

# *First Sunday in Lent*

*February 18, 2018*

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants

God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

## **- Gathering -**

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

Musical Meditation, Welcome and Announcements

Lenten Stewardship Focus: Health and Wellness in Malawi and Dickinson

Invitation to Worship

Lent is not a time to be miserable, but to reflect on our lives. **Loving God, stop us from fooling ourselves.**

Lent is an opportunity for healthy repentance from our indifference in the face of pervasive evil in the world, and repentance from our own sins which are often a comfortable way of life. **According to your lovingkindness, remember us, God of goodness and saving grace.**

Lent is a time for joy; the exhilaration that comes from defying temptations, from walking into adverse winds and enjoying small victories day by day. **Make us to know your ways, O God, teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation and our true happiness.**

Confession and Forgiveness

During Lent you are called to return to the Lord with all your heart. Let us confess our sin and seek renewal and healing with God and neighbor. (*Silence for reflection.*)

Merciful God, you sent Jesus Christ to bring healing to the brokenness of the world.

**We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We fail in love, neglect justice, and ignore your truth. Have mercy on us and wash away our sin. Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

People of God, look to the ☩ Son, given to heal you and set you free because God loved the world so much. Be well, and receive God's eternal mercy. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn – #328 Restore in Us, O God**

Greeting and Kyrie – Page 203

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 (*We are turning...*) – Page 205

Sermon

### **Hymn of the Day – #459 Wade in the Water**

Apostles' Creed – Page 105

(10:30 a.m.) Installation of Newly Elected Council and Trust Fund Leaders

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 Handbell Choir: "In the Garden"*

### **Offertory Hymn – #802 (V. 1) Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus**

Offering Prayer

Great Thanksgiving and Holy, Holy, Holy – Page 206-207

**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.*

Lamb of God – Page 208

*Special Music by the Handbell Choir: "Holy Manna"*

### **Hymns – #319, #658**

Blessing and Post-Communion Prayer

## - Sending -

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

Blessing

### **Sending Hymn – #513 Listen, God is Calling**

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.

To learn more about worship and St. John's story,  
click on the GET TO KNOW US page at [www.stjohnehc.org](http://www.stjohnehc.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.stjohnehc.org](http://www.stjohnehc.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 9:8-17** - Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, the Lord destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

**1 Peter 3:18-22** - As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

**Mark 1:9-15** - The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

## ~ Worship Leaders ~

Preaching Ministers .....	Pastor Joe Natwick Pastor Lisa Lewton	Ash Wednesday Sunday
Presiding Minister .....	Pastor Joe Natwick	Sunday
Assisting Ministers .....	Jenny Rea Marci Murphy Patrick Healy	Ash Wednesday 8 AM Sunday 10:30 AM Sunday
Deacons.....	Diane Melbye Margaret Marcusen Jesse Kilwein, Dan Pender Jon Tangen, Linda Splichal	12:10 PM Ash Wednesday 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday 8 AM Sunday 10:30 AM Sunday
Organists .....	Barb Arneson Cheryl Hewson	Ash Wednesday Sunday
Servers .....	Ezra Taray & Cody Foss Liz Fadness & Ella Healy	8 AM Sunday 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.

### Midweek Lent on Wednesdays – Telling Stories of Faith

Feb. 21 through March 21, we will engage in stories. We will study stories told in Scripture in the weekly class at 5:45 p.m., and we will hear stories of faith from some of our members at worship. The service is about 40 minutes and includes Holy Communion and Holden Evening Prayer. Thank you to the speakers who will share their stories, hoping to draw you deeper into your own story of faith in Jesus Christ.

February 21 – Cory Bittner

February 28 – Sharon Kadrmaz

March 7 – Abigail Moberg

March 14 – Alexis Meduna

March 21 – Taylor Krieg and Mort Krieg

~ This Week at St. John ~

Monday, Feb 19	5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Scouts Scouts
Tuesday, Feb 20	8:30 AM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Lutheran World Relief Quilting Executive Council Meeting FPU (Financial Peace University) Council Meeting
Wednesday, Feb 21	9:30 AM 5:30 PM 5:45 PM 7:00 PM	Staff Meeting Lenten Supper Adult Study 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Milestone Ministry Class Lenten Worship
Thursday, Feb 22	6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Backpack Prep Worship
Friday, Feb 23	6:30 AM 9:00 AM	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins Backpack Delivery
Sunday, Feb 25	8:00 AM 9:15 AM  10:30 AM 1:00 PM 7:00 PM	Worship Senior Choir practice Adult Education- <i>Learning in Service to Christ</i> Worship Handbells Sr. High Youth Group DSU Concert – <i>"If Music Be the Food"</i>

WORSHIP LIFE

At worship services this past week, these numbers reflect how many people were sent to *Live in Service to Christ*: Wednesday 71, Thursday 25, and Sunday 261.



LENTEN SCHEDULE:

Sunday Worship  
Thursday Worship

8:00 & 10:30 am  
7:00 pm

Wednesdays

5:30 pm Lenten Supper (Puerto Rico FUNdraiser)  
5:45 pm "What is the Bible?" Adult Lenten study  
Milestone Ministry classes as scheduled  
7:00 pm Lenten Worship

## ~ SERVE & CONNECT ~

### AMEN FOOD PANTRY

#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Time commitment: An occasional Tuesday or Thursday from 2-4 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.

### 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

- 1) Entering them online at [www.stjohnelc.org](http://www.stjohnelc.org) by clicking on the Malawi slide
- 2) emailing them to Amy Graves at [agraves@stjohnelc.org](mailto:agraves@stjohnelc.org), or
- 3) 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!

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

### THEOLOGY ON TAP

**Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm (Fluffy Fields)**

Let's talk about everyday topics that Christians wrestle with - in a casual and fun atmosphere! Everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring a friend (*this is not a "Lutheran-based" group*).

### IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD – Benefit Concert

**Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm (note time change!)**

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> in a series of concerts that bring DSU and other area musicians together to benefit the food pantry! The concert is open to the public.

Admission: non-perishable food item or cash donation for the food pantry.

### NEED TO PICK UP YOUR DIRECTORY?

Family directories are located in the copier room – please pick up your directory today!

### ENJOY SPENDING TIME WITH CHILDREN?

*Consider assisting with these ministries:*

#### Little Blessings Nursery

Sign up to play during the 10:30 am worship hour on Sunday mornings, or on Wednesday evenings during Lent at 5:30 pm! Go to [www.stjohnelc.org](http://www.stjohnelc.org) and click on "When Am I Scheduled?" at the bottom of the homepage to view a schedule and sign up! Smiles and giggles and fun will follow!



#### Godly Play

If you are interested in helping children grow their imagination about the Bible and how God works in their everyday lives – this program is for YOU! Let's make Godly Play a reality at St. John! A team is being assembled to bring this program to the children who pass through our doors. Contact Pastor Joe ([jnatwick@stjohnelc.org](mailto:jnatwick@stjohnelc.org)) if you are interested or would like more information.

