary Mixdorf	822-4503
Randy Wright	
Drew Speer	830-6820
Women of the ELCA Leaders	
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:	
Teresa Stafford	230-7445
Funeral Coordinator:	
Kathy Gallmeyer	404-4131
Teresa Stafford	230-7445
The Staff	
Pastor:	
Church Office:	291-6225
Secretary:	
Brenda Clark	290-2159
countryslivin4u@hotmail.com	
Janitor:	
Cassie Sage	822-9470
Sunday School Superintendent:	
Bethany Anderson	269-8054
LYO Youth Leader:	
Kelli Snyder	404-1214
<u>President</u>	
<u>Vice:</u>	
<u>Secretary:</u>	
<u>Treasurer:</u>	

The St. John's Bennington Lutheran Church Semi-Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, July 25, 2021 after worship. Meeting was called to order by Deacon Jeff Seamans, along with the opening prayer.

Secretary Minutes: were read by Deanne Kuenstling. Approved.

Financial Reports: Treasurer and Financial Secretary: read by Jeff Seamans. Approved.

President's Report: by Deacon Jeff Seamans. Denise Pierce has been dedicating many hours to assist in calling a pastor. She has had frequent contacts with the Synod office and is carrying out a lot of work for this process. We thank her for her time and dedication.

Deacons Report: none.

Trustees Report: Jerry Mixdorf says the company will come back this fall to complete more work on the blacktop to include the seals and cracks.

Church investments: given by Gary Mixdorf.

LYO, Sunday School and Confirmation: Kelli Snyder, Penny Teisinger, Cassidy Fuelling, Brandy Zuck are meeting for LYO plans. The council will discuss a room that can be designated for the LYO. Kelly Snyder is the new youth leader. Bethany Anderson is the new Sunday School Superintendent. Dawn Best reported on confirmation and has been leading the classes. She is not sure when the classes will start up this fall.

Old Business: ++Jeff reported on the call committee talking with a potential part time Pastor who is relatively local. There is current discussion on time and financials. Expect another congregational meeting soon.

++Jeff asked for input regarding switching from the green to cranberry hymnals. There is a potential we could purchase these new or from a congregation that may merge and want to sell them. There may be families that want to help purchase them, in the same way the green hymnals were purchased. The cranberry hymnals offer updates, new liturgy, and more variety. They came out in 2006. Many congregations have been using these for quite some time. There was also a question to determine if the cranberry hymnals come in an electronic version. Jessica Huntley will have Denise Pierce follow up on this. If audiovisual services are added (may involve the youth), this would be a supplement to the hymnals, not take their place, as some members voiced preference to use hymnals instead of the screens.

New Business: ++Our constitution needs to be updated. This was done many years ago. There is a model constitution from the ELCA, last done in 2019. This was voted on by the members. There will need to be changes our constitution. The council will begin the process of updating this.

++We have been using chalices for communion. There was discussion on continuing this process but consider using up the old supplies when that is appropriate. There were comments about it being meaningful to all take communion in the pew at the same time. The children could be blessed while going up with the adults who receive the chalice, depending on the Pastor's comfort level.

++Linda Hudgins expressed thanks for the zoom meetings.

Adjourn.

On Sunday, August 15, 2021 a special congregational meeting was held after worship. Meeting was called to order by President Denise Pierce.

Opening prayer by Pastor Brackett who then read the letter of call for a 1/2 time position for Rev. Beth Olson.

Biography of Pastor Beth Olson was read by Denise Pierce.

Motion was to call Pastor Beth Olson. The congregation then voted on written ballots, regarding calling Pastor Beth Olson, needing a 2/3 majority pass. Results: 41 yes and 0 No.

Compensation package with a total of \$52,236.42 read by Denise Pierce

Provisions were discussed:

+Request to begin using the cranberry hymnals. This would provide for new liturgies and songs. (Bob Hansen asked about green hymnals being given back to the people who donated them.)

+Explore Wednesday education program.

+Pastor Beth Olson would have 1 Sunday off per month, along with 4 weeks of vacation and 2 weeks for continuing education.

+Motion to accept the compensation package—the congregation voted on written ballots, regarding the compensation package. Results: 36 yes and 1 no.

+Pastor Beth Olson will likely start the beginning of October.

Closing prayer by Pastor Brackett. Adjourn.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN BENNINGTON

PRAISE
and
WORSHIP

FOOD
and
FELLOWSHIP

RALLY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12,
2021



9:15 - SUNDAY SCHOOL
(PRE-SCHOOL - 5TH GRADERS)

10:15 - WORSHIP
GAMES, LUNCH, AND

YOUTH GROUP KICKOFF TO FOLLOW WORSHIP
(6TH - 12TH GRADE)



WE WILL BE KICKING OFF A NEW YEAR IN YOUTH GROUP WITH A MEETING FOLLOWING LUNCH. WE'D LOVE FOR PARENTS TO JOIN US TO SHARE YOUR IDEAS! WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE THE YOUTH KIDS' HELP WITH THE GAMES FOLLOWING WORSHIP.

*Whether you were just here or it's been a while,
remember there is always a place for you at St.
John's*



The Mustard Seed

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

The Church is not a building.
It's the people

- . Acts 8:3
- . Acts 12:5
- . 1 Cor. 3:9
- . 1 Peter 2:5



September
