

4th Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2018

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the blessed virgin Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

- 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 – #240 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

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 praise.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

During Advent we remember God's past faithfulness.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

During Advent we remember God's present goodness.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

During Advent we remember God's future promises.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

This morning we light four candles...

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

Let us pray. God in heaven, **we look to you amidst a world filled with darkness. Help us to seek the light of your truth, as we remember your promises and offer our praise to you. Amen**

- Word -

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

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

Psalm – “The Annunciation and Magnificat”, from Holden Evening Prayer

Gospel Acclamation– **Alleluia. Here I am, the servant | of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word. Alleluia.** (*Luke 1:38*)

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day – #266 All Earth is Hopeful

(8:00 am) Nicene Creed – Page 104

(10:30 am) Holy Baptism – Page 227 (Owen Brant Selle)

Hymn – #677 (V. 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 – #257 (V. 1-4), #723, #248

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 (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.stjohnecl.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.stjohnecl.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 ~

Micah 5:2-5a- The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

Hebrews 10:5-10- The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]- We are presented with Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

~ Worship Leaders ~

Preaching	Elizabeth Yoder	
Presiding Minister.....	Pastor Lisa Lewton and Pastor Joe Natwick	
Assisting Ministers.....	Rose Anderson	8:00 AM
	Russ Murphy	10:30 AM
Organist.....	Barb Arneson	
Servers	Thomas Lewton & Molly Robb	8:00 AM
	Mason Stroh & Sofia Mackey	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, 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 still bring them! Drop them off at the church office before December 31st!

~ 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

WORSHIP LIFE

At worship services this past week, these numbers reflect how many people were sent to *Live in Service to Christ*: Wednesday 190, Thursday 42 and Sunday 346.

BAPTISM

On Sunday, we celebrate the baptism of Owen Brant Selle. Owen's parents are Todd and Jordan Selle. Sponsors are Joan & Jon Breitbach and Jarrett Mork.



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Monday, December 24 th :	3:00 pm Worship (<i>broadcast on KDIX radio – 1230 AM, or click the “Listen Live” button at www.stjohnelc.org!</i>)
	5:00 pm Worship
	9:00 pm Worship (<i>candlelight service</i>)
Tuesday, December 25 th :	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 tomaschyc@stjohnelc.org for a pastor to bring Communion.*

~ SERVE & CONNECT ~

RIDE-SHARING & PARKING

We are grateful for a vibrant congregation of worshippers! To help all of us access the building as easily as possible, consider the following tips:

- If you have *no* trouble walking, consider parking a little farther away to leave the closer spaces for people with young children, and for those who may have a little more trouble walking from their cars to the church?
- We encourage you to carpool.

If you would like a ride to make it easier for you to get to church, the church office may be able to find someone to drive you. Please ask.

END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions must be received by the church office by Monday, Dec. 31st - or postmarked prior to Dec. 31st – 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 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.



THANK YOU for your generous contributions to the Poinsettia Memorial fund. The majority of money collected will be given to the ELCA Good Gifts program. A list of memorials given is located on the sanctuary entrance tables.



WELCOME COFFEE

January 13 @ 9:15 am (basement)

Interested in becoming a member of St. John? Come to the Welcome Coffee and find out more about St. John and ways we connect with the community of Dickinson and people around the world. New Member Sunday is on Feb. 10th during the 10:30 am worship.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

All programs will resume on Wed., January 2nd. Watch your E-News for updates or visit the website.



ST. JOHN “E-NEWS”

Are you receiving weekly updates from St. John in your inbox?

If not, you may be missing something! Updates on schedules, reminders, helpful articles, and links are delivered every Monday morning! Need to get on the list? Here’s how to sign up:

- Go to www.stjohnelc.org and click on this homepage link - “Sign up for our E-NEWS”
- Go to our Facebook page and click on “Join My List” on the left column

MILESTONE MINISTRY in JANUARY

January 9th & 16th @ 6:00 pm

1st Graders & parents – 10 Commandments

January 23rd & 30th @ 6:00 pm

4th Graders & parents – Apostles’ Creed

ST. JOHN HAS MANY OPPORTUNITIES!

If you are looking for ways to be more involved in your church, your community and the world around us in 2019, visit with Amy Graves, Director of Hospitality & Stewardship. There are many areas where volunteers are needed!

For updates on programs and schedules, visit us at www.stjohnelc.org!