

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: 11th - Sunday School - 9 AM
Worship - 10 AM
LYO Meeting

Monday: 12th - Pastor in Office - 10 AM

Wednesday: 14th - Pastor in Office - 4 PM
Confirmation - 7 PM

Thursday: 15th - Newsletter Articles Due
Brenda in Office - 9 AM
Pastor in Office - 10 AM

Sunday: 18th - Sunday School - 9 AM
Worship w/ Communion - 10 AM
Council Meeting after Worship

About today: *In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing. (Sundays and Seasons)*

Sunday School resumed today. The topic was *A Light to the Nations (Light)* from Isaiah 42:1-9. Next Sunday, January 18 they will be talking about *The Lamb of God (Follow)* from John 1:29-42. They also will do their "Third Sunday Sing and Share" during worship. The song they will sing is "Jesus Loves Me."

St. John's Annual Meeting is planned for Sunday, February 1 after worship. Positions available this year are for a Deacon, Financial Secretary and Trustee. If interested talk to a current council member. Back up date for the annual meeting is Sunday, February 8.

Annual Meeting Reports DUE! Please have financial and activity reports from your area of service emailed to Brenda by this Thursday, January 15. Thanks!

The VBS make-up pool party this past Saturday was a huge success at the Cedar Valley Sportsplex! Thanks to everyone who got this organized for our kids, and thanks to all who were able to come!

Prayer of the Day **First Sunday after Epiphany** **1/11/26**

O God our Creator, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Ministers of Worship

TODAY:

Accompanist: Sarah Best
Lector: Drew Speer
Zoom Operator: Denise Pierce
Acolyte: Gracie Kienast
Ushers: Joe and Teresa Stafford

Fellowship

TODAY:

Gracie Kienast
Family

Attendance

Last Sunday's Attendance: 27 plus 2 Zoom
Last Month Attendance Average: 70

We have re-sent the newsletter in PDF format. If you were not able to access it via that email, please be reminded that the newsletter is also available on the church website, www.stjohnsbennington.com. Thanks to those who gave feedback and who helped tweak the system.

Thank you to those who were able to help with putting away the Christmas decorations for another year. There are a few poinsettias left in the kitchen if anyone would like to take one with them. Protective bags are there, too.

Did you know? Hymn 396, *Spirit of Gentleness*, was written in 1975 by James K. Manley. This hymn first appeared at Waiokeola Congregational Church in Honolulu in 1976. The ELW Hymnal Companion tells us, "The hymn calls on the Spirit of gentleness, who is also restless and does both gentle and restless things—blows, stirs, calls, frees, moves, coaxes, creates, awakens, sweeps, stings, goads, speaks, cries, whispers, and breaks all forms of bondage." In our baptisms, we are baptized into the power and possibilities engendered by that same Spirit. Come, Holy Spirit, indeed.

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. —Psalm 29:3

Order of Service
Blue Book

Prelude

GATHER

Welcome and Announcements
Gathering Song **ELW # 423**
#Greeting p. 46
#Scripture Song p. 47
#Prayer of the Day (see left)
Children's Message

WORD

Scripture Readings
First Lesson: Isaiah 42:1-9
Second Lesson: Acts 10:34-43
#Gospel acclamation p. 48
#The Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17
Sermon
Hymn of the Day **ELW # 396**
#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 # 551**

Kids meet pastor in back during last verse of song to help; congregation response is "And have fun doing it!"
#Dismissal
#Postlude

- Please stand as you are able

WOW - Blue Book
ELW - Cranberry Book