

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 11, 2018

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith, for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

- 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 – #660 Lift High the Cross

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 – #666 What Wondrous Love Is This

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

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 – #592, #335, #779

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.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 ~

Numbers 21:4-9 - Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

Ephesians 2:1-10 - While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

John 3:14-21 - To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

~ Worship Leaders ~

Preaching Minister	Pastor Joe Natwick	
Assisting Ministers	Diane Melbye	Thursday
	LaRae Tschetter	8:00 AM Sunday
	Chip Poland	10:30 AM Sunday
Deacons.....	Jen Jung & Dan Pender	8:00 AM Sunday
	Seth Poland & Linda Splichal	10:30 AM Sunday
Organist	Barb Arneson	Thursday
	Barb Arneson	Sunday
Servers	Alexander Meier	Thursday
	Gavin Weiler & Kate Welk	8:00 AM Sunday
	William Lindvig & Gavin Steckler	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 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 12	5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Scouts Scouts
Tuesday, Mar 13	8:30 AM 7:00 PM	Lutheran World Relief Quilting FPU (Financial Peace University)
Wednesday, Mar 14	9:30 AM 5:30 PM 5:45 PM 7:00 PM	Staff Meeting Lenten Supper Adult Education 5th Grade Milestone Ministry Class Lenten Worship
Thursday, Mar 15	Noon 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Circle 4 Backpack Prep Worship
Friday, Mar 16	6:30 AM 9:00 AM	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins Backpack Delivery
Sunday, Mar 18	8:00 AM 9:15 AM 10:30 AM 1:00 PM 1-5:30 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Worship Senior Choir practice Adult Education- <i>Learning in Service to Christ</i> Worship Handbells United Methodist Church – Lent Worship (Fellowship room) Badlands Board Meeting 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 121, Thursday 56, and Sunday 238.

BAPTISM

On Thursday, March 8 at the 7:00 p.m. service, we celebrate the baptism of Avery Jade Renner. Her parents are Jessy and Alicia Renner. The sponsors are Casey Renner and Annie Haider.



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 ~

HEALTH IN WELLNESS DURING LENT

1. WALK TO MALAWI!

To encourage *you* to be well, St. John will strive to 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



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

2. DONATE TO ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Give a financial gift to help the people in Malawi. Your gifts will give rural areas improved access to healthcare via 4-wheel drive vehicles stocked with medical supplies. It will also supply the people with educational programs on HIV and AIDS, malaria and maternal & prenatal care. Utilize the ELCA pew envelopes, or write "ELCA – MALAWI" in the memo line of your check. You can also give an Easter memorial gift – proceeds will go to ELCA- Malawi.

3. "TELLING STORIES OF FAITH"

During Wednesday Lenten Worship, a member of St. John will tell their "story of faith". Each person has a very different story to share, which may draw you deeper into your own story of faith.

4. WE APPRECIATE & PRAY

For all of the health & wellness who dedicate their lives to serve others. During Thursday & Sunday Worship, we will hear from a member who works in the health field, sharing their journey of faith. You are encouraged to write the name of a health & wellness person who has touched your life on a tongue depressor and place it in the Prayer Jar.

"WHAT IS THE BIBLE?" - 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 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?"

MILESTONE MINISTRIES in MARCH

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!



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!