

15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 2, 2018

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life." Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We, having been washed in the word when we were born in the font, return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

- Gathering -

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

Musical Meditation, Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness – Page 94

Gathering Hymn – #520 Dearest Jesus, at Your Word

Greeting and Hymn of Praise (*Glory be 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 – #588 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

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 – #461, #708, #712

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 ~

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 - The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.

James 1:17-27 - The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here, Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 - Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

~ Worship Leaders ~

Preaching	Pastor Lisa Lewton	
Presiding Minister	Pastor Lisa Lewton	Sunday
Assisting Ministers	Gayle Homiston	Thursday
	Jan Wilkie	8:00 AM Sunday
	Don Brugamyer	9:30 AM Sunday
Organist	Michael Stevenson	Thursday
	Cheryl Hewson	Sunday
Servers	Ella Healy	Thursday
	Beauden Krueger	8:00 AM
	McKenna Skaare	9:30 AM

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 will have a 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!

~ This Week at St. John ~

Monday, Sept 3	9-4:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Office Closed – Observance of Labor Day Scouts Scouts
Tuesday, Sept 4	8:30 AM	Lutheran World Relief Quilting
Wed, Sept 5	10:30 AM 5:15 PM 6:00 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Staff Meeting Fellowship Meal Rally Day Activities Worship Mentor Groups 9 th Grade Faith Statements
Thurs, Sept 6	6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Backpacks Prep Worship
Friday, Sept 7	6:30 AM 9:00 AM	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins Backpack Delivery
Sunday, Sept 9	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 Sr. High Youth

WORSHIP LIFE

At worship services this past week, these numbers reflect how many people were sent to *Live in Service to Christ*: Thursday, 65 and Sunday 254.

BAPTISM

On Thursday, we celebrated the baptism of Brooklyn Marie Robertson. Brooklyn's parents are Kirsten and Kenzie Robertson. Sponsor is Kaylee Heinrich.

"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.

~ SERVE & CONNECT ~

"GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS." SUNDAY

September 30th

It's time to sign up for projects! You can sign up at the "God's Work. Our Hands." table located in the Commons area, OR you can also sign up on the website! There are a few projects which take place on dates other than Sept. 30th, so visit the list even if you aren't available on that Sunday. Want to help at the Project Sign-up table? 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!

5:15 pm Supper will begin followed by Church School registration & fun activities for the family!

6:30 pm Worship – outside! (weather permitting)
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.

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.



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!

"LEARNING IN SERVICE TO CHRIST"

Beginning Sept. 9th!

This adult education class is open to everyone! Classes will be held on:

Sundays @ 9:15 am

Wednesdays @ 6:00 pm

Childcare will be available during the Wednesday classes! This is a fun and informal class that touches on various topics of interest.

MILESTONE MINISTRY in SEPTEMBER

Milestone Ministry is an intentional ministry that connects households to each other & to the congregation, as we recognize and learn about God's presence throughout the different stages of life. Parents accompany their child(ren) for a time to gather, share & practice your faith.

Sept. 12th – 3 year old

"Entry into Church School"

Sept. 19th – 4 & 5 year old

"Welcome to Worship"

Sept. 26th & Oct. 3rd – 3rd grade

"Bible Adventure"

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