

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

## December 9, 2018

*Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Lord Jesus as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of the Lord and assist all flesh in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."*

### - 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 – #264 Prepare the Royal Highway**

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 watch.

**We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.**

During Advent we watch for hope in the midst of despair.

**We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.**

During Advent we watch for forgiveness in the midst of rebellion.

**We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.**

During Advent we watch for peace in the midst of conflict.

**We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.**

During Advent we watch for the presence of God in the midst of a fallen world.

**We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.**

This morning we light two candles...

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

Let us pray. God in heaven, **as we learn to wait in faith, help us now to watch in expectation. Open our eyes that we might see the ways you are at work around us, within us and through us. Amen.**

## - Word -

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

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

### **Psalm Hymn - #250 Blessed Be the God of Israel**

*(Zechariah's Prophecy about his son, John the Baptist, spoken at John's birth)*

Gospel Acclamation– **Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.** (Luke 3:4, 6)

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

Sermon

### **Hymn of the Day – #256 Comfort, Comfort Now My People**

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 (10:30 a.m.) Senior Choir Anthem: "Every Valley"

### **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. Use the center aisle to come to the Communion Rails, following the people in front of you.*

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

**Lamb of God, you take a-way, the sin of the world. (repeat)**

**Lamb of God, have mer-cy on us. (repeat)**

**Lamb of God, oh grant us peace. (repeat)**

### **Hymns – #260, #631, #239**

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 ~

Malachi 3:1-4-The Lord announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) shall prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.

Philippians 1:3-11-The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

Luke 3:1-6-John the Baptist is a herald of the saving Lord, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

## ~ Worship Leaders ~

Preaching .....	Pastor Lisa Lewton	
Presiding Minister.....	Pastor Joe Natwick	Sunday
Assisting Ministers.....	Diane Melbye	Thursday
	LaRae Tschetter	8:00 AM Sunday
	Renee Boomgaarden	10:30 AM Sunday
Deacons.....	Dan Pender	8:00 AM Sunday
	Susan Moberg	10:30 AM
Organist.....	Barb Arneson	Thursday
	Barb Arneson	Sunday
Servers .....	Nathan Klein	Thursday
	Dylan Smith & Damon Glasser	8:00 AM
	Molly Robb & Ian Homiston	10:30 AM

### **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.

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.



Church School students who are filling **GLOBAL BARNYARD BANKS** can bring them on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>! Funds collected will go to purchase animals through the ELCA Good Gifts program.

## ~ This Week at St. John ~

Monday, Dec 10	4:30 PM	Lutheran Social Services
	5:00 PM	Scouts
	7:00 PM	Scouts
Tuesday, Dec 11	8:30 AM	Lutheran World Relief Quilting
Wed., Dec 12	10:30 AM	Staff Meeting
	5:15 PM	Fellowship Meal
	6:00 PM	Church School
		Adult Education - <i>Learning in Service to Christ</i>
	6:30 PM	Worship
	7:00 PM	Mentor Group Fun Night
		Christmas Program Rehearsal
	7:15 PM	Trust Fund Meeting
Thursday, Dec 13	6:00 PM	Backpacks Prep
	7:00 PM	Worship
Friday, Dec 14	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins
	9:00 AM	Backpack Delivery
	5:00 PM	Wedding Rehearsal
Saturday, Dec 15	9:00 AM	Altar Guild
	1:00 PM	Schock/Olin Wedding
Sunday, Dec 16	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Adult Education- <i>Learning in Service to Christ</i>
		Senior Choir
	10:30 AM	Worship
	4:00 PM	Service of Lessons & Carols
	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 243, Thursday 48 and Sunday 321.



### CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Monday, December 24 <sup>th</sup> :	3:00 pm Worship ( <i>broadcast on KDIX radio – 1230 AM, or click on 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>.

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

In November, special offerings were collected for

Thankoffering (WELCA) \$ 319.00

World Hunger \$1,643.00

Lutheran Social Services \$ 482.00

Your generous gifts continue to support these programs in their important ministries. To learn more about them, visit their websites:

· <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/thankofferings>

· [https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-](https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA-World-Hunger)

[Development/ELCA-World-Hunger](https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA-World-Hunger)

· <https://www.lss-nd.org/what-we-do>

### **ST JOHN ANGEL TREES**

**Return gifts by Sun., Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>!**

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>.



### **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)!**

### **SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS**

**Sun. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 pm**

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 CHRISTMAS 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.

### **A CHRISTMAS TO BELIEVE IN**

**Children's Christmas Program**

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

It's going to be a fun & festive night!



5:00 pm Supper

6:00 pm **"A Christmas to Believe in"**

Stay after the program for cookies and cocoa!

*Church School resumes on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.*

### **ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVER**

**SUPPORT GROUP**

**Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> @ 12:00 pm**

Conducted by trained facilitators, this group is a safe place for caregivers, family and friends of persons with dementia to develop a support system and talk about challenges and possible solutions. This group meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Visit [www.alz.org/mnnd](http://www.alz.org/mnnd) to learn more about programs and resources.