

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
*December 16, 2018*

The presence of the Lord “in your midst” in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with his winnowing fork in his hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

**- 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 – #532 Gather Us In**

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 prepare.

**Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

During Advent we prepare our eyes to see the light of Christ.

**Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

During Advent we prepare our hearts to receive the Word of Christ.

**Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

During Advent we prepare to share the joy of Christ.

**Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

During Advent we prepare to embrace the promise of Christ.

**Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

This morning we light the three candles...

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

Let us pray. God in heaven, **as we continue our Advent journey, help us to be people who wait for you, watch for you, and through your Spirit be prepared for you. Continue to shine your light in our lives as we look at all you have done, all you are doing, and all you will do.**

**Amen**

## - Word -

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

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

Gospel Acclamation– **Alleluia. I am sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.** (Matt. 11:10)

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

Sermon

**Hymn of the Day – #715 Christ, Be Our Light**

(8:00 am) Nicene Creed – Page 104

(10:30 am) Baptism- Page 227 (Mya Marie Pavlicek)

**Hymn – #677 (vs.1) – This Little Light of Mine**

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**

**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 – #487, #272, #295**

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 ~

Zephaniah 3:14-20- The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

Philippians 4:4-7- Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns, with the hope they will experience God's joy and peace.

Luke 3:7-18- John the Baptist heralds the mighty one "who is coming." John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

## ~ Worship Leaders ~

Preaching .....	Pastor Joe Natwick	
Presiding Minister.....	Pastor Lisa Lewton	Sunday
Assisting Ministers.....	Diane Melbye	Thursday
	Jan Wilkie	8:00 AM Sunday
	Kris Brugamyer	10:30 AM Sunday
Deacons.....	Jennifer Jung	8:00 AM Sunday
	Darlene Pelton	10:30 AM
Organist.....	Cheryl Hewson	Thursday
	Cheryl Hewson	Sunday
Servers .....	Ian Homiston	Thursday
	Ian Homiston & Brukley Luchi	8:00 AM
	Ethan Erdman & James Reger	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 24	Church Office Open Till Noon	
	3:00 PM	Worship
	5:00 PM	Worship
	9:00 PM	Worship (Candlelight Service)
Tuesday, Dec 25	10:00 AM	Christmas Day Worship (Office Closed)
Wed., Dec 26	Church Office Closed	
Thursday, Dec 27	7:00 PM	Worship
Friday, Dec 28	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins
Sunday, Dec 30	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

### WORSHIP LIFE

At worship services this past week, these numbers reflect how many people were sent to *Live in Service to Christ*: Wednesday **175**, Thursday **58** and Sunday **287**.

### BAPTISM

On Sunday, we celebrate the baptism of **Mya Marie Pavlicek**. Mya's parents are Tucker & Lacy Pavlicek. Sponsors are Crystal Miller & Jesse Pavlicek.



### 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

*\*Do you know of someone who is homebound and cannot attend a Christmas service, and would like to receive Holy Communion? Please contact Cora in the church office at 225-6747 or [tormaschyc@stjohnelc.org](mailto:tormaschyc@stjohnelc.org) for a pastor to bring Communion.*

## ~ SERVE & CONNECT ~



### **THE ADVENT SEASON IS UPON US**

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

### **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>!***

Angel gifts need to be returned in a gift bag by Sunday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. Ornaments for the ELCA Good Gifts program are still available!

### **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!

### **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>.

### **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!

### **ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVER SUPPORT**

#### ***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.

### **END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS**

Contributions must be received by the church office by Monday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> - or postmarked prior to Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> - to be included with your 2018 contribution statement.

If you wish to "prepay" your 2019 pledge, use the special envelope in your booklet, or choose the "prepayment" contribution online. This will indicate the funds be utilized in 2019, but will posted for tax purposes as a contribution in 2018.

Questions? Contact Angie Mackey, Finance Administrator at [amackey@stjohnelc.org](mailto:amackey@stjohnelc.org) or call 701.225.6747.

### **2019 ENVELOPES**

Please pick up your envelopes from the tables located in the Narthex. If you do not see a booklet for you and would like one, contact Angie Mackey, Finance Administrator at [amackey@stjohnelc.org](mailto:amackey@stjohnelc.org).

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

