

# Stewardship Sunday

October 21, 2018

*Stewardship: Faithfully and carefully managing something entrusted to a person's care.*

## - 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.)*

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the ☩ holy Trinity, giver of time and life, who renews us each day. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God, who calls us to steward time, talent, and treasure.

*Silence for reflection*

O God, throughout time, you are slow to anger and abounding in mercy.

**Forgive us when we fail as stewards of time. We treat time as an endless commodity and squander it away on Facebook, neglecting the faces of those in need. We proudly complain about being busy, instead of claiming our time as a precious gift from you.**

In our fastness and our slowness, help us keep pace with you. Free us to live in your time, a new time, in which there is a time for everything under heaven, and slow is not too slow, and fast is not too fast.

**Transform us into people who see time as a gift and a friend, who live as if we have time, because we know that your time will never cease. Through Jesus we pray. Amen.**

Hear the timeless good news, that the mercy of God is not contingent upon what you accomplish in a day. God's mercy is never on a schedule; it is freely given time and time again because you are beloved child of God, ☩ forgiven and made free. **Amen.**

**Processional Hymn – #683 The Numberless Gifts of God's Mercies**

*(Sung to the tune of #627 O Day Full of Grace)*

Greeting (pg. 2) & Prayer of the Day

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus gathered with some of his closest friends...

This is the story. All we had was Passover bread, unleavened and dry. Yet, as it snapped in two at the hands of the Savior the abundance of heaven exploded. The truth poured out of how expensive love is. Not just this once, but every time it is done: the extravagant cost and calling of love for each of us. A story of God's abundant love through death to live.

Let us pray. Gracious God, **the story of our lives is shaped by your love.**

**Help us see your gifts of love to all the world. Amen.**

## - Word -

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

Gospel verse – Page 8

Gospel Reading – Luke 22:14-20

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

Sermon

### Hymn of the Day – #638 Blessed Assurance

Apostles' Creed – Page 9

Blessing Your Stewardship of Talent with the Handbell Choir

Sharing the Peace (*Response: And also with you.*)

## - Meal -

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

Offering *Special Music by the Handbell Choir: "Fantasy on an Irish Tune"*

*If you have a pledge card with you, we invite you to set it in the offering plate.*

### Offertory Hymn – "As the Grains of Wheat" (V. 1) – Page 10

Blessing of Pledge Cards and Digital Pledges

Gracious and loving God, giver of all that is good and true and beautiful and life-giving.

**Our pledges represent our hard work, our stories, and dreams we have shared around a table.**

These promises are but tokens of the incredible gifts that have been given to us and they are pledged in thanksgiving for all we have received. **May they be the first fruits of all we have and not what we have left over.**

May we see these pledges as our offering to you, sacred yet earthy, filled with possibilities. **May we hold this image in our hearts and minds so as our offerings come to your table of mercy, we remember you alone are the giver of every good gift. We pray in the name of the host at the table, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Words of Institution and The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...Amen.**

Distribution of Bread and Wine

All who believe in the redeeming power of Christ's love are welcome at the Lord's Table.

*Special Music by the Handbell Choir*

### Hymns – #483, #685, #659

### Blessing and 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

# 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.

## ~ Introduction to the Reading ~

Luke 24:14-20 – Each week we share this old story of the Lord’s Supper. We say it so often, like rote memory you might not even hear it any longer. Today, listen as though you are hearing it for the first time. What words emerge from the story? What did the bread taste like? How heavy was the air? What did they sit on? You are already a part of this story in which the bread was broken *for you*. *Please return your pledge card or pledge online by Oct. 21.*

### ~ Worship Leaders ~

Preaching .....	Pastor Joe Natwick	
Presiding Minister.....	Pastor Lisa Lewton	Sunday
Assisting Ministers.....	Jenny Rea	Thursday
	LaRae Tschetter	8:00 AM Sunday
	Renee Boomgaarden	10:30 AM Sunday
Deacons.....	Seth Poland	8:00 AM Sunday
	Margaret Marcusen	10:30 AM
Organist.....	Cheryl Hewson	Thursday
	Cheryl Hewson	Sunday
Servers .....	Ian Homiston	Thursday
	Mason Stroh & Thomas Lewton	8:00 AM
	Nathan Klein & James Reger	10:30 AM

### LET’S TALK! “Telling Stories Around the Table”

How do you share your gifts and talents with others? Share your stories of generosity with others! In sharing your stories, others see ways that they can be generous too!

- Share your story with the St. John community on the Commons area bulletin board!
- Share with others the great ways “God’s Work. Our Hands.” helps people in Dickinson!
- Talk around your own table with your family on ways you can be generous to people in your neighborhood, school, community and around the world!

### PLEDGING .... WHAT IS IT? HOW DO I MAKE A PLEDGE?

A pledge is your commitment to make a financial gift that supports the mission of St. John. Pledging is a response to God’s call and abundance in our own lives - it’s a statement of thanksgiving!

There are a few ways you can complete your pledge....

- Complete the pledge card you receive in the mail or from the pews. Pledge cards will be collected on THIS WEEK during worship.
- Complete your pledge online! Go to [www.stjohnelc.org](http://www.stjohnelc.org) and click on the dropdown list by the GIVE button located in the upper right corner of the homepage. You will also find more information on pledging, ways to give and where your gifts are utilized.



## ~ This Week at St. John ~

Monday, Oct 22	4:30 PM	Lutheran Social Services
	5:00 PM	Scouts
	7:00 PM	Scouts
Tuesday, Oct 23	8:30 AM	Lutheran World Relief Quilting
	7:00 PM	Financial Peace University
Wed, Oct 24	10:30 AM	Staff Meeting
	5:15 PM	Fellowship Meal
	6:00 PM	Church School
		Adult Education
		2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Milestone Ministry
	6:30 PM	Worship
	7:00 PM	Confirmation Rehearsal
Thurs, Oct 25	5:00 PM	Budget Meeting
	6:00 PM	Backpacks Prep
	7:00 PM	Bluegrass Worship
Friday, Oct 26	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins
	9:00 AM	Backpack Delivery
	5:00 PM	Confirmation Retreat at Badlands Ministries (Friday & Saturday)
Sunday, Oct 28	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Adult Education- <i>Learning in Service to Christ</i>
		Senior Choir
	10:30 AM	Worship-Reformation and Confirmation Sunday
	3:15 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*:  
Wednesday 201 Thursday, 44 and Sunday 289.

### "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 ~

### **THIS WEEK WE CELEBRATE YOUR GENEROSITY**

As we make our pledge of giving for 2019, **we give thanks** for YOUR stewardship! Your gifts change the story – for you and for others around the world. Share your story of “Why I Give”, and continue to have meaningful conversations of how we “*Live in Service to Christ*”.

### **MILESTONE MINISTRY in OCTOBER**

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.

Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm – 2<sup>nd</sup> graders & parents  
“Kids & Money”

### **DISHIN’ WITH THE BISH**

**October 21<sup>st</sup> @ 5:30 pm @ St. John**

Synod Staff are heading on the road for the Annual “Dishin’ with the Bish” tour. You are invited to make your way to this gathering for a meal (5:30 – 6:15 pm), followed by bible study and discussions about ministry (6:15 – 7:30 pm). Bring a dessert or salad to share!

### **THEOLOGY ON TAP**

**Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm**

Theology on Tap is a night for great conversation! With carefully crafted conversations in a small group setting, we dive deep into topics that affect faith, life, and the world. This month, Theology on Tap returns to **Player’s Bar and Grill**. The private room is reserved at 6:00pm, so come early and grab a bite to eat. You are invited to taste and experience what this night is all about!

### **FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL**

**October 31st @ 4:30 – 7:00 pm**

Join us for an evening of Halloween fun!

**4:30 - 6:00 pm Enjoy Sloppy Joes!**

**5:00 - 6:00 pm Crafts, Games & Trick-or-Treating!**

**6:00 - 6:30 pm Worship**

This is a family event – bring your friends! Everyone is welcome! You are welcome to “come & go” as you wish!

### **CHURCH ROOF UPDATE**

The 68-year old clay tile roof above the sanctuary is currently being repaired. Last year, the Council wondered if the roof would need to be replaced by shingles as the tiles are no longer available. After considerable research by Jerry Schwartz, replacement tiles were located in Washington and in the church attic! The church’s insurance company is covering the cost of repair.

### **WEEKLY E-NEWS**

Are you receiving weekly emails with a breakdown of activities happening at St. John each week? There are also links to other great articles, events and community events you may be interested in! If you are not receiving these emails, and would like to “read all about it”, go to [www.stjohnelc.org](http://www.stjohnelc.org) and click on “Sign up for our E-News” on the homepage.

### **BLUEGRASS WORSHIP!**

**Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm**

Each year, Reformation Sunday brings the brass, but this year Reformation Thursday is bringing the bluegrass! **Luthergrass** (*Tim Holdahl, Jon Tangen, and Pastor Joe*) will lead a worship service full of your favorite hymns, bluegrass music, and old-time Gospel songs. Come commemorate 501 years of the Reformation with a night of joyful noise!