

Time after Pentecost

August 18, 2019

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today, in the assembly, we are surrounded by “so great a cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in the holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

- Gathering -

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

Musical Meditation, Welcome and Announcements

(Liturgy is found in the “Now the Feast and Celebration Booklet” unless otherwise noted.)

Call to Worship

We begin our worship in the name of the Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen!**

In the still of this hour we come to find rest for our hearts and contentment for our weary minds. **We are caught up in the activity of our life and need to pause and be refreshed.** In the quiet of this place we come to be touched by the forgiving grace of God. **We are surrounded by the loving people of God, bound together by a unity only the Holy Spirit can give.**

Confession and Forgiveness

God of mercy, **we sin and fall short of the mark. We pull away from you and chart our own course. We search everywhere for loving arms and caring words, but find only confusion and discontentment. We would like to change, but we know our own limitations. God of tomorrows, forgive our sin and make life right again.**

Our God is a God of comfort and healing. Our God has extended the hand of unconditional love and offers to hold us in loving arms for all eternity. Our God, in Jesus, had his hands nailed to a cross in order that we could know the joy of life and living together. Jesus’ hands of love continue to beckon us daily, calling for us to follow and serve. The resurrected and ascended Jesus offers healing for our bodies and our spirits. Praise God for the gift of new life. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn – #422 For All The Saints vs 1 & 3

Greeting, Glory to God, Salutation and Prayer of the Day – Page 5-7

- Word -

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

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

Gospel Verse – Page 8

Sermon

Hymn of the Day – #728 Blest Are They vs. 1, 4 & 5

(8:00 am) Apostles' Creed – Page 9

(9:30 am) Holy Baptism – Lenna Ann Gentilini

(9:30 am) **Hymn #677 (vs. 1) This Little Light of Mine**

Prayers of the People

Hymn – Though the Earth May Change

**Though the earth shall change, though the mountains tremble,
though the waters rage, you, God, are here.
Though the nations war, though the peoples battle,
though the empire falters, we will not fear.**

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

Legacy of Faith Campaign – We are His Hands

- Meal -

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Offertory Hymn – As the Grains of Wheat (V. 1) – Page 10

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Merciful God, **everything in heaven and on earth belongs to you. We joyfully release what you have entrusted to us. May these gifts be signs of our whole lives returned to you, dedicated to the healing and unity of all creation, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving and Holy, Holy, Holy – Page 11

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 – Page 14

Communion Distribution Hymns – #759, #810, #802

Blessing and **Hymn “Thanks Be To You” – Page 15**

Post-Communion Prayer

- Sending -

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

Blessing and Dismissal – Page 16

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 available. 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 congregations in western and eastern North Dakota own Lutheran Social Services of N.D., a private, nonprofit social services agency.

~ Introductions to the Reading ~

Jeremiah 23:23-29- *Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.*

Hebrews 11:29--12:2- *The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.*

Luke 12:49-56- *Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.*

~ Worship Leaders ~

Preaching & Presiding.....	Kaitlyn Blend, Faith Formation Director	
Assisting Ministers.....	Rose Anderson	Thursday
	Jan Wilkie	8:00 AM Sunday
	Kris Fehr	9:30 AM
Organist.....	Cheryl Hewson	8:00 AM Sunday
		9:30 AM
Servers	Isaac Hoffer	Thursday
	Ian Homiston	8:00 AM Sunday
	TJ Flohr	9:30 AM



NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

SUNDAY, AUG. 25 at 10:30 a.m. (following 9:30 am worship)

- Neighbor to the church, Mike Kelley, approached St. John to ask if the congregation would be interested in purchasing his lot (including all physical property) at 115 5th Avenue West in Dickinson for a total of \$400,000. His proposal includes a \$100,000 down payment, and \$100,000 each year for the following three years.
- On Mon., July 8 at a Special Meeting of the Council, the Council discussed: how the property might further God's mission through St. John, risks associated with this decision, and how the purchase might be funded. The St. John Trust Fund Committee joined the Council discuss possible funding at their meeting on July 16. Led by the Executive Committee, the Council will further research and prepare a resolution for the Special Meeting of the Congregation.
- All are welcome to attend a congregational meeting. Only confirmed St. John members are eligible to vote. *The vote will be effective only by 2/3 majority of those present.*

If you have further questions regarding the proposal, contact Pastor Lisa or Dan Pender, Council President

~ This Week at St. John ~

Monday, Aug. 19	4:30 PM	Lutheran Social Services
	5:00 PM	Scouts
	7:00 PM	Scouts
Tuesday, Aug. 20	8:30 AM	Lutheran World Relief Quilting
	12:00 PM	Alzheimer Support Group
	6:30 PM	Executive Council Meeting
	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wed., Aug. 21	5:30 PM	Mentor Training
Thurs., Aug. 22	7:00 PM	Worship- <i>Blessing of the Backpacks</i>
Friday, Aug. 23	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins
Sunday, Aug. 25	<i>Blessing of the Backpacks</i>	
	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:30 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	7 th Grade Milestone Ministry
	7:00 PM	Youth Group

BAPTISM:

On Sunday, we celebrate the baptism of Lenna Ann Gentilini. Lenna's parents are Joe Gentilini & Taylor Krieg. Sponsors are Josue & Ashley Tinajero and Kayla & Brandon Bryant.



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS RETURN!

September brings back Wednesday Nights and all of the programs at St. John! Many volunteers are needed for these programs to be a success. ***If you can help with hosting a meal, leading Church School, being a Confirmation Mentor, or helping with worship by providing music or running the projector,*** contact Pastor Joe at jnatwick@stjohnelc.org or call the church office.



GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. ~ WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 25TH & SUNDAY, SEPT. 29TH

YES! This fall, you will have 2 opportunities to be a part of "God's Work. Our Hands"!

On these days, we ***worship with our hands and feet*** as we go beyond the sanctuary and complete projects in our community (during the 7:00 pm worship and 10:30 am worship times).

Watch for more details and how to sign up for projects in September!

SOMETHING NEW IS COMING IN WORSHIP!

Beginning August 29th, you will notice something different with your church bulletin! It will be bigger and more informative, along with some space for those who like to jot down notes. These bulletins will have EVERYTHING that you need for worship - making worship easier and more welcoming for those walking in our doors for the first time.

~ SERVE & CONNECT ~



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Aug. 22nd & 25th

Summer is coming to a close, as we get back into the school schedules. During worship, children and youth are encouraged to bring their backpacks for a blessing to begin their school year. These backpacks represent the work required of the students each day. Participants will receive a backpack tag to remind them of the love and care the St. John family surrounds them with each school day.

ST. JOHN RALLY DAY!

September 4th

Get ready for Wednesday nights! Bring the family for a night of fun and gathering everyone together for another fun year!

Register for Church School by clicking on the homepage banner!



SENIOR CHOIR "KICK-OFF"!

August 29th @ 5:30 pm

Interested in learning more about the Senior Choir? Come to this potluck (bring a salad or dessert to share) and we'll get to know one another, do some planning, eat, sing, and attend worship together at the 7:00 pm service!

Kris Pederson

Worship & Music Director

GARDEN OF GRACE



Have you seen the new signs? They let the community know that this garden is for them to enjoy! Produce from the

garden is given to the AMEN Food Pantry, and **St. John members volunteer to care for it one week during the summer.** Interested?

Go to www.stjohelc.org / When Am I Scheduled? to sign up!

MILESTONE MINISTRY – 7th graders

August 25th @ 5:00 - pm

"Worship Leadership" - Confirmants in the 7th grade & parents learn about worship in a deeper way as students begin their confirmation experience. This class discusses the "why's" of worship and dives deeper into the various parts of serving during worship. We will also enjoy some great pizza!



ST. JOHN WEEKLY E-NEWS!

Fall is quickly approaching.

Schedules are changing. How do you "keep up" with what is happening at St. John?

Sign up for the weekly E-News!

You will receive a weekly reminder of what is coming in the next week, useful information and links to uplifting articles. Go to the St. John website and click on the "sign-up for our e-news" link in the middle of the homepage and sign up today!

Need help? Email Sonnie Otto, Communications Director (sonnie@stjohelc.org) and she will get you signed up!

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Begins September 10th!

Over 5 million people have learned to pay off debt, save and invest for their future with *Financial Peace University*. It's your turn now!

This class teaches you how to:

- Payoff debt
- Budget
- Save money
- Give generously.

Classes meet for nine weeks on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 – 9:00 pm. Fees for the class and materials is \$129.99 (per household). Sign up by clicking on the banner on the website, or go to www.daveramsey.com/fpu and enter Dickinson, ND in the "location near you" to join!