

# *The Epiphany Season*

*February 4, 2018*

In Isaiah it is the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars—it is that God who strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up to health and diakonia. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

## **- 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 – #858 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

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

Prayer of the Day

## **- Word -**

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

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

Gospel Acclamation – Page 188

Sermon

### **Hymn of the Day – #843 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness**

Apostles' Creed – Page 105

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: “Be Thou My Vision”*

### **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 – #481, #787, #715**

Blessing and Post-Communion Prayer

## **- Sending -**

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

Blessing

### **Sending Hymn – #665 Rise, Shine, You People! (vs. 1 & 4)**

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 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 ~

**Isaiah 40:21-31** - The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

**1 Corinthians 9:16-23** - God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

**Mark 1:29-39** - Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals them and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

~ Worship Leaders ~

Presiding Minister .....	Pastor Joe Natwick	Thursday
Preaching Minister .....	Pastor Joe Natwick	Sunday
Presiding Minister .....	Pastor Lisa Lewton	Sunday
Assisting Minister.....	Jenny Rea	Thursday
Assisting Minister.....	Tim Thiel	8 AM Sunday
Assisting Minister.....	Hailey Graves	10:30AM Sunday
Deacons.....	Tim Wegner, Linda Splichal	Sunday
Organist.....	Barb Arneson	Thursday
Organist.....	Cheryl Hewson	Sunday
Server.....	William Lindvig	Thursday
Servers.....	Tyler Warwick & Amy Fridley	8 AM Sunday
Servers.....	McKenna Skaare & Gavin Weiler	10:30 AM Sunday



During Lent, you are encouraged to slow down and reflect. As Lutherans, we set aside 40 days to let go of our unhealthy attachments and renew a right relationship with God. The season of Lent reminds us to say no to things that do not nurture our relationship with Christ, and to say yes to things that do.

For the past three years, we have said “YES!” to raising money for water wells in Africa. This year, we will shift gears and say “YES!” to health and wellness in Malawi, and “THANKS!” to practitioners of health and wellness in Dickinson.

*Where is Malawi?* Malawi is located in the southeastern part of Africa. The small country is home to 18 million people.

*Why Malawi?* ELCA World Hunger has identified Malawi as a country with a great need for health and wellness support. The percentage of poverty was 50.7% in 2011.

*How can you help?* If you would like to give a financial gift, utilize the ELCA World Hunger envelopes in the pew racks, or write “ELCA World Hunger” in the memo line on your check.

~ This Week at St. John ~

Monday, Feb 5	5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Scouts Scouts
Tuesday, Feb 6	8:30 AM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Lutheran World Relief Quilting Stephen Ministries FPU (Financial Peace University)
Wednesday, Feb 7	9:30 AM <b>5:00 PM</b> 6:00 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Staff Meeting Supper Agape Fest Worship Confirmation
Thursday, Feb 8	6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Backpack Prep Worship
Friday, Feb 9	6:30 AM 9:00 AM	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins Backpack Delivery
Sunday, Feb 11	8:00 AM <b>9:00 AM</b> 9:15 AM  10:30 AM 11:30 AM 1:00 PM 7:00 PM	Worship <b><u>Annual Meeting – (in basement)</u></b> Senior Choir practice Welcome New Members 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 **154**, Thursday **44**, and Sunday **239**.

**ASH WEDNESDAY & MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP**

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent on February 14th. During Lent, the Sunday morning and Thursday evening worship services will remain the same. However, Wednesday nights will be much different! Please come and experience Lenten Worship – we will use the Holden Evening Prayer service and hear from members of the congregation as they speak about their story of faith. **There is no Church School or Confirmation during Lent.**

**LENTEN SCHEDULE:**

<i>Sunday Worship</i>	<i>8:00 &amp; 10:30 am</i>
<i>Thursday Worship</i>	<i>7:00 pm</i>
<i>Wednesdays -</i>	<i>5:30 pm Lenten Supper (Puerto Rico FUNdraiser)</i> <i>5:45 pm "What is the Bible?" Adult Lenten study</i> <i>Milestone Ministry classes as scheduled</i> <i>7:00 pm Lenten Worship</i>

~ SERVE & CONNECT ~



**ST. JOHN ANNUAL MEETING**

**February 11<sup>th</sup> @ 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. *At this time, these St. John members have been nominated to serve on Council:*

Deacons: Jen Jung and Seth Poland

Trustees: Richard Benz and Jared Bookhardt

**AGAPE NIGHT- Everyone is invited!**

**Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 pm**

What is agape love? It is an unconditional love – a love where nothing is expected in return. Sound familiar? We experience this with God's love. This event welcomes every one of every age to celebrate God's love, and to participate in sharing their love – expecting nothing in return!



Supper begins at 5:00 pm

Activities begin at 5:30 pm

Worship begins at 6:30 pm

Come and participate in this fun night with your family and friends!

**AMEN FOOD PANTRY**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Time commitment: An occasional Tuesday or Thursday from 2:00-4:00 p.m. and arriving about 15 minutes prior to work time.

On the job training. No lifting required. Come with a desire and willingness to help people. If this speaks to you, please contact Peggy Fadness, St. John Volunteer Coordinator, at 701-483-0809 with any questions or to volunteer.

Visit us at [www.stjohnelc.org](http://www.stjohnelc.org) for updates on activities & schedules!

**BABYSITTING OUR WAY TO PUERTO RICO!**

**Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 – 10:00 pm**

This is a win-win-win! Parents get a night out for a nice Valentine celebration, kids get to have a great time playing games, watching movies, etc., and the youth earn money for their trip to Puerto Rico!

Children need to be signed up by Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>! There is a sign-up form on the Commons area bulletin board or you can email Kaitlyn at [kolson@stjohnelc.org](mailto:kolson@stjohnelc.org) (please include each child's name and age).

Children should be fed prior to coming.

**WALK TO MALAWI!**

**Feb 14<sup>th</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>**



To encourage *you* to be well, St. John will walk 9,038 miles to Malawi, Africa as a community. You are encouraged to track the miles you walk, run, and bike during Lent, and if none of those are your things, track each 15 minutes of physical activity to equal one mile. Submit your miles by emailing them to Amy Graves at [agraves@stjohnelc.org](mailto:agraves@stjohnelc.org), or write them on the bulletin board in the Commons Area.

**MILESTONE MINISTRIES**

**Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> @ 5:45 pm – 1<sup>st</sup> grade**

*"10 Commandments"*

**Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> @ 5:45 pm – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade**

*"Kids & Money"*

Milestone classes are designed for the student and parent(s) or guardian(s) to participate together. Classes will be held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Fellowship room. Come at 5:30 pm and bring your Lenten supper with you to class!

**NEED TO PICK UP YOUR DIRECTORY?**

Family directories have been moved to the copier room – please pick up your directory today! If you did not have your photo taken, you can purchase a directory for \$15.00.

