

Third Sunday in Lent

March 4, 2018

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The ten commandments are one of the chief parts of Luther's catechism, a core piece of baptismal instruction. They begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods.

- 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 – #652 Built on a Rock

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 – #665 Rise, Shine, You People!

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: Beneath the Shadow*

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

Hymns – #480, #659, #501

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 (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.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.
- *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 ~

Exodus 20:1-17 - After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The ten commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 - The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.

John 2:13-22 - Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

~ Worship Leaders ~

Preaching Minister	Pastor Lisa Lewton	
Presiding Minister	Pastor Joe Natwick	Sunday
Assisting Ministers	Jenny Rea	Thursday
	Hillary Moberg	8:00 AM Sunday
	Kris Brugamyer	10:30 AM Sunday
Deacons.....	Susan Moberg	8:00 AM Sunday
	Jon Tangen	10:30 AM Sunday
Organists	Michael Stevenson	Thursday
	Cheryl Hewson	Sunday
Servers	Cody Foss	Thursday
	Charley Rathgeber & Lucas Shilman	8:00 AM Sunday
	Lane Richard & Kyle Anderson	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

Throughout Lent, 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.

March 7 – Abigail Moberg

March 14 – Alexis Meduna

March 21 – Taylor Krieg and Mort Krieg

**There is no Church School, Confirmation, or Mentor Groups on Wednesdays during Lent.*

~ This Week at St. John ~

Monday, Mar 5	5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Scouts Scouts
Tuesday, Mar 6	8:30 AM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Lutheran World Relief Quilting Stephen Ministry FPU (Financial Peace University)
Wednesday, Mar 7	9:30 AM 5:30 PM 5:45 PM 7:00 PM	Staff Meeting Lenten Supper Adult Study 4th Grade Milestone Ministry Class Lenten Worship
Thursday, Mar 8	6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Backpack Prep Worship
Friday, Mar 9	6:30 AM 9:00 AM	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins Backpack Delivery
Sunday, Mar 11	8:00 AM 9:15 AM 10:30 AM 11:30 AM 1:00 PM 3-5:30 PM 3:00 PM 7:00 PM	Worship Senior Choir practice Adult Education- <i>Learning in Service to Christ</i> Worship Fellowship Potluck Handbells United Methodist Church – Lenten Worship In Fellowship Room 6 th Grade Event 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 100, Thursday 35, and Sunday 293.



LENTEN SCHEDULE:

Sunday Worship	8:00 & 10:30 am
Thursday Worship	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 ~

WALK TO MALAWI!

Feb 14th – March 31st

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 by clicking on the Malawi slide
- 2) emailing them to Amy Graves at agraves@stjohnelc.org, or
- 3) write them on the bulletin board in the Commons Area.

"WHAT IS THE BIBLE?" - Adult Lenten Study

Sundays @ 9:15 am

Wednesdays @ 5:45 pm

Come & explore how an ancient library of poems, letters and stories can transform the way you think and feel about everything.

Mar 4/7 - Looking Back:

How History Opens a Whole New World

Mar 11/14 – Literally vs Literarily:

Was There Really a Whale?

Mar 18/21 – Being American:

How to Read Ancient Jewish Books Today

Mar 25 - Asking the Right Questions:

Why Genesis Never Asked "When?"



BECOME A STEPHEN MINISTER!

March 6th @ 6:30 pm

Training for Stephen Ministers will begin March 6th at 6:30pm in the Church Basement. Stephen Ministers work alongside our pastors to care for people going through difficult times. If this interests you, please prayerfully consider whether you might want to be part of this ministry. Contact the church office with questions or to register for the training (701.225.6747).

MILESTONE MINISTRIES in MARCH

Mar 7 – Apostles' Creed (4th grade)

Mar 14 – My Body, My Gift (5th grade)

Mar 21 – Imago Dei – "Image of God" (6th gr)

Classes are held on the 2nd floor beginning at 5:45 pm. A parent / guardian must accompany their student to these classes.

6th GRADE "YOUTH GROUP"

March 25th @ 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Come and find out what lies ahead Youth Group! This night is an introduction to youth group – there will be pizza, games and great conversations! Bring a friend!

AMEN FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

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.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 25 – Palm Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 am

March 29 – Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm

(Washing of the Hands)

March 30 – Good Friday 7:00 pm

April 1 – Easter Sunday

7:30 am / 9:00 am / 10:30 am

Visit us at www.stjohnelc.org for updates on activities & schedules!