

The Pentecost Season

September 17, 2017

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive 77 times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

- Gathering -

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

Musical Meditation, Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (*Mission Statement of St. John*)

Living in service to Christ, St. John is a caring and welcoming community whose life is grounded in God's amazing grace and through inspiring worship.

We foster deep relationships that bring a spirit of encouragement and healing to all.

We believe that faith is best nurtured and grown in the home,

and we encourage a culture of generosity so that we can advance the mission of the church both locally and globally.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the ☩ holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power. (*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*)

Source of all life, **we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.**

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, ☩ God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Processional Hymn – #522 As We Gather at Your Table

Greeting and Hymn of Praise (*Glory to God*) – Page 121

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 – Page 124

Proper Verse (*sung*): **We have an advocate, Jesus | Christ the righteous;*
your sins are forgiven on account | of his name.**

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day – #714 (V. 1-4) O God of Mercy, God of Light

Apostles' Creed – Page 105

Prayers of the People and Sharing the Peace (*Response: And also with you.*)

- Meal -

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering *Special Music by Handbell Choir: "How Can I Keep From Singing"*

Offertory Hymn – #359 (V. 1-2) Where Charity and Love Prevail

Offering Prayer

Great Thanksgiving and Holy, Holy, Holy – Page 129-130

Lord's Prayer (*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...*)

Lamb of God – Page 135

Distribution of Bread and Wine *Special Music: "Down to the River to Play"*

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

Hymns – #595, #592

Blessing and Post-Communion Prayer

- Sending -

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

Closing Blessing

Sending Hymn – #543 (V. 1 and 3) Go, My Children, with My Blessing

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

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Dickinson, North Dakota

www.stjohnelc.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 and staffed at the 10:30 a.m. service. 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. ELCA and LCMS congregations in western and eastern North Dakota own Lutheran Social Services of N.D., a private, nonprofit social services agency.

~ Introductions to the Readings ~

Genesis 50:15-21 - After Jacob's death, the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

Romans 14:1-12 - This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

Matthew 18:21-35 - When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

~ Worship Leaders ~

Presiding Minister	Pastor Lisa Lewton	Thursday
Preaching Minister.....	Pastor Lisa Lewton	Sunday
Assisting Minister.....	Jenny Rea	Thursday
	Marci Murphy	8:00 AM
	Chip Poland	10:30 AM
Deacons.....	Tim Wegner	8:00 AM
	Cora Tormaschy	
	Susan Moberg	10:30 AM
	Darlene Pelton	
Organist.....	Cheryl Hewson	Thursday
	Cheryl Hewson	Sunday
Servers.....	Jack Kovash	Thursday
	Houston Crimmins & Jayne Krank	8:00 AM
	Dawson Moore & Justin Moore	10:30 AM

WORSHIP LIFE

At worship services this past week, these numbers reflect how many people were sent to *Live in Service to Christ*: Wednesday 125, Thursday 57, and Sunday 297.



NEW MEMBER WELCOME COFFEE

Sunday, October 8th @ 9:15 am

Are you interested in being a member of the St. John community? We would love to give you a warm welcome! Come to the next "Welcome Coffee" to learn more about St. John and tour all of the areas of the church we call home. New members will be welcomed on Sunday, November 12th during the 10:30 am worship service.

PROJECTOR TRAINING

Wednesday, September 20th @ 8:00 pm - Sanctuary

Are you interested in being an integral part of worship by showing the projection slides during worship? If so, come to this training session! Anyone who uses a computer has enough knowledge to operate this system!

~ This Week at St. John ~

Monday, Sept 18	5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Scouts Scouts
Tuesday, Sept 19	8:30 AM 5:30 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Lutheran World Relief Quilting Tim Thiel Benefit – Eagles Club Executive Council Meeting Council Meeting (basement) Financial Peace University Class
Wednesday, Sept 20	9:30 AM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Staff Meeting Supper Church School 3 Year Old Milestone Ministry Worship Faith Experience Projector Training for Worship
Thursday, Sept 21	Noon 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Circle 4 at church Backpack Prep Worship
Friday, Sept 22	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins Backpack Delivery Theology on Tap – Players Sports Bar
Sunday, Sept 24	8:00 AM 9:15 AM 10:30 AM 3:30 PM 7:00 PM	Worship Senior Choir practice Adult Education-Learning in Service to Christ Worship – Bible Presentation to 3 rd Graders Handbells Senior High Youth



"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.)*

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry is a new ministry at St. John that equips lay people to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation experiencing difficulties in their life. A Stephen Minister supports your pastors by continuing spiritual care after the loss of a loved one, hospitalization, divorce or separation, loneliness, spiritual crisis, a terminal illness, aging, a chronic illness, or a birth, adoption, miscarriage or infertility. Please visit with a pastor to learn more.



~ SERVE & CONNECT ~



GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

October 1st @ 10:30 am

This is a day about serving our community and that includes you!

Sign up at the table in the Commons Area before and after worship.



BADLANDS MINISTRIES FALL EVENT

September 17th @ 11:00 am

This fun-filled day begins with worship at 11:00 am followed by a chicken bbq, silent auction, and quilt auction. There will be antiques, pies and specialty items. Support Badlands Ministries and enjoy a day with friends!

THANK YOU, QUILTERS!

The sale of quilts and craft items raised \$585 to share with Badlands Ministries Bible Camp! Special thanks to Sherry Ziemann, who provided several quilts and craft items! Sherry also used her gifts and generosity of time to create a t-shirt quilt using the last 7 years of Serving Sunday and God's Work Our Hands t-Shirts! Check it out in the Commons Area!

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. Silent auction and bake sale items can be dropped off at the church by September 18th.

There is an account at Dacotah Bank named Thiel Benefit for anyone wanting to provide donations to Tim this way.



LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

(LDR) - Houston

We hold in prayer the Houston area and all places impacted by hurricanes. 100% of donations to LDR are passed onto the response effort. About 20 ELCA congregations along the gulf coast are affected. More information is at www.ELCA.org.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Sept. 22nd @ 7 pm (Player's Sports Bar)

God. Conversation. Beer. Luther would have loved it! Each month, this group will meet at various establishments in Dickinson to discuss topics relating to life, faith and God. All that is required is a willingness to have incredibly rich and exciting conversations. You are welcome to come early and order a meal – you do not have to drink beer to participate!

MILESTONE MINISTRY – 3 yrs old

September 20 @ 6:00 pm

Parents and 3-yr old children will have an orientation event to help these youngsters transition into Church School. There will be a tour of the sanctuary, chancel area and narthex.



SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATION

As part of "God's Work. Our Hands.", St. John is collecting school supplies for Lutheran World Relief and "Project Promise". A basket is located in the Commons area for your donations through October 1st, when these donations will be assembled into school kits.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (OCC)

SHOEBOXES

Jodeen Myers has faithfully served as the Southwest N.D. coordinator for shoebox ministry. After 15 years heading up OCC in this area, she has "retired".

Thank you, Jodeen! St. John will no longer be a drop-off place for shoeboxes. We will keep you posted, hoping for another coordinator, and for another local congregation or organization in town to offer to be a drop-off site.

BUDGET REPORT THROUGH August 2017:

	<u>2016 YTD</u>	<u>2017 YTD</u>
General	\$277,103	\$294,377
Outreach	\$68,545	\$59,203