

14th Sunday after Pentecost

August 26, 2018

In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.

- Gathering -

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

Musical Meditation, Welcome and Announcements

Milestone Moment: Blessing of the Backpacks

Confession and Forgiveness – Page 94

Gathering Hymn – #408 Come Thou Almighty King

Greeting and Hymn of Praise (*Glory to God...*) – Page 213

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 – Page 205

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day – #581 You Are Mine

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 – #692 We Are an Offering

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 – #195

Hymns – #494, #759, #796

Blessing and Post-Communion Prayer

- Sending -

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

Benediction

Sending Hymn – #679 (V. 1 & 3) For the Fruit of All Creation

- 1 For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.**

- 3 For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.**

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!

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

~ 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.
- 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 ~

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 - In the Near East, covenant means agreement or alliance. It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.

Ephesians 6: 10-20 - Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.

John 6: 56-69 - The "hard saying" that offends Jesus' disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: "To whom shall we go?"

~ Worship Leaders ~

Preaching	Pastor Lisa Lewton	
Presiding Minister	Pastor Joe Natwick	Sunday
Assisting Ministers	Rasia Mackey	Thursday
	LaRae Tschetter	8:00 AM Sunday
	Kris Brugamy	9:30 AM Sunday
Organist	Barb Arneson	Thursday
	Barb Arneson	Sunday
Servers	Lane Richard	Thursday
	Ezra Taray	8:00 AM
	Tyler Warwick	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 ADMINSTRATOR 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 or equivalent work experience is desired. 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 lewtan@stjohnelc.org.

~ This Week at St. John ~

Monday, Aug 27	5:00 PM	Scouts
	7:00 PM	Scouts
Tuesday, Aug 28	8:30 AM	Lutheran World Relief Quilting
	6:30 PM	Trust Fund Meeting
	7:00 PM	Theology on Tap at Players
Wed, Aug 29	9:30 AM	Staff Meeting
Thurs, Aug 30	7:00 PM	Worship
Friday, Aug 31	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins
Saturday, Sept 1	9:00 AM	NO Altar Guild
Sunday, Sept 2	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:30 AM	Worship
	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 37, and Sunday 285.

UPCOMING WORSHIP EVENTS @ ST JOHN ~

September 5th *Rally Wednesday!*

This "kicks off" the Wednesday night program at St. John! Everyone is welcome! There will be fun activities on the front lawn, family meal, fun worship, and the Confirmation program begins as well!

5:15 – 6:30 pm Family Meal and Rally Day activities on the front lawn!

6:30 – 7:00 pm Worship

7:00 – 8:00 pm Confirmation program begins!

7th & 8th graders meet their Mentors

9th graders write their Faith Statements

Parents – Special speaker in the sanctuary

September 9th – Fall schedule begins!

8:00 am Worship

9:15 am Adult Education & Choir rehearsal

10:30 am Worship

September 30th – "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday

The "kick-off" to our Stewardship month ... putting our hands and feet to work and doing "God's work with our hands" in Dickinson! Sign up for a project that interests you during the month of September be a part of this day when the St. John community coming together to make a difference!

~ SERVE & CONNECT ~

"GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS." SUNDAY

September 30th

Volunteers are needed to run the "Project Sign-Up Table" during the worship services in September leading up to "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday on September 30th. If you'd like to help, please contact Amy in the church office (agraves@stjohnelc.org) or sign up directly at www.stjohnelc.org. (Select **When Am I Scheduled** at the bottom of the home page.)



RALLY DAY!

September 5th @ 5:15 – 7:00 pm

This marks the beginning of Church School for the 2018-19 school year! Supper will begin at 5:15 pm followed by fun activities for the family! At 6:30 pm a fun and active worship will take place! Come and register for Church School (all students must register!) and enjoy a fun evening as the program year resumes!

CONFIRMATION RESUMES

September 5th @ 7:00 – 8:00 pm

A brief orientation for 7th & 8th grade students and parents, followed by "Meet your Mentor Night!" 9th grade students will meet in their mentor groups to work on their Faith Statements.



begins September 11th!

Financial Peace University is a 9-week class where you will learn practical ways to pay off debt, overcome your fear of budgeting and create a savings plan to replace retirement worries. Give yourself "financial peace" and attend this class! You can register online at stjohnelc.org and click on the homepage banner!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS RETURN!

September brings back Wednesday Nights and all of the programs at St. John! Many volunteers are needed for these programs to be a success. *If you can help with hosting a meal, leading Church School, being a Confirmation Mentor, or helping with worship by providing music or running the projector*, contact Pastor Joe at jnatwick@stjohnelc.org or call the church office.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

August 28th @ 7:00 pm (@ Players Bar & Grill)

Are you settling in to the "fall routine"? Add this "class" to your schedule. Adults join together to talk about some interesting topics, learn from one another, and question our thoughts and beliefs. It's a great evening of conversation and making new friendships. This group consists of all faith backgrounds. Everyone is welcome!

Come early and enjoy a meal · stay for the conversation!



TAMMY KRENZ &
ELLA NESHEIM!

Tammy and Ella have been the friendly voices and faces of the front office at St. John. They begin retirement after their last day of work on Aug. 30. Thanks to both of these ladies who have faithfully cared for the members and ministry of the congregation! Please feel free to say a thank you over email or on the phone during their last week of work in the office. *(We do not have to say a "full goodbye" to Tammy Krenz - she has helped her husband, Ray Krenz, with the custodial duties at St. John, and will continue in that work, shining up the church and continuing to share her gift of making St. John a welcoming place!)*

*For updates on schedules and programs,
visit our website at www.stjohnelc.org!*