

11th Sunday after Pentecost

August 20, 2017

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

- Gathering -

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

Prelude and Musical Meditation

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness – Page 94

Gathering Hymn – #532 Gather Us In

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

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. Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom and cured every sickness among the people. Alleluia. (Matt. 4:23)**

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day – #574 Here I Am, Lord

Apostles' Creed – Page 105

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 – #814 Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

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 – #496, #612, #613

Blessing and Post-Communion Prayer

- Sending -

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

Closing Blessing

Sending Hymn – #650 In Christ There Is No East or West

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

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Dickinson, North Dakota

www.stjohnecl.org (701)225-6747

Mission Statement: "Living in Service to Christ"

Welcome to Worship at St. John!

If you are worshipping for the first time, we hope you feel joyfully welcomed! Worship is the most important thing we do together: Gathering in God's Name, Hearing God's Word, Sharing in the Holy Meal, and then Sending You to Shine Christ's Light in the World.

We believe worship brings abundant life and freedom to you and to your neighbor. There are four worship services offered each week at St. John, providing a variety of ways to worship. We encourage you to try them all to find the right fit for you.

**To learn more about worship and St. John's story,
click on the GET TO KNOW US page at 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.
- *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 open (but *not* staffed for the summer). If a child needs a shorter break, there is wiggle 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 the Readings ~

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable, so that while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be pagan and unclean approaches him for help.

~ Worship Leaders ~

Presiding Minister	Pastor Joe Natwick & Mission Trip participants	Thursday
Preaching Minister.....	Pastor Joe Natwick & Mission Trip participants	Sunday
Assisting Minister.....	Diane Melbye Abigail Moberg Suzanna Moberg	Thursday 8:00 AM 9:30 AM
Organist.....	Cheryl Hewson Cheryl Hewson	Thursday Sunday
Servers.....	Annabella Semerad Jodan Reger Kaden Selle	Thursday 8:00 AM 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 **208**, and Sunday **249**.

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, Aug 21	7:00 PM	Scouts
Tuesday, Aug 22	8:30 AM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Lutheran World Relief Quilting Executive Council meeting Council Meeting
Wednesday, Aug 23	8:00 AM	Staff Retreat - Medora
Thursday, Aug 24	7:00 PM	Worship – Blessing of the Backpacks
Friday, Aug 25	6:30 AM 5:00 PM	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins Wedding Rehearsal
Saturday, Aug 26	9:00 AM 3:00 PM	Altar Guild Katie Veverka & Thomas Gerber
Sunday, Aug 27	8:00 AM 9:30 AM	Worship – Blessing of the Backpacks Worship – Blessing of the Backpacks

BAPTISM

On Thursday, August 17 at the 7:00 p.m. service, we celebrate the baptism of Blake Edward Mrachek. His parents are Kelly and Becky Mrachek. The sponsors are Brandi Herauf and Kristopher Mrachek.

UPCOMING WORSHIP EVENTS @ ST JOHN ~

August 24 & 27 *Blessing of the Backpacks* 🍎

"Blessing of the backpacks" is "an occasion to take a deep breath, exhale slowly, and claim values and faith that establish and direct our lives beyond the fears, anxieties, and pressures of life, especially as another school year begins. It is a time to recall and celebrate that lives are being transformed by the renewing power of God in Christ Jesus." ~*Vibrant Faith Ministries*

As fall schedules resume for students, teachers, administrators, etc. we ask them to come with a backpack, briefcase or any other kind of bag to receive a blessing during worship. ***This is a community event, and we welcome our neighbors of all ages to receive a small gift and be a part of the blessing.***

September 6th *Rally Wednesday!*

This "kicks off" the Wednesday night program at St. John! Everyone is welcome! There will be fun activities on the front lawn, family meal, fun worship, and the Confirmation program begins as well!

~ SERVE & CONNECT ~

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

October 1st @ 10:30 am

This is a day about serving our community and that includes you! *If you or someone you know are in need of help to complete projects such as yardwork, painting, gutter cleaning, etc, please let us know!* Contact Amy Graves at 225.6747 or agraves@stjohnelc.org.

PROJECT SIGN-UP TABLE

In September, there will be a "Project Sign-Up" table in the Commons area for everyone to choose a way to "serve Dickinson with your hands and feet"! If your interest lies in helping participants during the sign-up process (or you are unable to be present for "God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday), go to the website and click on "When Am I Scheduled" on the homepage and sign-up for a time to help at the "Project Sign-Up" table!



**BE A PART OF THE HEART
of St. John!**

Volunteers are the heart of St. John – it's how we share Christ's love for us! Fall programs are coming soon ... and there are a lot of areas that you can share your gifts and passions! Maybe it's a one-time event, a one night a month event, or a weekly school year event that you can schedule to assist with. *Read about the opportunities in the August newsletter and on the Commons area bulletin board.* Contact the church office if you have questions or would like to volunteer!

CONFIRMATION MENTOR LEADERS

Aug. 16th @ 6:00 – 8:00 pm

All mentor leaders (returning & new) are to attend this orientation & supper to get to know one another, grow deeper in our faith and prepare to lead mentor groups this year!

BENEFIT DINNER for Tim Thiel

September 19 @ 5:30 pm - Eagles

Tim Thiel is a member of St. John who we hold in our prayers as he battles with cancer. There will be a benefit dinner for Tim with an auction and bake sale to follow. Please prayerfully consider donating a silent auction item or bake sale item in support of Tim. Items can be dropped off at the church prior to September 18th.

Stephen Ministries of St. John would like to encourage other St. John church groups to donate an item or basket in support of Tim.



begins September 12th!

Financial Peace University is a 9-week class where you will learn practical ways to pay off debt, overcome your fear of budgeting and create a savings plan to replace retirement worries. Give yourself "financial peace" and attend this class! You can register online at stjohnelc.org and click on the homepage banner, OR pick up a form from the Commons area bulletin board.

CENTRAL LOCATION FOR DONATIONS

If you have a donation to drop off (currently AMEN Food Pantry & Backpack program), the baskets are located on the west wall in the Commons area (by the elevator). Your generosity is appreciated!

LIFETOUCH PHOTOS

If you had your photo taken, *but did not order additional prints*, your complimentary 8x10" photo can be picked up at the SW sanctuary entry table. Photos that are not picked up will be inserted into your free directory this fall.

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