

Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 29, 2018

- Gathering -

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

Musical Meditation, Welcome and Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

(Please turn to your sisters and brothers in Christ sitting on the other side of the church. The organ side of the church read the regular print. Pulpit side read the bold print.)

We gather to worship in the name of the Triune God together.

Different people, different lives, different histories.

We are children of the same Merciful God.

Baptized in the same Holy Spirit.

We have traveled the same journey in the baptismal waters.

From death to life with Christ.

Your past, your sin, your failure, and your doubt are drowned in the waters.

**Your fear, your confusion, your self-righteousness, and your despair
are washed away by grace.**

Your loneliness, your loss, your hunger are relieved here.

Your pride, and other people's opinions of you do not matter.

We yearn for a new way of living, not as strangers but as neighbors.

We thirst for hope and encouragement to follow Jesus.

*(Altogether) **With the promise of the presence of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, let us rejoice together.***

Confession and Forgiveness

How often have we heard the good news of forgiveness and restoration? Yet, we are still reluctant to believe. God offers new life, yet we are afraid to let go of the old. Let us confess our sins to the One who waits to make us whole. *(Pause for self-reflection)*

Let us pray. Gracious God, **we use a lot of words, but do little to turn them into deeds. Instead of being one body, we choose sides and form groups of folks just like us. Blessed with great grace, we have trouble sharing it with those who need it most. Forgive us, as we step out of our shadows into your light. Restore us, as we reveal our brokenness. Hear us, as we proclaim Christ as our Lord.**

This is the good news: God leads you out of the shadows to walk in the light of Christ.

God forgives your sins and raises you to new life. **Amen.**

Processional Hymn – #641 All Are Welcome

Greeting and Hymn of Praise (*Come, let us join our cheerful songs...*) – Page 204

Prayer of the Day

- Word -

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

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day – #546 – To Be Your Presence

Nicene Creed – Page 104

Prayers of the People and Sharing the Peace (*Response: And also with you.*)

- Meal -

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering Moment: Senior High Mission Trip to Puerto Rico

Offering *Special Music by the Handbell Choir*

Offertory Hymn – #650 (V. 1 and 3) In Christ There Is No East or West

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

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...

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

Hymns – #461, #887, #379

Blessing and Post-Communion Prayer

- Sending -

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

Blessing

Sending Hymn – #729 (V. 1-3) The Church of Christ in Every Age

Dismissal (*Response: Thanks be to God!*)

(Confession and Forgiveness written by Thom Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies)

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 ~

Acts 8:26-40 - Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, the Ethiopian is baptized by Philip.

~ Worship Leaders ~

Preaching Minister	Pastor Joe Natwick	
Presiding Minister	Pastor Lisa Lewton	
Assisting Ministers	Gayle Homiston	Thursday
	Jan Wilkie	8:00 AM Sunday
	Hailey Graves	10:30 AM Sunday
Deacons.....	Jennifer Jung	8:00 AM Sunday
	Jesse Kilwein	10:30 AM
Organist	Cheryl Hewson	Thursday
	Cheryl Hewson	Sunday
Servers	William Lindvig	Thursday
	Alexander Meier & Courtney Roller	8:00 AM
	Lane Richard & Tyler Warwick	10:30 AM

LEARNING IN SERVICE TO CHRIST: Adult class on Sundays @ 9:15 am



This weekly class is open to anyone interested in lifelong learning. Each week, led by the pastors, the class will engage the reading from Acts you hear at worship. We encourage you to bring your own Bible from home to mark it up. We *really* encourage you to read the whole book of Acts in April!

April 29 – “Refugees and Why the Wall is a Tricky Concept for Christians”

May 6 – Among the most basic human needs are food and shelter. While most of us do not think twice about the food in our cupboards and our warm beds, many of our neighbors in Dickinson do not have these luxuries. Each and every day, organizations in our community help to provide basic needs. Come and hear from people who work for the AMEN Food Pantry, Community Action Partnership, House of Manna, and Stark County Social Services. Each organization will share a 10-15 minute presentation with the class.

~ This Week at St. John ~

Monday, Apr 30	5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Scouts Scouts
Tuesday, May 1	8:30 AM	Lutheran World Relief Quilting
Wednesday, May 2	9:30 AM 5:15 PM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Staff Meeting Fellowship Meal First Communion Class Church School Infant/Toddler Milestone Class Worship Confirmation
Thursday, May 3	6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Backpack Prep Worship
Friday, May 4	6:30 AM 9:00 AM	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins Backpack Delivery
Saturday, May 5	9:00 AM	Altar Guild
Sunday, May 6	8:00 AM 9:15 AM 10:30 AM 11:30 AM 12:30 PM 1:00 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Worship Adult Education- <i>Learning in Service to Christ</i> Senior Choir Worship Fellowship Potluck Community Clean-Up Day Handbells Scouts Senior High Youth

WORSHIP LIFE

At worship services this past week, these numbers reflect how many people were sent to *Live in Service to Christ*: Wednesday 137, Thursday 56, and Sunday 292.

EASTER PREACHING SERIES ~ The Day After the Resurrection

The eight weeks of Easter include a reading from the book of Acts. To invite you to deeply engage in this book, we encourage you to read it at home. In worship, you will only hear a Scripture reading and sermon from Acts, which picks up Jesus story after his resurrection.

The Christian Church in the first century asked the same questions we do today:

- Does the church matter? If it does, how do we tell people about it?
- How does our Christian faith bind us together through the death and resurrection of Christ?

Come and wonder about ancient stories from Acts that we continue to embody today.

~ SERVE & CONNECT ~

1st COMMUNION MILESTONE MINISTRY

May 2nd @ 5:30 – 6:30 pm

This one-hour class is geared toward young people who are not currently receiving Holy Communion in worship. At St John we believe the decision about whether or not to start communing should be made by a child's parent(s) or guardian(s).

During this class we will learn about the history of this important sacrament and what it means specifically for Lutherans.

NEW MEMBER POTLUCK

Sunday, May 6th @ 11:30 pm

It's the last potluck before summer! The Faith in Action Team will grill hot dogs and brats. You may bring a dish to share. After lunch, stick around for...

EARTH DAY CLEAN UP

Sunday, May 6th @ 12:30 pm

All ages are invited to care for the earth by picking up garbage around Dickinson after lunch. We will have garbage bags and gloves, as well areas that need clean-up. Questions? Visit with staff member Amy Graves at 225-6747 or agraves@stjohnelc.org.

NEW MEMBER WEEK!

May 6th – 10th during worship services

Yes a whole week! There are several families joining this spring that attend all of the different worship services. So why not a "New Member Week"!

APPRECIATION NIGHT!

May 8th @ 6:00 pm

For all of the Church School teacher and Mentor leaders ... and their "+1"! An evening and special meal to THANK YOU for leading our children and youth throughout the year! Childcare will be available.



GRADUATING SENIORS

REMINDER! Your senior photos need to be dropped off at the church office before May 2nd for the Senior recognition slideshow in May! Your photographer can also email a photo to tormaschyc@stjohnelc.org.

Upcoming dates for your calendar:

May 17 & 20: Senior recognition during worship

May 20: Senior Dinner for graduating seniors and their parents.

ST. LUKE'S HOME ANNUAL MEETING

May 22nd @ 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Mark your calendar to attend the Annual meeting at the St. Luke's Home Chapel (242 10th St West).

CALL FOR DELEGATES: St. Luke's Home, Inc. conducts an annual gathering of delegates of the sponsoring churches to affirm leadership and governance of its subsidiaries – St. Luke's Home and St. Luke's Home Foundation. Sponsoring church members are strongly encouraged to attend. RSVP: email goretim@stlukeshome.com or call 701.483.5000.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

May 22nd @ 7:00 pm (Players Bar & Grill)

Each month, people gather together in a public place to talk about faith, life, politics, ethics, and so much more! Come and share your insights and learn from the insights of others. This will be the last Theology on Tap session until August!

SUNDAY – MAY 6TH

- Fair Trade Sale!
- New Member Sunday!
- Adult Class @ 9:15 am – speakers from AMEN Food Pantry, Community Action, House of Manna and Stark Co. Social Services
- Church Potluck @ 11:30 am
- Earth Clean Up Day @ 12:30 pm

