

The Pentecost Season

November 26, 2017

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet awaiting the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

- Gathering -

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

Musical Meditation, Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father who is creator, of the ☩ Son who is king, and of the Holy Spirit who restores. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, yearning for God's reign among us. (*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*) King of Kings, create a throne room for yourself in building. **But let it be the empty seat beside the anxious, the lonely chair next to the confused, and the vacant pew next to the hungry.**

Outside these walls, may your reign be a mockery to the world, but good news to those who seek truth. **Forgive us when we fail to join the search. Help us to find you walking the streets, on the wrong side of the tracks, with the forgotten at school, the lonely who are homebound, the jobless, and those who have burned every bridge among family and friends.**

Wherever we go, help us to find you laughing at the powerful. **Empower us to turn away from violence, advocate for the common good, and welcome into your throne room those who have nothing.**

O Jesus, reign in the world with your upside down kingdom of mercy. You alone are King of Kings. By your grace, you chose a crown of thorns, a heavenly thrown, and a kingdom shaped by forgiveness. Move us to be seekers of truth and humble servants. **Amen.**

Processional Hymn – #855 Crown Him With Many Crowns

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*): **Blessed is the one who comes in the name | of the Lord.* Blessed is the coming kingdom of our an- | cestor David.**

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day – #434 Jesus Shall Reign

(8:00 a.m.) Nicene Creed – Page 104

(10:30 a.m.) Sacrament of Holy Baptism – Page 227 (*Clay Anton Decker*)

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 – #712 (v. 1) Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

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 – #522, #749, #767

Blessing and Post-Communion Prayer

- Sending -

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

Closing Blessing

Sending Hymn – #729 The Church of Christ, in Every Age

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 wiggler 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 ~

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 - Since Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the Lord will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The Lord will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.

Ephesians 1:15-23 - In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord both of the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

Matthew 25:31-46 - Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

~ Worship Leaders ~

Presiding Minister	Pastor Lisa Lewton	Wednesday
Presiding Minister.....	Pastor Lisa Lewton	Sunday
Assisting Minister.....	Diane Melbye	Wednesday
	Tim Thiel	8:00 AM
	Hillary Moberg	10:30 AM
Deacons.....	Jon Tangen	Wednesday
	Darlene Pelton	8:00 AM
	Jesse Kilwein	10:30 AM
Organist.....	Barb Arneson	Wednesday
	Barb Arneson	Sunday
Servers.....	None	Wednesday
	Gavin Steckler & Ezra Taray	8:00 AM
	Gavin Weiler & Kate Welk	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 **118**, Thursday **50**, and Sunday **264**.



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Sunday, December 24th

9:00 am – Sunday worship service (*no broadcast*)

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP:

3:00 pm – broadcast on KDIX radio (1230 AM)

5:00 pm

9:00 pm – Candlelight Service

Monday, December 25th – CHRISTMAS DAY:

10:00 am

~ *This Week at St. John* ~

Monday, Nov 27	10:00 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Directory Team Scouts Scouts
Tuesday, Nov 28	8:30 AM 7:00 PM	Lutheran World Relief Quilting Mackenzie Hicks Recital
Wednesday, Nov 29	9:30 AM 5:15 PM 6:00 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Monthly Staff Meeting Supper Church School Worship Mentor Leader Meeting
Thursday, Nov 30	6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Backpack Prep Worship
Friday, Dec 1	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 6:00 PM	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins Backpack Delivery Dress Rehearsal for DSU Concert Sunday
Sunday, Dec 3	8:00 AM 9:15 AM 10:30 AM 2:00 PM 3:30 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Worship Senior Choir practice Adult Education-Learning in Service to Christ Worship DSU – O Holy Night-Holiday Concert Handbells Scouts 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 **Clay Anton Decker**. His parents are Wade and Carissa Decker. The sponsors are Cole Hysjulien, Carsten Hysjulien, and Ashley Sims

~ SERVE & CONNECT ~



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

"LIGHT UP A LIFE" MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sun., Dec. 3rd @ 2:00 pm (at Hillside Baptist)

The holiday season is often difficult for those experiencing the loss of loved ones; this non-denomination memorial service provides an opportunity for remembrance, reflection, healing and celebration of life through music, scripture and inspirational readings. Stay for refreshments following the service!



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.

HYMN SING at BADLANDS MINISTRIES

Sat., Dec. 9th @ 1:00 pm (Bethlehem Dining Hall)

This annual event features music ensembles from the area, a merry hymn sing, fellowship & refreshments!

ST. LUKE'S HOME OPEN HOUSE

Sun., Dec 10th @ 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.

ST. JOHN ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree is located in the Commons Area! Consider fulfilling a wish and share a gift with someone in need this holiday. All gifts must be returned to the St. John Angel Tree by Sunday, Dec. 10th.



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.



SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

Sun. Dec. 17th @ 4:00 pm (St. John)

This lovely celebration of the Christmas season consists of bible lessons and carols led by the Bell Choir, Senior Choir, local musicians and clergy. This service originated in England in 1918 at King's College at Cambridge University, and is still celebrated around the world today!