

The Pentecost Season

November 19, 2017

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

- Gathering -

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

Musical Meditation, Welcome and Announcements

Temple Talk: Thankoffering

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who calls us into an everlasting hope, who guides us to springs of the water of life, who enlightens us with the spirit of wisdom.

Amen. One with the communion of saints in all times and places, let us confess our sin against God and one another. (*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*)

O God, our merciful redeemer, **we confess the ways we live only for ourselves. We fail to see you in our neighbor's face. We turn our ears from voices that cry out. We pass by the hungry and the oppressed. In your great mercy, forgive our sin and strengthen us for service to all in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for † his sake, God forgives you all your sin. Blessed are you! Rejoice and be glad, beloved people of God. **Amen.**

Processional Hymn – #632 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Greeting and Hymn of Praise (*This is the Feast*) – Page 122-123

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*): **Abide in me as I a- | bide in you;***

those who abide in me | bear much fruit.

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day – #674 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

(8:00 a.m.) Apostles' Creed – Page 105

(10:30 a.m.) Sacrament of Holy Baptism – Page 227 (*Mathew William Schmidt*)

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

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 – #688 (v. 1) Lord of Light

Offering Prayer

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

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.

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 – #546, #574, #773

Blessing and Post-Communion Prayer

- Sending -

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

Closing Blessing

Sending Hymn – #454 (v. 1, 2, and 4) Remember and Rejoice

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

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 staffed during 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 ~

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 - Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 - Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 25:14-30 - Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

~ Worship Leaders ~

Presiding Minister	Pastor Lisa Lewton	Thursday
Presiding Minister.....	Pastor Joe Natwick	Sunday
Preaching Minister.....	Pastor Lisa Lewton	Sunday
Assisting Minister.....	Jenny Rea	Thursday
	Dann Greenwood	8:00 AM
	Chip Poland	10:30 AM
Deacons.....	Dan Pender	8:00 AM
	Linda Splichal	10:30 AM
Organist.....	Barb Arneson	Thursday
	Cheryl Hewson	Sunday
Servers.....	Amy Fridley	Thursday
	Lane Richard & Courtney Roller	8:00 AM
	Lucas Shilman & McKenna Skaare	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 171, Thursday 51, and Sunday 290.

LONGEST NIGHT WORSHIP

Thurs., Dec. 21st @ 7:00 p.m. at CHI - St. Alexius Hospital Chapel

The name *Longest Night* comes from the season. In Dec. we will experience the shortest day and longest night of the year. This service gives permission to acknowledge the difficulty of the *longest night* of the Christmas season for those who may feel overwhelmed by grief. The service is ecumenical (all denominations welcome) and includes Scripture, candle-lighting, Holy Communion, and singing appropriate to the season, recognizing this is not always a season of joy for all. This service will take place at the hospital's chapel to be inviting to the community of Dickinson. Watch for more details in the December newsletter and bulletins.

~ *This Week at St. John* ~

Monday, Nov 20	5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Scouts Scouts
Tuesday, Nov 21	8:30 AM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Lutheran World Relief Quilting Executive Council Meeting Council Meeting
Wednesday, Nov 22	9:30 AM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Staff Meeting NO Supper NO Church School Worship – Thanksgiving Eve. Pie Social
Thursday, Nov 23	9-4:00 PM 7:00 PM	Office Closed - Thanksgiving NO Worship Service
Friday, Nov 24	6:30 AM 9:00 AM-Noon	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins Office Open (<i>closed in the PM</i>)
Sunday, Nov 26	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 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 10:30 service, we celebrate the baptism of **Mathew William Schmidt**. His parents are Jason and Michele Schmidt. His sponsors are Jared Meduna and Lindsey Kirschenheiter.

RIDE-SHARING & PARKING

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

- If you have *no* trouble walking, consider parking 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.

~ SERVE & CONNECT ~



THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

Nov. 22nd @ 7:00 pm

Join us for a special Thanksgiving Worship followed by a pie social in the main floor Fellowship room.

There is no camp-style worship on Wed., Nov. 22, and no worship Thurs, Nov. 23rd.



THANK YOU FOR PLEDGING!

~ If you have made your pledge for 2018 – thank you!

- ~ If you are considering making a pledge, please be prayerful. Do not hesitate to ask one of your pastors or a council member about how gifts are stewarded at St. John, or how you might determine how much to give.
- ~ If you are a member of St. John and did not receive a pledge card in the mail, we apologize. Please let a pastor know.
- ~ If you prefer not to make a pledge, please contact Pam Weidner, Finance Administrative Assistant at 225-6747, or return your pledge card indicating no pledge.

You can return your pledge by filling out a pledge card or go online at www.stjohnelc.org.

LEGACY OF FAITH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



The Giving Tree is up again in the Narthex, giving us a reason to celebrate what St. John does for the community! **There are currently 34 hearts on the tree** - each heart

representing \$10,000 pledged. We need 16 more hearts to complete this campaign of generosity!

Please take a brochure from the pew or from the Giving Tree sign (narthex) to read about this Campaign, and prayerfully consider making a pledge. You may return your pledge card in the offering plate, or pledge online – click on the GIVE button.

O HOLY NIGHT – HOLIDAY CONCERT

Sun., Dec. 3rd @ 2:00 pm (at St. John)

The DSU Choirs and Concert Band present an afternoon of music for the holidays featuring settings of favorite carols and lesser-known Christmas music. The Concert will culminate with a new arrangement of "O Holy Night" written by Dr. Bent Rogers for Choir and band, and feature award-winning soprano and DSU adjunct faculty member, Kelsey K. Rogers.

Cost: \$10 - adults, \$5 - children and seniors

ST. JOHN ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree will be located in the Commons Area beginning Nov. 26th. Consider fulfilling a wish and share a gift with someone in need this holiday.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Each year, the Christmas Memorial Fund is a way to share a gift *in honor or in memory* of someone. Money will be used to purchase a few poinsettias to decorate the chancel area, with most of the funds will being donated to Lutheran Campus Ministry in Minot. Memorial forms are located on the tables at the Sanctuary entrances, or you can complete it online (GIVE / Memorial Gifts). Return forms by Friday, December 15. If you pay by check, please write "Christmas Memorial Fund" on the memo line.

ST. LUKE'S HOME OPEN HOUSE

Sun., Dec 4th @ 2:00 – 4:00 pm

St. Luke's Nursing Home invites you to a Christmas open house! There will be a bake sale, ornament sale, raffle and entertainment! All proceeds will go towards the purchase of a handicap accessible van.

For updates on schedules and programs, visit our website at www.stjohnelc.org.