

# *The Pentecost Season*

*October 1, 2017*

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God, such as prostitutes and tax collectors going before others into God's kingdom. In the reading from Ezekiel the people question whether the ways of the Lord are unfair; instead they are to repent and turn to the Lord. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, looking to the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy 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 – #526 God Is Here**

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*):

***My sheep hear my voice, | says the Lord;\* I know them and they | follow me.***

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

Sermon

**Hymn of the Day – #517 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word**

(8:00 a.m.) Sacrament of Holy Baptism – Page 227 (*Drew Peter Schafer*)

**Hymn – #677 (V.1) This Little Light of Mine**

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 the Senior Choir: “When We Gather at the Table”*

**Offertory Hymn – #814 Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am**

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 – #461, #712 , #817**

Blessing and Post-Communion Prayer

## - Sending -

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

Closing Blessing

**Sending Hymn – #547 Sent Forth by God’s Blessing**

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!*

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](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 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. 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 ~

**Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32** - Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot turn from their wicked ways. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

**Philippians 2:1-13** - As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

**Matthew 21:23-32** - After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

~ Worship Leaders ~

Presiding Minister .....	Pastor Joe Natwick	Thursday
Presiding Minister.....	Pastor Lisa Lewton	Sunday
Preaching Minister.....	Pastor Joe Natwick	Sunday
Assisting Minister.....	Tanna Reopelle	Thursday
	Tim Thiel	8:00 AM
	<b><u>Serving Sunday</u></b>	10:30 AM
Deacons.....	Susan Moberg	8:00 AM
	<b><u>Serving Sunday</u></b>	10:30 AM
Organist.....	Cheryl Hewson	Thursday
	Michael Stevenson	Sunday
Servers.....	Jackson Steiner	Thursday
	Kyle Anderson & Courtney Roller	8:00 AM
	<b><u>Serving Sunday</u></b>	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 **244**, Thursday **49**, and Sunday **282**.

**MILESTONE MINISTRIES...**

**Bible Adventure! – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students**

***October 4 & 11 @ 6:00 – 6:30 pm***

Understanding that the Bible is an essential source of comfort and guidance for individual Christians and the larger church, this milestone class introduces the Bible and demonstrates how to use the Bible cross-generationally in the home. Students who did not receive bibles during worship on September 27<sup>th</sup> can pick up their bible in class. A parent should accompany their student to this class.

**3 Year Old Milestone Ministry Participants**

Thank you to the families who took part in the *Entry into Church School Milestone Ministry* event. These 3 year old students are ready for the Church School experience - **Adely Berger, Autumn Hanson, Nicholas Jahner & Grady Schafer.**

*~ This Week at St. John ~*

Monday, Oct 2	5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Scouts Scouts
Tuesday, Oct 3	8:30 AM 7:00 PM	Lutheran World Relief Quilting Financial Peace University class
Wednesday, Oct 4	9:30 AM 5:15 PM 6:00 PM  6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Staff Meeting Supper Church School 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Milestone Ministry Worship Confirmation
Thursday, Oct 5	6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Backpack Prep Worship
Friday, Oct 6	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 5:00 PM	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins Backpack Delivery Rehearsal
Saturday, Oct 7	9:00 AM 3:00 PM	Altar Guild Steffan – Herauf Wedding
Sunday, Oct 8	8:00 AM 9:15 AM  10:30 AM 11:30 AM 3:30 PM 7:00 PM	Worship Senior Choir practice Adult Education-Learning in Service to Christ Welcome Coffee – New Members Worship Fellowship Potluck 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.)*

**BAPTISM**

On Sunday, at the 8:00 a.m. service, we celebrate the baptism of Drew Peter Schafer. His parents are Carl and Lindsey Schafer. The sponsors are Molly Schwartz and Paul Decker.

~ SERVE & CONNECT ~



**GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.**

**October 1<sup>st</sup> @ 10:30 am**

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

- Visit the bake sale on the front lawn beginning at 9:00 am – all proceeds will benefit those affected in the Montana fires.
- Pick up a “snack to go”, courtesy of Baker Boy (located at the bake sale table – front lawn)!
- Yes! You can still sign up for a project! Visit the project table to sign up for a project and get your project assignments.

~ Go in peace, serve the Lord! ~

**YOU HAVE A PLACE IN THE CHOIR!**

If music draws you closer to God and singing is something you love, you have a place in the choir! Visit with a pastor or Director Michael Stevenson after worship. You can sing weekly with the Senior Choir, or only at the special services on Reformation Sunday (Oct. 29). Call the church office for more information. 225-6747.



**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](http://www.ELCA.org).

**GIFTS – “Growing in Faith to Serve”**

**Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> @ 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](http://www.wndsynod.org) Cost: \$15



**NEW MEMBER WELCOME COFFEE**

**Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> @ 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 12<sup>th</sup> during the 10:30 am worship service.



**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.

**FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL @ BLM**

**October 7<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00 pm**

Bring the whole family out to the badlands – carve pumpkins, play carnival games, enjoy a hayride in the beautiful badlands, and so much more! Stay for dinner beginning at 5:00 pm!



**CHURCH POTLUCK**

**October 8<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30 am**

Bring a favorite dish to share and join us in the basement for a wonderful lunch and time to sit and chat with the St. John family! Forget to bring something? That’s okay – there is always plenty to share! Monthly potlucks are organized by the St. John Married4Life group.

**FAIR TRADE SALE! – October 8<sup>th</sup>!**