

# *Day of Pentecost*

*June 4, 2017*

Today's festival derives its name from the Jewish festival of Pentecost, observed fifty days after Passover. On the fiftieth day of Easter we celebrate the Holy Spirit as the power of God among us that heals, forgives, inspires, and unites. In the reading from Acts, images of wind and fire describe the Spirit poured out on disciples of all nations. In John's gospel the risen Christ breathes the Spirit on his followers on Easter evening. In the one Spirit we are baptized into one body, and at the Lord's table the Spirit unites us for witness in the world.

## **- Gathering -**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

Musical Meditation, Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love. **Amen.**

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another. (*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*)

Eternal God our creator, **in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace, draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Since you are justified by faith, you have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into your hearts through the Holy Spirit. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God ☩ forgives you all your sins. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn – #399 O Holy Spirit, Root of Life**

Greeting and Hymn of Praise – **#167 Now the Feast and Celebrations**

Prayer of the Day – see insert

## **- Word -**

*God speaks to us in Scripture, reading, preaching and song.*

Scripture Readings – see insert (*Response: Thanks be to God.*)

**Gospel Acclamation – Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in us the fire of your love. Alleluia.**

Gospel (before reading: **Glory to you, O Lord.** after: **Praise to you, O Christ!**)

Sermon

**Hymn of the Day – #400 God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind**

Nicene Creed – Page 104

**Hymn – #180 The Spirit Intercedes for Us**

Prayers of the People

Sharing the Peace (Response: **And also with you.**)

## **- Meal -**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

Offering

**Offertory Hymn – #696 (V. 1 and 3) Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult**

Offering Prayer

Great Thanksgiving and Holy, Holy, Holy – Page 180-181

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily  
bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the  
kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Distribution of Bread and Wine

*All who believe in the redeeming power of Christ's love are welcome at the Lord's Table.*

**Hymns – #479, #396, #477**

Blessing and Post-Communion Prayer

## **- Sending -**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

Closing Blessing

**Sending Hymn – #551 (V. 1 and 4) The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve**

Dismissal (Response: **Thanks be to God!**)

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Dickinson, North Dakota*

[www.stjohnelc.org](http://www.stjohnelc.org) (701)225-6747

Mission Statement: "Living in Service to Christ"

## *Welcome to Worship at St. John!*

Worship is the most important thing we do together. It involves all those who gather, making each gathering a unique assembly. Our worship roots are shaped by a time nearly 500 years ago during the Protestant Reformation. Martin Luther believed two sacraments proclaim Christ's promise of forgiveness in worship: Holy Baptism and Holy Communion.

**Holy Baptism** splashes you with new life and unites you with the Body of Christ through God's rich mercy.

**Holy Communion** is "for you", giving you a taste of God's mercy. The bread and wine, (Christ's true presence), unite you with the communion of saints throughout time.

We recall at the baptismal font and the Lord's Table that you are *abundant and free* to love and serve your neighbor. **To learn more about worship and St. John's story, click on the GET TO KNOW US page at [www.stjohnelc.org](http://www.stjohnelc.org).**

### *~ To Assist You at Worship ~*

- *If you are considering becoming a member at St. John*, we ask that you begin by visiting with a pastor and attending a *new member coffee*, held four times each year. For details, click on the MEMBERSHIP link on the GET TO KNOW US page at [www.stjohnelc.org](http://www.stjohnelc.org).
- *Personal amplifiers for the hearing impaired are available*. Please ask an usher.
- *Children's worship bags* are in the narthex and the Commons Area.
- *Childcare*: Children are always welcome in worship, but if a parent feels that little hands, feet and voices are making it difficult for others to worship, the nursery is supervised during the 10:30 a.m. service. If a child needs a shorter break, there is wiggler room and a glider chair in the narthex.
- *Holy Communion* is celebrated at each worship service. The table is open to all who believe in the redeeming power of Christ's love. You may stand or kneel and receive the bread and wine. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer or grape juice, simply ask the person serving.
- *The decision about when a child should commune is made by the parent*. We encourage families to visit with a pastor to learn about the sacrament before communing for the first time. Children communing should extend their hands. Children not communing are invited to fold their hands.
- *Coffee is served* in the Commons Area before Sunday worship services.
- St. John is a member congregation of the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** and part of the **Western North Dakota Synod**. St. John is a corporate member of Badlands Ministries Bible Camp and St. Luke's Nursing Home. Congregations in the WND and Eastern North Dakota Synods, including St. John, own Lutheran Social Services of N.D., a private, nonprofit social services agency.

## ~ Introductions to Sunday's Readings ~

### Acts 2:1-21

Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. Luke portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the disciples before the gathered and astonished people assembled in Jerusalem for the festival. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples were able to witness to the power of Christ's resurrection.

### 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Paul is helping the Corinthians understand the relationship between our God-given unity and Spirit-created diversity. The Spirit creates the unity of faith and gives all Christians diverse gifts for the common benefit of all. We need one another's diverse spiritual gifts, because the same Spirit has given them to each person for the common good.

### John 20:19-23

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

## ~ Worship Leaders ~

Presiding Minister .....	Diane Melbye	Thursday
Preaching Minister.....	Pastor Joe Natwick	Sunday
Assisting Minister.....	Jean Herauf	Thursday
	Marcy Decker	8:00 AM
	Brian Yazzie	9:30 AM
Organist.....	Barb Arneson	Thursday
	Cheryl Hewson	Sunday
Servers.....	Grant Bittner	Thursday
	Alexandra Smith	8:00 AM
	Tanner Anderson	9:30 AM

### WORSHIP LIFE

At worship services this past week, these numbers reflect how many people were sent to *Live in Service to Christ*: Thursday 45, and Sunday 202.

### RIDE-SHARING AND PARKING AT CHURCH

We are grateful for a vibrant congregation of worshippers! To help all of us access the building as easily as possible, here are some tips:

- ✓ If you have *no* trouble walking, would you be willing to park a little farther away to leave the closer spaces for people with young children, and for those who may have a little more trouble walking from their cars to the church?
- ✓ We encourage you to carpool. If you would like a ride to make it easier for you to get to church, the church office may be able to find someone to drive you. Please ask.

~ *This Week at St. John* ~

Monday, June 5	7:00 PM	Scouts Den 5
Tuesday, June 6	8:30 AM	Lutheran World Relief Quilting
Wednesday, June 7	9:30 AM	Staff Meeting
Thursday, June	7:00 PM	Worship
Friday, June 9	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins
Sunday, June 11	8:00 AM 9:30 AM	Worship Worship



**"For freedom Christ has set you free."**

Galatians 5:1

*(If you are young or old, busy or bored,  
God has a better something for you.)*

What is the Story of Pentecost?

The Christian story of Pentecost is a story of **wind and fire**, our images for talking about God as spirit. Fire we can usually contain and put into our service, but fire can be an overzealous or unwelcome servant which consumes much more than we wish.

No wonder that one of the oldest names for God in the Hebrew Scriptures translates to English as Consuming Fire. This Consuming Fire of the Spirit of God blew rushing and mightily upon the disciples and drove them out of Jerusalem, scattering them like seeds all over the earth, filling them with words which changed many lives but which eventually, if we can believe all the legends, got almost every last one of them killed.

We often pray in words like those of J.S. Bach's Pentecost cantata, "O eternal fire, kindle, ignite our hearts. Let the heavenly flames flare up and penetrate them, for we wish to be thy temple." Do we who dwell in tents dare pray for wind and fire? . . . The Spirit will hold us, and with sighs too deep for words she will breathe us back to life. The Spirit is ready, too, one day, when the tents which we are become burnt and ashes, to hold us in peace forever. Come, O eternal fire!

*(Frederick A. Niedner, Jr., in Homilies for the Christian People, 283-286.)*

**MISSION TRIP RETREAT**

June 23 & 24

Mission trip students and advisors will depart at 12:00 pm on Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> and return around 5:00 pm on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. This retreat will help the group prepare for their adventure to unknown places as they put their "hands and feet to work" for Christ!

**MISSION TRIP PARENT MEETING**

July 9

There will be a mandatory parent meeting on Sunday, July 9 at 7:00 pm in preparation for sending your children on this great adventure.

**ST. JOHN SUMMER DAY CAMP**

August 6 – 10 (ages 4 – 6th grade)

Information and registration is available on the St. John website – click on the Day Camp homepage slide and choose "Summer Events" OR you can pick up a paper copy from the Commons Area bulletin board to fill out and return. This is a free Day Camp to all who participate – you do not need to be a member of St. John to join the fun!



**SUMMER CAMPERSHIPS AVAILABLE!**

Campership information for attending Badlands Ministries Bible Camp is available on the Commons area bulletin board. To request a campership, call the church office or fill out the campership form from our website (homepage).

**BADLANDS MINISTRIES WORK DAY**

June 4<sup>th</sup>

Join hands with fellow camp supporters and the 2017 Summer staff as Badlands Ministries prepares their facilities for the summer camp season. Lunch will be served at noon with work projects following. There are many projects at every skill level, so your help is greatly appreciated!



**DONATE YOUR EYEGLASSES**

May 28 – June 18

St. John is collecting eyeglasses on the west wall in the Commons Area through June 18th. The eyeglasses will be used in eye clinics in Brazil. If you'd like to donate towards the cost of shipping the glasses, please forward your donation to the church office. We will be shipping the glasses to Robbyn and Brad Hanstad in TX. Robbyn is the daughter of church members Bruce and Lucille Pier. Her husband, Brad, is the optometrist helping with the eye clinic in July.

**THURSDAY WORSHIP CONVERSATION**

June 22

Are you interested in helping wonder about liturgy and music for Thursday evening worship? The Worship and Music Committee invites you to gather on **Thurs., June 22 after the 7:00 p.m. worship service** to hear what you love about Thursday worship, and what you are interested in seeing more or less of! You do not need to be an expert about worship or music. Your voice is important as we wonder how best to use the gifts of music God has provided at St. John.



**CELEBRATING THE REFORMATION~  
TRAVELING MARTIN LUTHER**

If you did not get your "Traveling Martin Luther", pick one up today! They are located at the SW entrance doors to the sanctuary (in the rack above the children's activity bags). Take Martin on your adventures this summer and snap a photo – share it on St. John's Facebook page (or email to [sonnie@stjohnelc.org](mailto:sonnie@stjohnelc.org))! Keep Martin Luther's message of God's grace moving this summer! Don't forget to include your name and place when sending in your photos!

*Visit our website, Facebook page and newsletter for more information on programs and schedules!*