

We Join Together in Worship

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church – Dickinson, ND
Sunday, April 3, 2011 – 4th Sunday of Lent

Gathering

Prelude, Welcome, Announcements, Lenten Confession of Sin & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the well of eternal life, the light of the world, the breath giving life to dry bones. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

After a brief silence: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, **have mercy on us.**

After each of 7 petitions: **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. Through the Holy Spirit God cleanses us and gives us the power to proclaim the mighty acts of the one who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Processional Hymn – *Lead Me, Guide Me* **#768**

Greeting and Kyrie

The free gift of grace in Jesus Christ, the reconciling love of God, and the life and peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Lord, have mercy; **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy; **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy; **Lord have mercy.**

Hymn of Praise (*“Glory to God” – pg. 148*)Page 147

Prayer of the Day – Carol Choir (*10:30*)

Word

First Reading – see insert (*response: The word of the Lord; Thanks be to God.*)

Hymn – Psalm 23 by Marty Haugen#780

Second Reading – see insert (response: The word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God.**)

Lenten Acclamation (All may sing the verse; we then repeat the acclamation)#177



Glo - ry to you, O Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ.
Jesus says, I am the light | of the world;* whoever follows me will have the | light of life. (John 8:12)

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

Sermon – A Vibrant Faith is More “Caught” than “Taught”

Hymn of the Day – Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (last verse: “Lent 4”)#334

Hymn and Prayers – Lord, Listen to Your Children (before & after prayers).....#752

Sharing of Peace (Gathered as the Body-of-Christ, we are joined into a Holy Communion)

Meal

Offering (8:00 Choir: “The Lord is My Shepherd”)

Offertory Hymn – Create in Me.....#188

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Prayer and Great Thanksgiving (Holy, Holy – Page 153).....Page 152

Lord’s Prayer (right column), “Lamb of God” HymnPage 154

Distribution of Bread and Wine (Hymns: “Trust/Guidance”)#755, #756, #757

All the baptized are welcomed to receive the bread and wine offered in our Communion Meal.

Communion Blessing and Prayer

Sending

Blessing and Hymn – Beneath the Cross of Jesus (verse 1 & 3).....#338

Dismissal (response: **Thanks be to God!**).....Page 137

Postlude

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

146 Sixth Ave. West – Dickinson, ND 58601

701-225-6747

Website: StJohnELC.org

Mission: “Living in Service to Christ”

Worship: 7 p.m. on Thursday // 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. on Sunday
(10:30 a.m. Sunday Service Broadcast on KDIX Radio)

For Sunday, April 3, 2011

Preaching Minister: Pastor Ted Johanson
Presiding Minister: Pastor Lisa Lewton
Assisting Ministers: Landen Jung (8:00 a.m.)
Margaret Marcusen (10:30 a.m.)
Deacons: Michelle Kovash (8:00)
Nate Shilman (10:30 a.m.)
Organist: Barb Arneson (Thursday)
Cheryl Hewson (Sunday)
Servers: Dustin Lundstad (Thursday)
Devany Roberts & Zane Schobinger (8:00 a.m.)
Tristan Hartl & Leah Grove (10:30 a.m.)

WELCOME TO WORSHIP: All the baptized people of God are invited to the Lord’s Table. You may stand or kneel to receive the elements. Children who commune should extend their hands to receive the elements. Children who are not communing are asked to have hands folded to receive a blessing. *You may ask a server to provide a gluten-free wafer or grape juice if needed.* Come to the table; all are welcomed!

WORSHIP INFORMATION: Attendance last week was 442 . . . Transmitters are available for the hearing impaired. Ask an usher for help . . . If it is uncomfortable for you to stand during the service, please feel free to remain seated . . . If you are a visitor, or if you simply forgot your offering envelope and wish to designate your contribution, please use a **pew envelope** . . . The nursery is located in the Commons Area. *Children’s worship bags are available during worship in the Commons Area and in the church entry.*

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

(Check out our website for more information at www.stjohnelc.org)

Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. Quilting
Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. Angel Choir
6:45 p.m. Hand Bell Practice / balcony
7:00 p.m. Carol Choir
7:00 p.m. Mentor Groups
Thursday: 5:30 p.m. Taco Supper / basement
5:45 p.m. Yoga / upstairs
7:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten Worship
Friday: 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast / Bible Study at Ramada

MENTOR GROUPS: Meet on Wednesday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m. All students are expected to attend.

SUMMER CONFIRMATION: If you are scheduling summer camps, Summer Confirmation for junior high students are posted on our homepage at www.stjohnelc.org. Dates are: June 8-9, June 15-16, July 6-7, July 13-14.

BIBLE CAMP SUNDAY – NEXT WEEK: Campers, break out your Bible Camp T-Shirts on Sunday, April 10 for both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services! You will be invited to help lead camp songs and hear some stories from former and current St. John Bible Camp Staff. If you have questions about Camperships or Butterbraid totals, Financial Secretary Pam Weidner will be available to answer them between services.

BADLANDS MINISTRIES BIBLE CAMP brochures for summer camps and dates are available in the Commons Area. Campers will be filled with the baptismal reminder that “Jesus Chooses Us”! Campers are encouraged to register online, at www.badlandsministries.org.

Organ Renovation Campaign Update: Thanks to your generous contributions, the Organ Renovation Campaign is 90% complete. We are aware and grateful that many members of St. John are already giving generously to support the ministries of the church. If you haven't already taken the opportunity to participate in this campaign, your gifts will help us to reach our goal. We ask you to pray for this campaign and in consideration of your contribution to it.

Interested in Joining St. John Lutheran Church? If this is your first time visiting our congregation or if you have been hanging out occasionally, we would like to invite you to consider our next new member session scheduled for May 2011. If you are interested in membership, please contact Faith Simonieg in the church office at 225-6747 or fsimonieg@stjohnelc.org.

Mark Your Calendars! Earth Day 2011 is on Friday, April 22 and you will have the opportunity to continue to put your “Faith Into Action”! One of the six places for shaping faith using the Vibrant Faith frame is: “Christians live in harmony with Creation, recognizing, receiving, celebrating, and caring for God’s handiwork”. To put this into action, we will be meeting on Friday, April 22 at 11:00 a.m at the church to go out into the community to pick up garbage until around 12:30 p.m. (there is no school that day). We will then return to the church to have pizza and talk about the day. Persons of all ages are invited and encouraged to come us as we join generations together. Students in junior high and younger should have an adult with them. Please contact Jodeen Myers at 225-6747 if you have questions.

Why Attend the Vibrant Faith Event? St. John member, Lori Hanson, attended the Vibrant Faith Event St. John hosted back in Sept. When asked why she was glad she attended, she provided this answer: “When you go to the store and buy a bunch of bananas, do you eat all of them as soon as you get home? Or do you eat them throughout the week so they last until the next time you can get to the store? The same concept can be applied to attending worship. Rather than getting your “fill” of faith only at worship, you should stretch it throughout the entire week by keeping faith alive in your home as well. Forming faith in your family, and sharing your faith across the generations, will result in a thriving Christian community for years to come. This is one of the concepts that stuck with me when I attended Dr. David Anderson's Vibrant Faith Event last September. He was a great speaker, kept your attention throughout the entire seminar, and he really brought up some wonderful points. I strongly encourage everyone to come hear Dr. David Anderson speak on April 16. It is very much worth your time!”

**Register TODAY for the
April 16 Vibrant Faith Event at St. John!
Be a part of this! Vibrant Faith is for ALL Members!**

From the Desk of Pastor Ted...

Children and “First Communion” (Maundy Thursday):

Here at St. John, “all the baptized” are invited to receive the bread and wine of Holy Communion. The invitation is for ALL ages (including the youngest of children.) It is appropriate that any age child participate.

With Maundy Thursday approaching some parents might see that as a good occasion to begin including their children in receiving the bread and wine of Holy Communion. To help prepare for such a “First Communion” I’ll offer a 30-40 minute teaching time for children and parents starting at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 21 (before the Maundy Thursday worship service.) My approach will be for whole families (children and parents). The teaching time will be helpful for those who have not been receiving bread and wine during communion and for those who have been participating for some time. Teaching about the sacraments is most effective when repeated and reinforced, so please feel free to join us. Maundy Thursday is a particularly meaningful time for a focus on Holy Communion.

Again... I’ll teach families about Holy Communion during Holy Week on Maundy Thursday (just before the worship service) on ***April 21 at 6:00 p.m.*** (The Maundy Thursday worship service begins at 7:00 p.m. with readings before the service starting 6:40 p.m.)

I’ll Be Gone Next Weekend for “Candidacy Committee” Work

My wife, Joan, and I co-chair the Candidacy Committee of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin. Joan has been carrying out most of the day-to-day responsibilities during the time I’ve been in North Dakota, and I’ve attended to responsibilities as they are possible for me to do. The Candidacy Committee is the primary group of people who oversee the preparation of candidates for approval into ordained ministry and other rostered leadership positions of our church.

I’ll be gone in the later part of this coming week to meet with the committee and most of the seminary candidates of our synod. It is a very helpful and important opportunity. Our committee’s work concludes late on Saturday... and the drive back to Dickinson for Sunday worship is... challenging... I’ll not be here.

But, worship next week will feature the Badlands Camping Ministries. Music will include songs of church camping and we hope that some of the young people will help with the leadership of the service. Join us next Sunday, April 10, for this special service.

Holy Week Worship – The THREE DAYS Worship Service:

Worship with us on Thursday, Friday, Saturday: April 21-23!

Sunday, April 3, 2011

Fourth Sunday in Lent

INTRODUCTION

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. I was blind, but now I see, declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved sons and daughters. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the well of eternal life,
the light of the world,
the breath giving life to dry bones.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
**we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
Forgive us and give us strength
to turn from sin
and to serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

By water and the Holy Spirit,
God gives us new birth,
and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ,
God forgives us all our sins.
Almighty God strengthen us in all goodness
and keep us in eternal life.
Amen.

OR

Let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

For self-centered living,
and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

For longing to have what is not ours,
and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves:
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

For misuse of human relationships,
and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

For jealousies that divide families and nations,
and for rivalries that create strife and warfare:
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God,
and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

For hurtful words that condemn,
and for angry deeds that harm:
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ,
and for squandering the gifts of love and grace:
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

In the mercy of almighty God,
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

Through the Holy Spirit God cleanses us
and gives us the power to proclaim
the mighty acts of the one who called us
out of darkness into his marvelous light.
As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,
and by his authority,
I therefore declare to you
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father, and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GREETING

The free gift of grace in Jesus Christ,
the reconciling love of God,
and the life and peace of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW)

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us.
By your gracious life and death for us,
bring light into the darkness of our hearts,
and anoint us with your Spirit,
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (LBW)

God of all mercy, by your power to heal and to forgive, graciously cleanse us from all sin and
make us strong; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (29)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW)

Jesus says, I am the light^l of the world;*
whoever follows me will have the^l light of life. (John 8:12)

VERSE (LBW)

Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. (John 3:14-15)

READINGS

1 Samuel 16:1–13

Psalm 23

You anoint my head with oil. (Ps. 23:5)

Ephesians 5:8–14

John 9:1–41

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1–13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

PSALM (ELW): Psalm 23

You anoint my head with oil. (Ps. 23:5)

¹The LORD ¹ is my shepherd;

I shall not ¹ be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down ¹ in green pastures
and leads me be- ¹ side still waters.

³You restore my ¹ soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways ¹ for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall ¹ fear no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they ¹ comfort me. R

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence ¹ of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is ¹ running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days ¹ of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the ¹ LORD forever. R

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8–14

Because we now live in the divine light that is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

⁸For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light — ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you."

GOSPEL: John 9:1–41

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this

not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we return to the waters of baptism during this season of Lent, let us pray for the church, those

in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Let us pray for Christians around the world, made one in baptism; for ecumenical partnerships; and for our sisters and brothers in other faith communities. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the receding polar ice caps, and the disappearing glaciers; for polluted waterways and garbage-filled oceans; for the shrinking rain forests and the many creatures that call them home. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Let us pray for kings and queens; for presidents and prime ministers; for legislatures and court systems; and for local governments, that all these may serve their peoples with justice. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Let us pray for day-care providers and librarians; for business owners and artists; for social workers and custodians; for farmers and scientists; for the sick and for all who cannot find work (*especially*). God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the members of this assembly, and for any visitors among us, that we all might see and proclaim you as the light of the world. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Let us give thanks for the many witnesses, living and dead, who have served you in astonishing ways; and let us pray for all those who grieve for the dead. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, God of abundant grace, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider,
you have not fed us with bread alone,
but with words of grace and life.
Bless us and these your gifts,
which we receive from your bounty,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ, broken and poured out for you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful God,
accompany our journey through these forty days.
Renew us in the gift of baptism,
that we may provide for those who are poor,
pray for those in need,
fast from self-indulgence,
and above all that we may find our treasure
in the life of your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Eternal God,
whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Lord,
bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament
with our sisters and brothers
who are sick/homebound/imprisoned.
In your love and care, nourish and strengthen
those to whom we bring this communion
in the body and blood of your Son,
that we may all feast upon your abundant love
made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING

The blessed, holy Trinity
keep you in grace,
lead you in light,
and + give you peace.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.
Thanks be to God.

COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, April 4, 2011

Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589

Born a slave on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans. Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community.

Wednesday, April 6

Albrecht Dürer, died 1528; Matthias Grünewald, died 1529; Lucas Cranach, died 1553; artists

These great artists revealed through their work the mystery of salvation and the wonder of creation. Dürer's work reflected the apocalyptic spirit of his time. Though he remained a Roman Catholic, he was sympathetic to Martin Luther's reforming work. Grünewald's paintings are known for their dramatic forms, vivid colors, and depiction of light. Cranach's work includes many fine religious examples and several portraits of Martin Luther. Cranach was also widely known for his woodcuts.

Saturday, April 9

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945

Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who wrote profoundly, yet in an accessible manner. In the Second World War, he became a leader of the Confessing Church in Germany that resisted the Nazi movement. Linked to a plot to kill Hitler, he was hanged shortly before the end of the war.

Sunday, April 10

Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, died 1557

Consecrated bishop of Turku, Finland, without the approval of the pope, Agricola began a reform along Lutheran lines. In only three years, he translated the New Testament and worship texts into Finnish, in the process establishing the rules of Finnish writing that are still used today.