

The Pentecost Season

September 24, 2017

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables, in which Jesus says the reign of God is like workers who get paid the same no matter when they start. When God changes his mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

- 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 – #669 Rise Up, O Saints of God!

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*): **Open our | hearts, O Lord,***

to give heed to what is said | by your Son.

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day – #779 Amazing Grace

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 Moment: *“God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday*

Offering

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

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

Hymns – #494, #659, #720

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.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 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 ~

Jonah 3:10—4:11 After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but should not I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites who do not know the difference between their right and left hands?

Philippians 1:21-30 Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

Matthew 20:1-16 Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

~ Worship Leaders ~

Presiding Minister	Pastor Lisa Lewton	Thursday & Sunday
Presiding Minister.....	Pastor Joe Natwick	Sunday
Preaching Minister.....	Pastor Paul Hanson	Sunday
Assisting Minister.....	Diane Melbye	Thursday
	Jan Wilkie	8:00 AM
	Brian Yazzie	10:30 AM
Deacons.....	Dan Pender	8:00 AM
	Jesse Kilwein	10:30 AM
Organist.....	Cheryl Hewson	Thursday
	Cheryl Hewson	Sunday
Servers.....	Jordan Reger	Thursday
	Mataya Mortensen & Kaden Selle	8:00 AM
	Ashley Richey & Annabella Semerad	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 **208**, Thursday **53**, and Sunday **278**.

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.



~ *This Week at St. John* ~

Monday, Sept 25	5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Scouts Scouts
Tuesday, Sept 26	8:30 AM 7:00 PM	Lutheran World Relief Quilting Financial Peace University class
Wednesday, Sept 27	9:30 AM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM 6:30 PM	Monthly Staff Meeting Supper Church School 4 & 5 Year Old Milestone Ministry Worship
Thursday, Sept 28	6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Backpack Prep Worship
Friday, Sept 29	6:30 AM 9:00 AM	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins Backpack Delivery
Sunday, Oct 1	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 NO WORSHIP SERVICE- <u>"SERVING SUNDAY"</u> 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.)*

At St. John, we believe you are made abundant and free in your baptism! You are free to live abundantly, including with money. What you do with money is a faith practice. In October, we want to encourage you in your faith practices with money by turning to Luke 12:22-34 when Jesus preached, **"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."** On the following weekends, you will hear sermons on this gospel text.

~ 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.

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!



LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

(LDR) – Texas & Florida

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.

GIFTS – "Growing in Faith to Serve"

Oct. 15th @ 1:30 – 6:00 pm

What does it mean to be a good steward? Presenters Chick Lane & Grace Duddy Pomroy will provide pathways that people of each generation can follow to deepen their understanding of being a steward. *This event will be held at St. John.*

Register at www.wndsynod.org Cost: \$15

MILESTONE MINISTRY – 4 & 5 years of age

September 27 @ 6:00 pm

Welcome to Worship! Children will learn about how all God's children are a vital and welcomed part of worship.

Students must be accompanied by a parent or other significant adult.



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.

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

Thank you for your financial support of the ministry *the Spirit is up to at St. John. Your contributions reach out and reach in, supporting ministry that encourages you to **Live in Service to Christ.***