

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 22, 2018

- Gathering -

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

Musical Meditation, Welcome and Announcements
Care for Creation Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray. Creator God, you placed us on earth and sustain us through the produce of the land and the clean air we breathe. You have made us to tend and care for the weak, and to ensure a just sharing of the earth's resources.

Lord, you are the giver of life.

But we are proud and hard-hearted people who hoard what the earth provides and seem unable to share the fruits of our labors. We live for today with little thought for tomorrow.

Lord, you are the giver of life.

Incarnate God, we ask for forgiveness and healing. Forgive our thoughtless misuse of your creation, and heal the wounds we have made by our wastefulness. Renew the earth, as you renew each of us, to live more faithfully among your creation.

Lord, you are the giver of life.

Spirit of God, open our hearts and minds that we may grasp your life-giving forgiveness, and forgiven, seek to forgive others, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Processional Hymn – #843 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

Greeting

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 – #793 Be Thou My Vision

Nicene Creed – Page 104

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: "Healer of Our Every Ill"*

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

Hymns – # 483, #808, #502 (V. 1-4)

Blessing and Post-Communion Prayer

- Sending -

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

(The Second) Processional Hymn – #819 Come All You People

Sung as the congregation processes to the ___ for a dedication of the park/garden

Dedication of the "Garden of Grace"

Friends in Christ, Today we give thanks to God and we seek God's blessing as we gather to bless this space to the praise and glory of God.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, creator of the universe...one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Blessing

As you go from this place, may you be refreshed by the wonder of God's creation. May God, the creator, Christ, + the seed of new life, and the Holy Spirit, the nourisher of creation, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

*(Confession and Forgiveness based on liturgy from the Church of Scotland's **Starters for Sunday** by Rev. Dr. Sheilagh Kesting. <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>)*

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 4:5-12 - Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he is able to proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

~ Worship Leaders ~

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Preaching Minister | Pastor Joe Natwick | |
| Presiding Minister | Pastor Lisa Lewton | |
| Assisting Ministers | Tanna Reopelle | Thursday |
| | Tim Thiel | 8:00 AM Sunday |
| | Russ Murphy | 10:30 AM Sunday |
| Deacons..... | Dan Pender | 8:00 AM Sunday |
| | Susan Moberg | 10:30 AM |
| Organist | Cheryl Hewson | Thursday |
| | Cheryl Hewson | Sunday |
| Servers | Liz Fadness | Thursday |
| | Cody Foss & Kyle Anderson | 8:00 AM |
| | Benett Carlson & McKenna Skaare | 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 22 – “God Loves All of You: The Problem With Sorting By Sexuality”.

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 23 | 5:00 PM 7:00 PM | Scouts Scouts |
| Tuesday, Apr 24 | 8:30 AM | Lutheran World Relief Quilting |
| Wednesday, Apr 25 | 9:30 AM 5:15 PM 6:00 PM 6:30 PM | Monthly Staff Meeting Fellowship Meal Church School Kindergarten Milestone Class Worship |
| Thursday, Apr 26 | 6:00 PM 7:00 PM | Backpack Prep Worship |
| Friday, Apr 27 | 6:30 AM 9:00 AM 5:00 PM | Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins Backpack Delivery Wedding Rehearsal |
| Saturday, Apr 28 | 3:00 PM | Finch – Binstock Wedding |
| Sunday, Apr 22 | 8:00 AM 9:15 AM 10:30 AM 1:00 PM 7:00 PM | Worship Adult Education- <i>Learning in Service to Christ</i> Senior Choir Worship Handbells 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 138, Thursday 56, and Sunday 341.

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 ~



SUMMER DAY CAMP

August 5th-9th

It's hard to imagine that summer is near! You can

now register your child(ren) for Summer Day Camp. Preschoolers (age 4 by 8/1) through 6th grade (completed) can participate. Older students can register as a "Staff in Training" (SIT) if they are interested in helping out! There is no charge for this camp, however donations are welcome to help with supply costs. Sign up on the website or pick up a registration form from the bulletin board.

Volunteers are needed: If you are able to help out by bringing a meal for the counselors (lunch or supper), or by hosting a counselor please contact Kaitlyn Olson at kolson@stjohnelc.org.



MILESTONE MINISTRY

Lord's Prayer – Kindergarten

April 25th @ 6:00 pm

One of the most important prayers we learn in our lives is the Lord's Prayer – it is what Jesus taught the disciples to pray! Since we are Christ's disciples, we pray it too! Student and parents will discuss the importance of the Lord's Prayer, as well as other prayers we say.

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.

ITING 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

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.

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 gorettim@stlukeshome.com or call 701.483.5000.

Visit www.stjohnelc.org for updates on programs and schedules!