

16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 9, 2018

James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings her or his need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

- Gathering -

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

Musical Meditation, Welcome and Announcements

(Liturgy is found in the "Now the Feast and Celebration Booklet" unless otherwise noted.)

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness – Page 2

Processional Hymn – #731 Earth and All Stars

Greeting – Page 2

Hymn of Praise "Now the Feast" – Page 4

Salutation and Prayer of the Day – Page 7

- Word –

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

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

Gospel Verse – Page 8

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day – #722 O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate

Apostles' Creed – Page 9

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 “As the Grains of Wheat” – Page 10

Offering Prayer

Great Thanksgiving and Holy, Holy, Holy – Page 11

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.

Ushers will guide you up the center aisle to the communion rail, where you may stand or kneel as you prefer. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available. Children of all ages are welcome to commune. They may extend hands for the sacrament or fold them for a blessing.

Lamb of God – Page 14

Hymns – #481, #612, #708

Blessing

Hymn “Thanks Be To You” – Page 15

Post-Communion Prayer

- Sending -

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

Blessing and Dismissal – Page 16

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 anytime, and staffed only at the 10:30 a.m. service. 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 ~

Isaiah 35:4-7a-These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Chapter 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17- Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip-service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

Mark 7:24-37- In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

~ Worship Leaders ~

Preaching	Pastor Joe Natwick	
Presiding Minister.....	Pastor Lisa Lewton	Sunday
Assisting Ministers.....	Gayle Homiston	Thursday
	Marci Murphy	8:00 AM Sunday
	Kris Fehr	10:30 AM Sunday
Deacons.....	Jennifer Jung	8:00 AM Sunday
	Jesse Kilwein	10:30 AM
Organist.....	Carrie Mitzel	Thursday
	Barb Arneson	Sunday
Servers	Weston Klatt	Thursday
	Courtney Roller & Amy Fridley	8:00 AM
	Kate Enney & Kate Welk	10:30 AM

WHERE DO I GO TO "STAY CONNECTED" WITH THE ST. JOHN COMMUNITY?



Are you receiving the **weekly e-news** about upcoming events or resources? This will give you a breakdown of everything coming up in the week – see it in your mailbox on Mondays!



Quarterly Newsletters will give you stories about the great ministries happening at St. John. These will be mailed out and available online in October, January, April & July.



Follow us on **Facebook!** You will see reminders of events & deadlines, short videos & updates, and connect you with other great events happening in the community.



Download the St. John app to be able to access the **website** at a click! The website contains contact info and everything going on at St. John. Search for stjohnehc when downloading the app. Prefer to type it out? Visit the website at www.stjohnehc.org

~ This Week at St. John ~

Monday, Sept 10	4:30 PM	Lutheran Social Services
	5:00 PM	Scouts
	7:00 PM	Scouts
	7:15 PM	Teacher Orientation-Fellowship Room
Tuesday, Sept 11	8:30 AM	Lutheran World Relief Quilting
	7:00 PM	Financial Peace University
Wed, Sept 12	10:30 AM	Staff Meeting
	5:15 PM	Fellowship Meal
	6:00 PM	Church School
		Adult Education
		3 yr. old Milestone Ministry
	6:30 PM	Worship
	7:00 PM	Mentor Groups
		9 th Grade Stole Decorating
Thurs, Sept 13	6:00 PM	Backpacks Prep
	7:00 PM	Worship
Friday, Sept 14	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins
	9:00 AM	Backpack Delivery
Sunday, Sept 16	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Adult Education- <i>Learning in Service to Christ</i>
		Senior Choir
	10:30 AM	Worship
	1:00 PM	Handbells
	7:00 PM	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, 76 and Sunday 192.

"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

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 and be a part of this day when the St. John community coming together to make a difference! You can sign up in the Commons area or online!

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.*



~ Wednesday Night Schedule ~

5:15 pm Fellowship Supper (*free-will donation*)

6:00 pm Church School

Adult Education - Fellowship room
(Nursery staffed during class)

6:30 pm Worship

7:00 pm Confirmation activities



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 (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"

PROJECTOR TECHS!

September 19th @ 7:00 pm & 8:00 pm

Interested in assisting with worship by projecting the service on the screen? Come to the **PROJECTOR TECH TRAINING** and find out what it's all about and how to use the software. You can come either at 7:00 pm (right after worship) or at 8:00 pm! If you are unable to make it during these times, contact Sonnie at sonnie@stjohnelc.org to set up an alternate time.

← CHECK THIS OUT!

"THANK YOU" COOKOUT!

September 16th @ 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Prairie Winds United Methodist Church

As a "thank you" for utilizing the facilities at St. John during their relocation – all are invited for a tour of their new church home and fellowship with hamburgers & hotdogs!