

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 27, 2019

The glory of the Lord is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of the glory of God. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

- Gathering -

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

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Litany

God, the gift-giver has called us together, **with our different gifts, our different ideas, our different tastes.**

You call us together, **a variety of ages, to build each other up and to serve each other in love.**

You call us together, **knowing that we need all parts of the body if we are to be the whole body of Christ.**

You call us together, **to sing, to pray, to listen, to speak. To be made new to go out and tell our neighbors the good news.**

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who creates us and forms us, who redeems us and calls us, who unites us and sends us. **Amen.**

Gathered in God's presence, let us confess our sin. (*Silence is kept for reflection.*)

Mighty and loving God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We seek our own way. We divide the body of Christ. In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us. Let the words of our mouths, the thoughts of our hearts, and everything that we do be filled with faith, hope, and love. Amen.**

Hear the voice of Jesus: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim release to the captives." In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, I proclaim to you that your sins are forgiven and you are released. The joy of the Lord is your strength, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever. **Amen.**

Processional Hymn – #673 God, Whose Almighty Word

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. The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, and to proclaim release to the captives.**

Alleluia. (Luke 4:18)

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day – #641 All Are Welcome

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. "Come Ye Sinners"

Offertory Hymn – #496 One Bread, One Body

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, #808, #483

Post-Communion Blessing and Prayer

- Sending -

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

Benediction

Hymn – #677 This Little Light of Mine

Dismissal (*Response: Thanks be to God!*)

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.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. 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 ~

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10- *The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that the joy of the Lord is their strength.*

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a - *The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.*

Luke 4:14-21- *Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.*

~ Worship Leaders ~

Preaching	Pastor Lisa Lewton	
Presiding Ministers.....	Pastor Joe Natwick	
Assisting Ministers.....	Diane Melbye	Thursday
	Dream O'Brien	8:00 AM Sunday
	LaRae Tschetter	10:30 AM Sunday
Deacons.....	Darlene Pelton	8:00 AM Sunday
	Susan Moberg	10:30 AM
Organist.....	Barb Arneson	Thursday
	Barb Arneson	Sunday
Servers	James Reger	Thursday
	Nathan Klein & Dylan Smith	8:00 AM
	Ethan Erdman & Matthew Schmitt	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 185, Thursday 55, Sunday 262.



INTRODUCING PRAY-GROUND

You will notice something different about worship during the 10:30 am service – the wonderment and curiosity of young children invited to the *FRONT* of our worship space. Why should children be hidden away at the back of the church where they cannot see or experience worship? Yes, these worshippers are wiggly and busy – but they are also curious and interested in their surroundings.

Pray-ground is located at the front of worship (pulpit side), with the first couple of rows reserved for parents of participating children. St. John will “experiment” with this program every 4th Sunday of the month during the last worship service (January – May).

Activity bags are always available at the sanctuary entrances, and young children who are having an especially wiggly day are invited to the Little Blessings Nursery where parents can listen to the worship service.

~ This Week at St. John ~

Monday, Jan 28	4:30 PM	Lutheran Social Services
	5:00 PM	Scouts
	7:00 PM	Scouts
Tuesday, Jan 29	8:30 AM	Lutheran World Relief Quilting
	7:00 PM	Theology on Tap at Fluffy Fields
Wednesday, Jan 30	9:30 AM	Staff Meeting
	5:15 PM	Fellowship Meal
	5:30 PM	Adult Education (Confirmation 1.0)
	6:00 PM	Church School
		4 th Grade Milestone Ministry
	6:30 PM	Worship
Thursday, Jan 31	6:00 PM	Backpacks
	7:00 PM	Worship
Friday, Feb 1	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins
	9:00 AM	Backpack Delivery
Saturday, Feb 2	9:00 AM	Altar Guild Meeting
Sunday, Feb 3	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Adult Education- <i>Learning in Service to Christ</i>
		Senior Choir
	10:30 AM	Worship
	3:15 PM	Handbells
	7:00 PM	Senior High Youth
		Our Journey of Hope

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.

At this time, these St. John members have been nominated to serve on the Council and Trust Fund Committee:

Council Deacons: Alissa Karsky and Mary Anne Marsh Council Trustee: Claire Schlabsz
Council Treasurer: Kent Anderson Trust Fund Committee: Frank Ziemann

***The Mission Trip participants will be serving a free-will continental breakfast during the meeting.
Donations will go toward expenses for the “Mystery Mission trip” this summer.***

~ SERVE & CONNECT ~

CONFIRMATION 1.0 (adult education)

Your pastors are getting excited for Lent! Lent is a time of renewal and learning. To get you as excited as your pastors, classes about the Small Catechism are being held on



Sundays @ 9:15 am

(Fellowship room)

Wednesdays @ 5:30 pm

(Conference room-main floor)

If you miss Sunday's class, come on the following Wednesday! Check the bulletin boards and your weekly E-News for topics.

Beginning in Lent, teaching will focus on the Bible with Confirmation 2.0

THEOLOGY ON TAP

January 29th @ 7:00 pm (Fluffy Fields Winery)

Theology on Tap is a night for great conversation! With carefully crafted conversations in a small group setting, we dive deep into topics that affect faith, life, and the world. Everyone is welcome! This is a non-denominational group that embraces diversity and conversation!

This month, Theology on Tap returns to **Fluffy Fields Winery**. You are invited to taste and experience what this night is all about!

If you want to receive information on the topic prior to the discussion, email Pastor Joe at jnatwick@stjohnelc.org.

MILESTONE MINISTRY in JANUARY

January 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.

AGAPE FESTIVAL

February 13th @ 5:00 pm

Agape is the kind of love that Christ show us – an unconditional and selfless love - a love that is given when nothing is expected in return.

During this inter-generational faith formation event, we will celebrate & practice this kind of love.

5:00 pm – Supper

5:30 pm – Agape Festival activities

6:30 pm – Worship

ALL AGES are welcome to this celebration!
There is **NO CHURCH SCHOOL**.

ALZHEIMER SUPPORT GROUP

3rd Tuesday each month @ 12:00 pm

Did you know there is a support group for caregivers, family and friends of people with dementia that meet at St. John each month? Led by trained facilitators, the Alzheimer Association helps participants to build a support system and offers information on community resources available. For more information on this support group, contact Tessa Johnson at tjohnson@countryhouse.net.

YOUR GENEROSITY

Giving in December 2018 \$ 85,435



Giving in 2018	\$ 575,091
Giving in 2017	\$ 472,371
Expenditures in 2018	\$ 530,280

(Expenditures—\$ 457,561 Outreach—\$ 72,719)