

# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

## December 2, 2018

*Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Our Lord’s contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of our Lord in word and supper*

### - Gathering -

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

#### Meditation

*Advent is a season of waiting. As you wait for worship to begin, we invite you into a time of meditation and reflection about the love of God soon to be born into the world in Jesus. As the days grow shorter and the nights longer, we gather to await the dawn of God’s mercy. Our prayer is woven of silence, scripture, and song.*

#### Welcome and Announcements

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness – Page 94

#### **Gathering Hymn – #254 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus**

Advent Candle Lighting “***We Wait in Hope***”

*(Sung together)* **All creation lies in waiting, in the stillness of the night,  
with hope anticipating the Advent of Eternal Light.**

Advent is a time to wait.

**We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.**

During Advent we wait for light in the darkness.

**We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.**

During Advent we wait for freedom from captivity.

**We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.**

During Advent we wait for comfort in sorrow.

**We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.**

During Advent we wait for power in weakness.

**We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.**

This morning we light the first candle...

*(Sung together)* **We wait in hope for the morning Light, for the love of  
Christ to illuminate the night. We wait with joy for the Savior’s birth;  
we wait in hope for peace on the earth.**

Let us pray. God in heaven, **as we begin this season of Advent, we pray that you will teach us to wait with patience, endurance and trust. Holding to the eternal promises revealed to us through the power of your Word, we ask that you remind us of your everlasting presence. Amen**

## **- Word -**

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

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

Gospel Acclamation– **Alleluia. Stand up and raise your heads your redemption is drawing near. Alleluia.** (Luke 21:28)

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

Sermon

**Hymn of the Day – #257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 1-4)**

Nicene Creed – Page 104

Prayers of the People and Sharing the Peace (*Response: And also with you.*)

## **- Meal -**

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

Offering

**Offertory Hymn – #488 (v. 1) Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness**

Offering Prayer, Great Thanksgiving and Holy, Holy, Holy – Page 144

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

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 – Sung to the tune of **#276 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**

**Hymns – #262, #487, #438**

Blessing and Post-Communion Prayer

## **- Sending -**

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

Blessing

**Sending Hymn – #253 He Came Down**

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"

# 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, but if a parent feels that little hands, feet and voices are making it difficult for others to worship, the nursery is staffed during the 10:30 a.m. service. If a child needs a shorter break, there is wiggle room and a glider chair in the narthex.
- *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 ~

Jeremiah 33:14-16- *In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The Lord is our righteousness”—proclaims that the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.*

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13- *Upon Timothy’s report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.*

Luke 21:25-36- *God will fulfill God’s purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God’s people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God’s promised redemption.*

## ~ Worship Leaders ~

Preaching .....	Pastor Joe Natwick	
Presiding Minister.....	Pastor Lisa Lewton	Sunday
Assisting Ministers.....	Jenny Rea	Thursday
	Dream O’Brien	8:00 AM Sunday
	Patrick Healy	10:30 AM Sunday
Deacons.....	Linda Splichal	8:00 AM Sunday
	Margaret Marcusen	10:30 AM
Organist.....	Barb Arneson	Thursday
	Cheryl Hewson	Sunday
Servers .....	Matthew Schmitt	Thursday
	James Reger & Sofia Mackey	8:00 AM
	Burkley Luchi & Thomas Lewton	10:30 AM



### ST. JOHN ANGEL TREES

There are **TWO Angel Trees** this year – one is located in the Commons Area and the other is in the Narthex! There are opportunities to give to local families and to families around the world.

Consider giving an **Angel’s gift** to someone in the Dickinson area who is in need this holiday. Select an angel tag from the tree, sign the register and return your gift in a gift bag by Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>.

There are also ornaments to make a donation to the **ELCA Good Gifts** ministry! Purchasing an animal can make a world of a difference for a family in need. With one gift, you can help a family end a cycle of hunger. Select an ornament, sign the register and give a donation to St. John Lutheran Church with ELCA Good Gifts noted on the payment.

## ~ This Week at St. John ~

Monday, Dec 3	4:30 PM	Lutheran Social Services
	5:00 PM	Scouts
	7:00 PM	Scouts
Tuesday, Dec 4	8:30 AM	Lutheran World Relief Quilting
Wednesday, Dec 5	10:30 AM	Staff Meeting
	5:15 PM	Fellowship Meal
	6:00 PM	Church School
		Adult Education
	6:30 PM	Worship
	7:00 PM	Confirmation
Thursday, Dec 6	6:00 PM	Backpacks Prep
	7:00 PM	Worship
Friday, Dec 7	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins
	9:00 AM	Backpack Delivery
Saturday, Dec 8	1:00 PM	Camp Christmas-Badlands Ministries
Sunday, Dec 9	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Adult Education- <i>Learning in Service to Christ</i>
		Senior Choir
	10:30 AM	Worship
	3:15 PM	Handbells
	7:00 PM	Sr. High Youth
		Our Journey of Hope

### WORSHIP LIFE

At worship services this past week, these numbers reflect how many people were sent to *Live in Service to Christ*:  
Wednesday (Thanksgiving Eve) 59 and Sunday 278.



### CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Monday, December 24 <sup>th</sup> :	3:00 pm Worship ( <i>broadcast on KDIX radio – 1230 AM, or click the “Listen Live” button at <a href="http://www.stjohnelc.org/">www.stjohnelc.org/</a>!</i> )
	5:00 pm Worship
	9:00 pm Worship ( <i>candlelight service</i> )
Tuesday, December 25 <sup>th</sup> :	10:00 am Worship

## ~ SERVE & CONNECT ~

### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA MEMORIALS



Forms are available on the sanctuary entrance tables and on the St. John website. A portion of the funds will purchase poinsettias to adorn the chancel, with the majority of the funds going to the **ELCA Good Gifts** program. Forms must be returned by December 15<sup>th</sup>.



### OUR JOURNEY OF HOPE

**Begins December 2 @ 7:00 – 9:00 pm**

Show God's love to those who are suffering from cancer and the loved ones who care for them. Our Journey of Hope is a Cancer Care Ministry that equips others with the most valuable gift cancer patients and caregivers need – the gift of HOPE. Sign up for these sessions on the St. John website, by calling the church office or email Amy Graves (Director of Hospitality & Stewardship) at [agraves@stjohnelc.org](mailto:agraves@stjohnelc.org).

### “LIGHT UP A LIFE” MEMORIAL SERVICE

**Sun., Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 2:00 pm**

(Prairie Winds Methodist Church – 2510 21<sup>st</sup> St W)



The holiday season is often difficult for those experiencing the loss of loved ones; this non-denomination memorial service provides an opportunity for remembrance, reflection, healing and celebration of life through music, scripture and inspirational readings. Stay for refreshments following the service!

ADVENT



### THE ADVENT SEASON IS UPON US

2018 Advent calendars, studies and devotionals are located in the Narthex & Common Areas.

**For updates on programs and schedules,  
visit us at [www.stjohnelc.org](http://www.stjohnelc.org)!**

### CAMP CHRISTMAS @ Badlands Ministries

**Sat., Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 pm** (Bethlehem Dining Hall)

Christmas cookies & carols at camp! This event will feature music offered by church choirs and music ensembles hymn sing!

### GIFTS THAT MATTER - ELCA GOOD GIFTS

Do you wonder what gifts to give people who have everything? Check out ELCA Good Gifts to explore gift giving that makes a major impact in Jesus' name on people and villages far away and in the U.S. Go to [www.ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://www.ELCA.org/goodgifts), or visit with a pastor to learn more.

### SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

**Sun. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 pm** (St. John)

This lovely celebration of the Christmas season consists of bible lessons and carols led by the Bell Choir, Senior Choir, local musicians and clergy. This service originated in England in 1918 at King's College at Cambridge University, and is still celebrated around the world today!

### ST. JOHN HOLIDAY CONCERT

**Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm**

Come and enjoy an evening of music with the St. John Senior Choir and Handbell Choir as we celebrate this most wonderful time of the year! If there are voices that would like to join us just for that event, come to the Choir rehearsals at 9:15 on Sundays! The choir will rehearse their anthems quickly first, and then work on the songs for the concert. If you have any questions, contact Michael Stevenson, Senior Choir Director.



### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

**Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**

It's going to be a festive night! Come for supper at 5:00 pm, and enjoy this very special Christmas program **“A Christmas to Believe in”** at 6:00 pm. Stay after the program for a cookies and cocoa!

Church School will resume on Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>.