

Baptism of Our Lord

January 7, 2018

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit/wind moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

- Gathering -

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

Musical Meditation, Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

Loving God, **we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways. Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as your children. Amen.**

Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. Even when we have messed up, God puts us together. God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of † Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Processional Hymn – #454 Remember and Rejoice

Greeting and Hymn of Praise (*Glory to God*) – Page 184-186

Prayer of the Day

Milestone Ministry: One-Year Baptism Birthday Recognition

- Word –

God speaks to us in Scripture, reading, preaching and song.

Scripture Readings – see insert (*Response: Thanks be to God.*)

Sermon

Hymn of the Day – #452 Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death

(8:00 a.m.) Affirmation of Baptism by the Assembly – Page 234-237

(10:30 a.m.) Sacrament of Holy Baptism – Page 227 (*Smith Andrew Dewey*)

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 *Special Music by the Senior Choir: “We Three Kings”*

Offertory Hymn – #801 Change My Heart, O God

Offering Prayer

Great Thanksgiving and Holy, Holy, Holy – Page 190

**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.**

Distribution of Bread and Wine

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

Hymns – #464, #453, #732

Blessing and Post-Communion Prayer

- Sending -

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

Blessing

Sending Hymn – #543 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

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 ~

Genesis 1:1-5 - Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the primeval darkness, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for any person living in the chaos and darkness of despair. God created and continues to create new life.

Acts 19:1-7 In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John’s baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptized them, the Holy Spirit came upon them and empowered them with gifts of the Spirit.

Mark 1:4-11 - Mark’s gospel reports the story of Jesus’ baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

~ Worship Leaders ~

Presiding Minister	Pastor Lisa Lewton	Thursday
Preaching Minister	Pastor Lisa Lewton	Thursday
Presiding Minister	Pastor Lisa Lewton	Thursday
Assisting Minister.....	Diane Melbye	Thursday
Assisting Minister.....	Dream O’Brien	8 AM Sunday
Assisting Minister.....	Hailey Graves	10:30AM Sunday
Deacons.....	Margaret Marcusen, Susan Moberg	Sunday
Organist.....	Barb Arneson	Thursday
Organist.....	Cheryl Hewson	Sunday
Server.....	Lucas Shilman	Thursday
Servers.....	Gavin Steckler & Gavin Weiler	8 AM Sunday
Servers.....	McKenna Skaare & Ezra Taray	10:30 AM Sunday

LEGACY OF FAITH CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The Legacy of Faith Campaign began in Nov. 2016 with a generous gift from an anonymous donor, and a congregational vote to raise \$500,000 for the purpose of..

- \$225,000 for 141 5th Ave West: *(this amount has already been raised)*
 - \$150,000 to purchase house and property, and
 - \$ 75,000 for demolition and landscaping
- \$275,000 to be divided evenly between the
 - Domestic Violence & Rape Crisis Center’s new building, and
 - Western North Dakota Synod Ministry Trust Fund

In gratitude for the past, present, and a future that remains unseen, we continue a legacy of giving generously out of God’s abundance. Visit with a pastor or refer to the brochures in the pew racks for more information.

At this time, \$355,747 has been raised in pledges and contributions! **Thank you faithfully tending to the future.** The campaign continues through Dec. 31, 2019.

On Thurs., Jan. 18 and Sun., Jan. 21, hear an update on the campaign and the property.

~ *This Week at St. John* ~

Monday, Jan 8	5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Scouts Scouts
Tuesday, Jan 9	8:30 AM	Lutheran World Relief Quilting
Wednesday, Jan 10	9:30 AM 5:15 PM 6:00 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Staff Meeting Supper Church School Worship Mentor Groups
Thursday, Jan 11	6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Backpack Prep Worship
Friday, Jan 12	6:30 AM 9:00 AM	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins Backpack Delivery
Sunday, Jan 14	8:00 AM 9:15 AM 10:30 AM 11:30 AM 3:30 PM 7:00 PM	Worship Senior Choir practice Adult Education- <i>Learning in Service to Christ</i> Welcome Coffee (basement) Worship Fellowship Potluck Handbells Sr. High Youth Group

WORSHIP LIFE

At worship services this past week, these numbers reflect how many people were sent to *Live in Service to Christ*:
Wednesday **No service**, Thursday **39**, and Sunday **52**.

BAPTISM

On Sunday, we celebrate the baptism of **Smith Andrew Dewey**. His parents are Karla Fehr and Phillip Dewey.
The sponsors are Laura Fehr and Adam Dewey.

WALKING INTO A NEW YEAR

Beginning a new year is a blessing. However, you might be walking into the new year after a significant change in your life. Maybe you could use some extra support. When you have someone to care, listen, and share God's love with you, it can help you get through the confusion, stress, or loneliness you may be experiencing. God does not intend for you to struggle alone.

Stephen Ministry is available for anyone who is facing overwhelming needs for care: hospitalization, grieving, suffering, loneliness or discouragement, divorce or separation, unemployment, accidents, and the list goes on.

Consider allowing a Stephen Minister to walk with you on your journey to wholeness. Connect with a pastor to learn more.

~ SERVE & CONNECT ~



**LEGACY OF FAITH
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

The Giving Tree is up 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.

ST. JOHN HAS MANY OPPORTUNITIES!

If you are looking for ways to be more involved in your church, your community and the world around us in 2018, visit with Amy Graves, Director of Hospitality & Stewardship. There are many areas where volunteers are needed!

2018 ENVELOPES & FAMILY DIRECTORIES

Please pick up your envelopes and directories from the tables located in the Commons area.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

January 16 - March 13 (Tues. @ 7:00 pm)

Begin 2018 with a financial plan! Financial Peace University will give you the knowledge you need to budget, save and plan for retirement. Sign up at www.stjohnelc.org OR pick up a form from the Commons area bulletin board today! The first eight registrations will receive all of the benefits of this class at a discount (cost \$50.00 / person or couple). Subsequent registrants - \$129.00 / person or couple.



WELCOME COFFEE

January 14 @ 9:15 am (basement)

Interested in becoming a member of St. John? Come to the Welcome Coffee and find out more about St. John and ways we connect with the community of Dickinson and people around the world. New Member Sunday is on Feb. 11th during the 10:30 am worship.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Jan 30th @ 7:00 pm (Fluffy Fields Winery)

Conversations about life, faith and God That is what this group is about! Each month, people gather to have incredible conversations on interesting topics such as “God in Sports”, “Decoding Denominations” and “Affluenza”. This is an informal group made up of all denominations – so bring a friend! If you want to be on Pastor Joe’s email list for this class (in case there is “prep” work to do), let him know at inatwick@stjohnelc.org.

ST. JOHN ANNUAL MEETING

February 11th @ 9:00 am (basement)

Come to the Annual meeting to have a voice in the business matters of St. John and approve the budget for 2018 This year you will see a “Narrative Budget” that tells our story. All confirmed members are encouraged to attend and vote.

COFFEE for PUERTO RICO!

Purchase coffee from a Senior High missionary! This coffee comes from Praying Pelican (Fair Trade farmers) and a portion of your purchase will go to help pay for their trip to Puerto Rico! There is also a sign up form on the Commons area bulletin board to purchase this coffee – proceeds will be applied to the advisor’s accounts to fund the cost of the trip. Coffee sales will continue through Jan. 21st.