

# *First Sunday of Christmas – Hymns and Hymn Stories*

*December 30, 2018*

## **- Gathering -**

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

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who shines in glory, clothes us in compassion, and bears gifts of mercy for all. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins with confidence in God's promise of forgiveness. (*Silence is kept for reflection.*) God, wonderful counselor, **we confess that we have turned from your gifts and chosen our own way. We have not made room for you in our hearts or in our world. We have lived in fear; we have not welcomed the stranger; we desire gifts that will not endure. Forgive us our sins, known and unknown, and open us to receive the peace of Jesus dwelling in and among us. Amen.**

God's lovingkindness has appeared to us in Christ our Savior. We are saved, not by anything we have done, but by God's mercy poured out on us richly. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Through the Spirit living in you, God give you faith to trust Jesus, who is Love born for you, now and always. **Amen.**

### **Gathering Hymn – #269 Once in Royal David's City**

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

## **- Word –**

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

### **Gospel Acclamation – #292 Love Has Come**

Luke 2:1-7 and Hymn Story

### **Hymn – #277 Away in a Manger**

Luke 2:8-14 and Hymn Story

### **Hymn – #270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

Luke: 2:15-20 and Hymn Story

### **Hymn – #296 What Child Is This**

Luke 2:41-52 and Hymn Story

### **Hymn – #293 That Boy-Child of Mary**

## Christmas Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God, creator and giver of life, who brought all creation to birth, who mothers us and fathers us, protects, nurtures, and cherishes us.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby, embodying love and calling us to trust God as fully as a tiny child.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit breathed into us at baptism; giver of faith, community, and comfort.**

**We believe in the reconciliation of the world to God through Christ. Hunted at birth and humiliated at death, Christ entered our fearful darkness so that we might enter his glorious light and share the life of his resurrection. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Amen.**

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 – #286 (V. 1-2) Your Little Ones, Dear Lord**

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

Lord's Prayer

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

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 – #279, #282, #283**

Blessing and Post-Communion Prayer

## - Sending -

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

Benediction

**Hymn – #267 Joy to the World**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Don't forget your 2019 offering envelopes in the Commons Area\***

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 ~

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26- Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband, Elkanah, come to the Lord's house to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.

Colossians 3:12-17- Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with white robes upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.

Luke 2:41-52- Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.

## ~ Worship Leaders ~

Preaching .....	Pastor Lisa Lewton	
Assisting Ministers.....	Tanna Reopelle	Thursday
	Marcy Decker	8:00 AM Sunday
	Don Brugamy	10:30 AM Sunday
Deacons.....	Darlene Pelton	8:00 AM Sunday
	Jesse Kilwein	10:30 AM
Organist.....	Molly Schwartz	Thursday
	Michael Stevenson	Sunday
Servers .....	Ethan Erdman	Thursday
	Nathan Klein & Owen Bittner	8:00 AM
	Owen Bittner & Damon Glasser	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 still bring them!  
Drop them off at the church office by 4:00 pm on December 31<sup>st</sup>!

## ~ This Week at St. John ~

Tuesday, Jan 1		Happy New Year-Church Office Closed
Wednesday, Jan 2	10:30 AM 5:15 PM 6:00 PM  6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Staff Meeting Fellowship Meal Church School Adult Education Worship Confirmation
Thursday, Jan 3	6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Backpacks Worship
Friday, Jan 4	6:30 AM 9:00 AM	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins Backpack Delivery
Saturday, Jan 5	9:00 AM	Altar Guild-Christmas Decorations
Sunday, Jan 6	8:00 AM 9:15 AM  10:30 AM 3:15 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Worship Adult Education- <i>Learning in Service to Christ</i> Senior Choir Worship Handbells Scouts Senior 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(Dec. 19) **Children's Program**, Thursday(Dec. 20) **Christmas Concert**, Sunday (Dec. 23) **294**, Christmas Eve 3 pm **410**, 5 pm **196**, 9 pm **237** and Christmas Day **124**.

### I THINK \_\_\_\_\_ IS IMPORTANT AT CHURCH, SO PERHAPS I COULD \_\_\_\_\_.

Have you ever thought hospitality at church is important? Or that the music is important? Or maybe Holy Communion or projecting liturgy and readings on the projector screen are important? Chances are, the Holy Spirit might be nudging you to pay attention to how you might use God's gifts of talent.

- If hospitality is important to you, perhaps you could usher.
- If the offertory music is important to you, perhaps you could share your own gift of music or invite someone to share hers or his.
- If Holy Communion is important to you, perhaps you could serve as an assisting minister, or on the Altar Guild.
- If accessing the liturgy on the screen is important to you, perhaps you could run the laptop.

Volunteering at church is one way to share your talents, and to invite someone to share his or hers. The Body of Christ at work on Thursdays and Sundays is never meant to be perfect, only human. If you are interested in learning about volunteering during worship, click on the SERVE AND CONNECT tab at [www.stjohnelc.org](http://www.stjohnelc.org), or contact Cora in the church office at 225-6747, or [ctormaschy@stjohnelc.org](mailto:ctormaschy@stjohnelc.org). St. John just rolled out a new worship scheduling software you can access online, to make volunteering even easier.

## ~ 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. 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.



**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. 10<sup>th</sup> during the 10:30 am worship.

### **CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES**

All programs will resume on Wed., January 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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](http://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 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm**

1<sup>st</sup> Graders & parents – 10 Commandments

**January 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm**

4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.stjohnelc.org)!**