

Epiphany of Our Lord

January 6, 2019

Epiphany means “manifestation.” On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi’s adoration of the Christ child, Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God’s grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst.

- 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.**

Processional Hymn – #671 Shine, Jesus, Shine

Greeting and Hymn of Praise – Page 139

Prayer of the Day

- Word -

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

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

Gospel Acclamation – **Alleluia. We have observed his star at its rising, and have come to worship him. Alleluia.** (*Matt. 2:2*)

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day – #302 As with Gladness Men of Old

Apostles' Creed – Page 105

Prayers of the People

Sharing the Peace (*Response: **And also with you.***)

- Meal -

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering *Senior Choir Anthem at 10:30 a.m. "We Three Kings"*

Offertory Hymn – #294 (V. 1 and 3) In the Bleak Midwinter

Offering Prayer

Great Thanksgiving and Holy, Holy, Holy – Page 144

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

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 – Page 146

Hymns – #471, #300, #815

Post-Communion Blessing and Prayer

- Sending -

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

Benediction

Hymn – #665 (V. 1 and 3) Rise, Shine, You People!

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!

If you are here for the very first time, or if you are a regular visitor, we are excited you found St. John. Walking into a church building for the first time can be intimidating. Now that you are here, sit back and relax. Everything you need to know about the service is in your bulletin or on the projector screen. You do not need to know stuff about the Bible or Lutheran liturgy.

You need only to be curious about what God might up to in this service and in your life. Through the mysterious work of the Spirit, you will be fed with God's Word in song, Scripture and sermon, and then we will set the table with our best dishes and welcome you to the feast of Holy Communion. You may be new to St. John, but we have been expecting you and waiting to welcome you on this day.

To learn more about worship and St. John's story,
click on the **GET TO KNOW US** page at 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.
- 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. It is not a requirement to be Lutheran or a member of this congregation. 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.
- Fair Trade Coffee is served in the Commons Area before Sunday worship services.
- About St. John: 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 ~

Isaiah 60:1-6- *Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her, because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.*

Ephesians 3:1-12- *What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.*

Matthew 2:1-12- *God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.*

~ Worship Leaders ~

Preaching	Pastor Lisa Lewton	
Assisting Ministers.....	Hailey Graves	Thursday
	Marci Murphy	8:00 AM Sunday
	Chris Hertler	10:30 AM Sunday
Deacons.....	Jesse Kilwein	8:00 AM Sunday
	Dan Pender	
	Seth Poland	10:30 AM
	Linda Splichal	
Organist.....	Cheryl Hewson	Thursday
	Cheryl Hewson	Sunday
Servers	Molly Robb	Thursday
	Sofia Mackey & Matthew Schmitt	8:00 AM
	Owen Bittner & James Reger	10:30 AM

WORSHIP LIFE

At worship services this past week, these numbers reflect how many people were sent to *Live in Service to Christ*. Wednesday **No Service**, Thursday **15**, Sunday **242**.

ANNUAL MEETING – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH @ 9:00 am (Church basement)

Come to the Annual Meeting to hear the story of what God is up to at St. John!



Once again, you will see a “Narrative Budget” that tells the story. **All confirmed members are encouraged to attend and vote.** As a confirmed member (someone confirmed at St. John or another congregation who has formally joined St. John), you have a voice in the business matters in this congregation. You will be asked to approve the budget for 2019 and vote for new Congregation Council and Trust Fund Committee members.

This year, you will be asked to amend the constitution of St. John (view this document online or pick up a hard copy from the church office). The amendments regard language about standing committees, and expand the language of rostered leaders to include deacons, in addition to ordained ministers. The latter change updates the constitution according to the 2016 ELCA Model Constitution. **On Sun., Jan. 13 at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Room, members of the Review Committee will explain these changes and address any questions or concerns.**

~ This Week at St. John ~

Monday, Jan 7	4:30 PM	Lutheran Social Services
	5:00 PM	Scouts
	7:00 PM	Scouts
Tuesday, Jan 8	8:30 AM	Lutheran World Relief Quilting
Wednesday, Jan 9	10:30 AM	Staff Meeting
	5:15 PM	Fellowship Meal
	6:00 PM	Church School
		Adult Education
		1 st Grade Milestone Ministry
	6:30 PM	Worship
	7:00 PM	Mentor Groups
Thursday, Jan 10	6:00 PM	Backpacks
	7:00 PM	Worship
Friday, Jan 11	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins
	9:00 AM	Backpack Delivery
Sunday, Jan 13	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Adult Education- <i>Learning in Service to Christ</i>
		Senior Choir
		Welcome Coffee
	10:30 AM	Worship
	3:15 PM	Handbells
	6:00 PM	Scouts
	4:00 PM	Badlands Ministries Board Meeting
	7:00 PM	Senior High Youth
		Our Journey of Hope

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, or contact Cora in the church office at 225-6747, or 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.



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.



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

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

MILESTONE MINISTRY in JANUARY

January 9th & 16th @ 6:00 pm

1st Graders & parents – 10 Commandments

Learning about the basic rules that we all live by ... What do they mean? Why are they important? What happens when the rules aren't followed?

January 23rd & 30th @ 6:00 pm

4th Graders & parents – Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed is one way, as Christians, to say what we believe. This class walks through the Apostles' Creed, why we have it and what it means to us.

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD – JAN. 13th

Was a baby in your family baptized in 2018?

During each service on Sun., Jan 13, we recognize and share a gift with babies baptized in the previous year, on the same day we recognize the Baptism of Our Lord. You are also invited to think about what God may be calling you to do this year, as we live out our baptisms and practice our faith.

WALKING INTO A NEW YEAR

Beginning a new year is a blessing. However, you might be walking into the new year after a significant change in your life. Maybe you could use some extra support. When you have someone to care, listen, and share God's love with you, it can help you get through the confusion, stress, or loneliness you may be experiencing. God does not intend for you to struggle alone.

Stephen Ministry is available for anyone who is facing overwhelming needs for care: hospitalization, grieving, suffering, loneliness or discouragement, divorce or separation, unemployment, accidents, and the list goes on.

***Consider allowing a Stephen Minister to walk with you on your journey to wholeness.
Connect with a pastor to learn more.***