



*Christmas Day (in July)*

*July 29, 2018*

On this July Christmas morning the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. Luke recounts the familiar story of shepherds and angels; John's gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.

## - Gathering -

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

Musical Meditation, Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh, the Lord and giver of life. **Amen.**

Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy. (*Silence is kept for reflection.*)

God of peace, **we confess that we are not at peace— with others or with ourselves. We bring to you all that tears us apart: discord in our families, violence in our world, our own conflicted hearts. In your mercy, mend us. Reconnect us to one another and to you. Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of peace, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart. Hear this word of God's pardon and peace: in the name of ☩ Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins. Rise, shine, for your light has come. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn – #289 Angels We Have Heard on High**

Greeting and Hymn of Praise – **#300 (V. 1) The First Noel**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. God of stable, **stars and surprises, of light and hope and new life: open our eyes and hearts to your presence in our world; forgive our obsession with property and possessions; forgive our compromises and narrowness of vision. Open us to your grace, that we might hear again the song of the angels, and respond with a song in our hearts, and in our lives. Amen.**

## - Word –

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

Gospel Acclamation – **Hymn #277 Away in a Manger**

Gospel – Luke 2:1-20

(*before reading: Glory to you, O Lord. after: Praise to you, O Christ!*)

Sermon

## **Hymn of the Day – #302 As With Gladness Men of Old**

(8:00 am) Nicene Creed – Page 104

(9:30 am) Baptism – (*Brody James Mack*)

### **Hymn #677 (V.1) – This Little Light of Mine**

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 – #276 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**

Offering Prayer and 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.*

### **Hymns – #279, #283, #290**

Blessing and Post-Communion Prayer

## **- Sending -**

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

Benediction

### **Sending Hymn – #267 (V. 1 & 4) Joy to the World**

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"

## Luke 2:1-20

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

# *Welcome to Worship at St. John!*

Maybe this is one of your first experiences worshipping in a church. Maybe you have been around churches, but have never been to this one. Maybe you are looking for a church to call *home*. Maybe you hope to discover an answer to some of life's big questions. Whatever has brought you to St. John today, *welcome*. As Christians who are Lutheran, we believe worship is a feast of God's Word and Holy Meal. The Word fills you with faith. The Meal fills you with Jesus Christ. St. John began in 1903 when a few people gathered for the Word and the Meal. Today, 115 years later, we gather for the same feast.

To learn more about worship and St. John's story,  
click on the GET TO KNOW US page at [www.stjohnelc.org](http://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 or meal*, held four times each year. For details, click on the MEMBERSHIP link on the GET TO KNOW US page at [www.stjohnelc.org](http://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. The nursery is available for you, but *not* staffed during the summer. There is an audio feed of the service in the nursery. If a child needs a shorter break, there is wiggle room and a glider chair in the back of the church.
- *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 Reading ~

2 Kings 4: 42-44 - Today's reading is part of a larger section of 2 Kings that describes the miracles of Elisha, the successor to Elijah. Here the prophet gives food to a hungry crowd. Though there is not enough food to go around, Elisha trusts God, who provides enough and even more to satisfy the need.

Ephesians 3: 14-21 - We have been rooted and grounded in the love of Christ, which surpasses all human knowledge. Because Christ dwells in our hearts, our lives are continuously strengthened and empowered by the ongoing presence of the Spirit.

John 6: 1-21 - In John's gospel, the miracles of Jesus are called "signs," because they reveal the true character of God. As such, they remain within the mystery of God and cannot be brought under human control.

~ Worship Leaders ~

Preaching .....	Elizabeth Yoder	
Assisting Ministers .....	Tanna Reopelle Jan Wilkie Brian Yazzie	Thursday 8:00 AM Sunday 9:30 AM Sunday
Organist .....	Cheryl Hewson Cheryl Hewson	Thursday Sunday
Servers .....	William Lindvig Weston Klatt Cody Foss	Thursday 8:00 AM 9:30 AM

"I GIVE" PEW CARDS

Do you share an offering without using an offering envelope? Has giving electronically left you feeling awkward about passing the offering plate? Has your child ever asked why you don't give an offering like other people (because that is what they see)? We get it! There are a variety of ways to financially support the ministry at St. John! Because every gift matters, there are laminated "I Give" cards in the pew racks for electronic givers to put in the plate during the offering.



FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR AT ST. JOHN

The position of Finance Administrator will be open in late September. This office is responsible for the financial ministry of the congregation and recordkeeping of membership. This part-time position is budgeted at 27 hours per week during office hours and offers flexibility and a meaningful work experience. (Office hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm)

A bachelor's degree is required. At least three years of experience working in a financial office is preferred.

Interested? A full job description is available in the church office and online. Contact Pastor Lisa for more information on this position at 225-6747 or [lewton@stjohnelc.org](mailto:lewton@stjohnelc.org).

## ~ This Week at St. John ~

Monday, July 30	5:00 PM	Scouts
	7:00 PM	Scouts
		UMC Worship Team
Tuesday, July 31	8:30 AM	Lutheran World Relief Quilting
Wed, August 1	9:30 AM	Staff Meeting
Thurs, August 2	7:00 PM	Worship
Friday, August 3	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins
Sunday, August 5	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:30 AM	Worship
	3-5:00 PM	Daycamp Ice Cream Social
	6:00 PM	Scouts

### WORSHIP LIFE

At worship services this past week, these numbers reflect how many people were sent to *Live in Service to Christ*: Thursday 61, and Sunday 251.

### BAPTISM

On Sunday, we celebrate the baptism of Brody James Mack. Brody's parents are Matthew and Monica Mack. Sponsors are Ashley and Ron Steining.

### PUERTO RICO MISSION TRIP

#### July 27 – August 4

They have prepared all year, and now the time has come! These missionaries will be doing physical labor to help rebuild communities in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, and also walking beside those living there – learning about them and their stories. Pray for them as they travel and share God's love with others.

Aiden Jung	Alexus Meduna	Allison Dukart	Amy Wegner
Austin Raatz	Ayanna Fossum	Brady Thompson	Brayden Groll
Brianna Ashworth	Caylee Wilke	Cora Knipp	Emma Meduna
Erica Enderud	Hailey Graves	Hailey Rathgeber	Hannah Rathgeber
Hillary Moberg	Jacob Shilman	Kamryn Kuntz	Kennedy Kuntz
Korie Riely	Kylee Showalter	Lauren Jorda	Macy Leiss
Maddie Gefre	Maddy Hanel	Madi Arndt	Madi Eckelberg
Madi Lindley	Madison Semerad	Mariah Mortensen	Mckenna Weiler
Meghan Ackerman	Morgan Kainz	Mya Elkin	Peyton Selle
Raghyn Murphy	Rasia Mackey	Sophia Mettler	Taylor Nelson

*ADVISORS ~ Pastor Joe Natwick, Becca Natwick, Kaitlyn Olson, Laney Herauf & Trevor Conrad*

Don't miss the **DESTINATION: PUERTO RICO** presentation on **August 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm!** They will share their experiences and pictures from their trip. Come and be inspired by their stories and enjoy a dessert!

~ SERVE & CONNECT ~

**NEW MEMBER SUNDAY**

August 12<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 am

We will welcome new families into St. John's community of faith! Stay after worship and introduce yourself!

**DESTINATION PUERTO RICO!**

August 12<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm

Well, they aren't back yet! But they will be back in August, and ready to share their experience with you! Come and hear the stories and see pictures from Puerto Rico!



**NATWICK RECEPTION**

August 19<sup>th</sup>

Come and celebrate with Pastor Joe & Becca Natwick!

Mark your calendar to attend this special reception to congratulate and bless this couple on their future together.



**GARDEN OF GRACE**

Interested in helping with the garden? Go to [www.stjohelc.org/When Am I Scheduled](http://www.stjohelc.org/WhenAmIScheduled)? to sign up! During the week, you and your family or group can water and weed out the raised beds to keep it beautiful and welcoming for everyone who visits. If there are items to "harvest", tell a staff member or pick the items while you are there. All produce will be delivered to the AMEN Food Pantry.

**FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY**

September 11 – Nov 6

This fantastic class is for everyone who has questions or concerns about finances! Maybe it's learning how to budget, or how to start saving for the future. Or perhaps you want to learn how to pay off debt, or start a retirement plan!

**Register now** for this class by going to [www.stjohelc.org](http://www.stjohelc.org) and click on the Financial Peace banner. Cost for the materials is \$129 per person/couple.

Not sure if this class is right for you? Register to let us know you are coming the first night for more information, then decide if you want to continue with the remaining sessions and purchase materials at that time.

**GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.**

September 30<sup>th</sup>

If you are interested in being a part of the planning team for this great event, contact Amy Graves at [agraves@stjohelc.org](mailto:agraves@stjohelc.org).



For updates on schedules and programs, visit [www.stjohelc.org](http://www.stjohelc.org)!

For quick reference on mobile devices, download the St. John app! Search for [stjohelc](http://stjohelc.org) and download it today!

**YOUR GENEROSITY (as of 6.30.18)**

Giving in June: \$ 33,880



Giving Year to Date

\$291,837



Giving Year to Date same time last year:

\$273,473



Expenditures and Outreach Year to Date:

\$259,322



(Expenditures - \$222,432 Outreach - \$36,899)