

We Join Together in Worship

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church – Dickinson, ND
Sunday, August 28, 2011 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

Prelude, Welcome, Announcements, Confession & Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Merciful God, through the apostle Paul, you call us to live out our faith in everyday actions. We are to let our love for one another be genuine.

Forgive us when our words and our actions are not genuine in love.

Our faith is to be visible through our joy and our hope, our patience - even in suffering, and through our persevering in prayer.

Forgive us when our attitudes towards life are so negative that people would never guess we are people of faith.

We are to share what we have with those in need, and extend hospitality not just to those whom we know and like - but to strangers.

Forgive us when we find excuses not to open our hearts to welcome.

Renew and strengthen us with your Spirit, O God, so that we will not be overcome with evil, but will overcome evil with good. **Amen**

Hear the good news: God's love for us is truly revealed in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. You are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Thanks be to God!** (*Romans 5:8*)

Opening Hymn – *Light Dawns on a Weary World* **#726**

MILESTONE MINISTRY: Blessing of the Backpacks

Word

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

Psalm Tone: 

Gospel AcclamationPage 205

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: Open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing—for the good news that you bring.

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

Sermon *Precious Words That Teach*

Hymn of the Day – *Rise Up, O Saints of God!* **#669**

Apostles' Creed, Prayers, Greetings of Peace.....Page 105
Gathered as the Body-of-Christ, we are joined into a fellowship and a Holy Communion

Meal

Offering and Offertory Hymn – *We Give Thee but Thine Own*..... **#686**

1) **We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

2) **May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blessest us, to thee our firstfruits give.**

Prayer and Great Thanksgiving (*Holy, Holy – Page 207*).....Page 206

Lord's Prayer (*left column*), "Lamb of God" HymnPage 208

Distribution of Bread and Wine **#465, #798, #793**

*All the baptized are welcomed to receive the bread and wine offered at the Lord's Table.
Please come forward down the center aisle (in two lines). Take a place at the rail as space
becomes available. Receive the bread and wine. Return by the outside aisles. As God's
people we are empowered to BE the presence of Christ in the world.*

Communion Blessing and Prayer

Sending

Blessing and Hymn – (*Verse 1*) *O Living Bread from Heaven*..... **#542**

1) **O, living bread from heaven, how well you feed your guest!
The gifts that you have given have filled my heart with rest.
O wondrous food of blessing! O cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing, in thankful song o'erflows!**

Dismissal – Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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 & 9:30 a.m. on Sunday
(9:30 a.m. Sunday Service Broadcast on KDIX Radio)*

For Sunday, August 28, 2011

Presiding Minister: Pastor Lisa Lewton

Assisting Ministers: Marya Skaare (Thursday)

Jerry Myers (8:00 a.m.)

Marcy Decker (9:30 a.m.)

Organists: Mike Stevenson (Thursday)

Cheryl Hewson (Sunday)

Cantor: Kevin Moberg (9:30 a.m.)

Servers: Drew Heiser (Thursday)

Tate Martel & Samantha Urbanec (8:00 a.m.)

Zach Keller & Stetson Pedersen (9:30 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 276 . . . 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)

Monday: CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. Quilting
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m. Meet Your Mentor Orientation
Thursday: 7:00 p.m. Worship
8:00 p.m. Worship & Music Committee Meeting

MEET YOUR MENTOR NIGHT will be on Wednesday, August 31 from 7:00 – 8:15 p.m. All parents and junior high students must attend this meeting.

THE LUTHERAN for August is available in the magazine racks. **Christ In Our Home** booklets for October – December are available in the narthex.

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE: The Sunday worship schedule will return to 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 11. Thursday evening worship continues at 7:00 p.m. The church office will once again be open on Mondays and Friday afternoons beginning Sept. 12.

NURSERY: The nursery is always available for caregivers of young children. At this time, the nursery will not be staffed on Sunday mornings because it does not seem to be used enough to ask volunteers to staff it. If you do spend time in the nursery, there is a speaker in the nursery for you to hear the worship service.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING St. John Lutheran Church?

We invite you to get to know our church family and we hope you will consider making St. John your church home. Everyone who becomes a member is expected to attend the new member sessions to learn more about the church. St. John is offering a fall orientation session for new members. If you are interested in membership, please call the church office (225-6747), visit our website at stjohnelc.org or contact a pastor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES will begin on Sept. 11 at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. All are welcome!

SEEKING ADDITIONAL SERVICE PROJECT TEAM LEADERS: The Faith In Action Stewardship Committee is seeking Team Leaders for the following projects:

Activities at Evergreen, activities at St. Benedicts, making muffins/goodies for St. John neighbors, delivering and making appreciation goodies for Dickinson Public School educators, and providing childcare for those too young to participate in service projects. Please contact Faith in the church office (225-6747 or fsimonieg@stjohnelc.org) to sign up or for additional information.

NEEDED: Juice can lids and old Christmas cards for a Serving Sunday project. Christmas ornaments will be crafted and delivered to flood victims in Minot. If you have any to donate please leave them in the church office.

BADLANDS MINISTRIES FALL EVENT is scheduled for Sunday, September 18. Worship will be at 11:00 a.m., followed by a chicken dinner, auction, country store and bazaar. A pie auction will be held. If you would like to furnish pies our church has been asked to bring lemon pies.

CONGREGATIONAL POTLUCK will be held **Sunday, August 28** following the 9:30 a.m. worship service in the church basement. Hot dogs, buns and lemonade will be provided. Members with last names starting with the letters:

- A - H are asked to bring a side dish (salad, veggies or fruit)
- I - S are asked to bring dessert
- T - Z are asked to bring chips

Everyone is invited to join in the fun as we kick off a new school year!

TWO DAYS OF RALLY? There will be two Rally Days this year, as we begin our first year of offering Church School on Sundays from 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m., and Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Rally Day will be held on both Sunday, September 11 and Wednesday, September 14. **Parents are asked to bring students to the classrooms and please plan to stay with your children** for the Church School Hour on Rally Day, as we kick-off the year with a family activity to teach you about the Church School curriculum called Spark!

VISITATION TEAM: St. John's ministry is meant to be carried outside the church building. The Visitation Team helps to connect homebound and hospitalized St. John members with the life of the church. If you would like to visit those who are homebound or hospitalized, please call Faith Simonieg or Pastor Lisa in the church office at 225-6747.

COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND: Do you know of someone who is homebound and unable to attend worship, but would like to receive Communion? There is a team of lay visitors from St. John who distribute Communion to homebound St. John folks. Please contact Pastor Lisa or Faith Simonieg in the church office at 225-6747 if you know of someone who would like to receive Communion at home.

DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE A BIBLE STUDY FOR THE MEN OF THE CHURCH?

Yes, we do! All men are invited to meet for a Bible Study and breakfast every Friday morning at 6:30 a.m. at the Ramada-Grand Dakota Lodge. The Bible study for September – November is *Tradition and Wisdom (Proverbs, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Matthew)*. If you have questions, please contact Frank Ziemann at 225-5175, or just join the men on Friday morning. **The men’s Bible Study will not meet on August 26 and September 2.**

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP will begin on Sunday, Sept. 11 in the Youth Room! Youth Group each Sunday will be led by Badlands Ministries High Ropes Director, Wade Messer. Wade is the “interim” Youth Director, hired to lead Youth Group from Sept. through Dec., as we continue through the senior pastor call process.

LYO INFORMATIONAL MEETING: An informational meeting in regard to LYO (Lutheran Youth Organization) for parents *and* senior high youth will be led by Wade Messer on Sun., Sept. 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. The LYO Gathering is in Minot on Oct. 20-22.

LYO INKIND OFFERING: Senior high youth are collecting items for Camp Noah kits. Camp Noah is a five-day camp experience which offers a safe, caring environment with curriculum specifically designed to help children heal by processing their disaster experience. Camp Noah is a part of Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota and will be offered in Minot in the spring/summer of 2012. Items needed for each kit are:

- 8-pack of washable markers
- Pencil, erase + pencil sharpener
- Container of play-dough
- Pack of watercolor paints
- 24-pack of crayons
- Gluestick
- Youth-sized scissors

Starting Sept. 11, there will be collection baskets in the Commons Area and the narthex through Oct. 13. You may bring some *or* all of the items for each kit.

FLOOD RELIEF: Samaritan’s Purse Disaster Relief Units are set up in Minot, ND to assist with the flood relief and cleaning out homes. However, more volunteers are needed. If you are interested please go to <http://spvolunteernetwork.org/projects/minot-nd-flood-response.aspx> for more information or to sign up to volunteer. Contact Jodeen Myers at 225-6747 if you have questions.

Sunday, August 28, 2011
Lectionary 22
Proper 17
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering, yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world. Today is the commemoration of Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, who died in 430, and Moses the Black, monk and martyr, who died around 400.

Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, died 430

Augustine was one of the greatest theologians of the Western church. A native of North Africa, he recovered from a debauched young adulthood through the influence of his mother, Monica, and Bishop Ambrose of Milan. Besides writing influential theological books, he served as bishop of Hippo, in present-day Algeria.

Moses the Black, monk, martyr, died around 400

Converted from life as a thief and a robber to Christianity, Moses was an Ethiopian who became a desert monk at Skete. His conversion had a great impact in his native country. Wearing a white habit, he said, "God knows I am black within." He was murdered during an attack by Berbers.

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 sower, the seed, the fruit;
our lifeboat, our treasure, our leaven.
Blessed be God forever.
Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of heaven and earth,
**we name before you the sin that enslaves us,
the sin that wounds us and others,
the sin that scars our world.**
Forgive us and heal us.
Guard us from all evil.
**Give to us and the whole creation
the freedom of the glory of the children of God.**
Amen.

Come, all who are weary,
all who carry heavy burdens.
As tender as parent to child,
so gentle is God to us.
As high as heaven is above earth,
so vast is God's love for us.
As far as east is from west,
so far God removes our sin,
renewing our lives in + Jesus Christ.
Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God from which nothing can separate us,
and the life-giving Holy Spirit be with you all.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW)

O God, we thank you for your Son,
who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world.
Humble us by his example,
point us to the path of obedience,
and give us strength to follow your commands,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (LBW)

O God, we thank you for your Son who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow his commands; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (95)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW)

Alleluia. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes¹ of our hearts,*
so that we may know the hope to which¹ God has called us. Alleluia. (Eph. 1:17, 18)

VERSE (LBW)

Alleluia. Your words became to me a joy, and the delight of my heart. Alleluia. (Jer. 15:16)

READINGS

Jeremiah 15:15–21

Exodus 3:1–15 (Semi-continuous)

Psalms 26:1–8

Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. (Ps. 26:3)

Psalms 105:1–6, 23–26, 45b (Semi-continuous)

Make known the deeds of the LORD among the peoples. Hallelujah! (Ps. 105:1, 45)

Romans 12:9–21

Matthew 16:21–28

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15–21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words: "I am with you."

¹⁵O LORD, you know;

remember me and visit me,

and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;

know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them,

and your words became to me a joy

and the delight of my heart;

for I am called by your name,

O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,

nor did I rejoice;

under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,

says the LORD.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.\

FIRST READING (SEMI-CONTINUOUS): Exodus 3:1–15

Moses experienced the call of God when God appeared to him in a bush that burned but was not consumed. When Moses expressed his unworthiness, God promised to be with him. When Moses objected that people would demand to know God's name, God revealed his personal name, Yahweh (I AM WHO I AM), or the LORD. Israel discovered God's true identity when God took them out of Egypt.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the

Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." ¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹²He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

¹³But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴God said to Moses, " I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ' I amhas sent me to you.'" ¹⁵God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.\

PSALM (ELW): Psalm 26:1–8

Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. (Ps. 26:3)

¹Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived ¹ with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and ¹ have not faltered.

²**Test me, O ¹ LORD, and try me;
examine my heart ¹ and my mind.**

³For your steadfast love is be- ¹ fore my eyes;
I have walked faithful- ¹ ly with you.

⁴**I have not sat ¹ with the worthless,
nor do I consort with ¹ the deceitful. R**

⁵I have hated the company of ¹ evildoers;
I will not sit down ¹ with the wicked.

⁶**I will wash my hands in inno- ¹ cence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession ¹ round your altar,**

⁷singing aloud a song ¹ of thanksgiving
and recounting all your won- ¹ derful deeds.

⁸**LORD, I love the house in ¹ which you dwell
and the place where your glo- ¹ ry abides. R**

PSALM (ELW) (SEMI-CONTINUOUS): Psalm 105:1–6, 23–26, 45b

Make known the deeds of the LORD among the peoples. Hallelujah! (Ps. 105:1, 45)

¹Give thanks to the LORD and call up- ¹ on God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD a- ¹ mong the peoples.

**²Sing to the LORD, sing praises,
and speak of all God's marvelous works.**

³Glory in God's holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

**⁴Search for the strength of the LORD;
continually seek God's face.**

⁵Remember the marvels God has done,
the wonders and the judgments of God's mouth,

**⁶O offspring of Abraham, God's servant,
O children of Jacob, God's chosen ones. R**

²³Israel came into Egypt,
and Jacob became a sojourner in the land of Ham.

**²⁴The LORD made the people of Israel very fruitful,
more numerous than their enemies,**

²⁵whose hearts God turned, so that they hated God's people,
and dealt unjustly with the servants of God.

**²⁶O LORD, you sent Moses your servant,
and Aaron, your chosen one. ^{45b} Hallelujah! R**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9–21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21–28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

²¹From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

O God: We pray for all who work today to share the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ. We especially remember those who gather under the threat of persecution, that they might be sustained. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

From the smallest ant to the tallest tree—your entire creation is a masterpiece and a gift. Help us treat your creation with respect and care. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For all nations at war or facing disease and poverty (*especially*), we ask for your life-giving presence and peace, O God. We pray for clean water and an end to hunger. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Look with compassion on all who are suffering: the unemployed, abused and neglected children, people who are depressed and lonely, and those facing challenges to their health (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Look with kindness on this community, O God. Weave us into a net that provides comfort and support, refuge and friendship. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With thanksgiving, O God, we remember all who abide with you in heaven (*especially Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, and Moses the Black, monk and martyr*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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

OFFERING PRAYER

God of mercy and grace,
the eyes of all wait upon you,
and you open your hand in blessing.
Fill us with good things at your table,
that we may come to the help of all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table prepared before you.
Taste of God's goodness and mercy.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God,
we give you thanks that again this day
you have opened wide your hand
and satisfied us with the food of life,
the body and blood of Christ.
Sharing your compassionate heart,
may we be blessed and given
to all who hunger and thirst;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

O God of tender compassion,
as you healed the sick and welcomed the stranger,
bless those who leave this assembly
to share the gifts of this table
with our sisters and brothers
who are sick/homebound/imprisoned.
May they be sustained by the love and prayers
of this community,
and by the Bread of life that satisfies all hunger,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING

God all mighty,
God most merciful
bless us, keep us, and + grant us peace.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, August 28, 2011
Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, died 430

Augustine was one of the greatest theologians of the Western church. A native of North Africa, he recovered from a debauched young adulthood through the influence of his mother, Monica, and Bishop Ambrose of Milan. Besides writing influential theological books, he served as bishop of Hippo, in present-day Algeria.

Sunday, August 28
Moses the Black, monk, martyr, died around 400

Converted from life as a thief and a robber to Christianity, Moses was an Ethiopian who became a desert monk at Skete. His conversion had a great impact in his native country. Wearing a white habit, he said, "God knows I am black within." He was murdered during an attack by Berbers.

Friday, September 2

Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872

Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great Danish theologians of the nineteenth century. As a pastor, he battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.