

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day – ELW #453 *Baptized and Set Free*

Apostles' Creed (10:30 Baptism), Prayers, Sharing of Peace – ELW Page 127

Meal

Offering (*8:00 Here I Am to Worship*)

Offertory Hymn – ELW #182 *Create in Me (from LBW Setting 1 – Hillert)*

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now.

Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Prayer and Great Thanksgiving – ELW Page 129 (*Holy, Holy – Page 130*)

Lord's Prayer and "Lamb of God" Hymn – ELW Page 134-5

Distribution of Bread and Wine – **Hymns #673, #807, #677**

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

Communion Blessing and Prayer – ELW Page 136

Sending

Blessing

Hymn – ELW #313 *O Lord, Now Let Your Servant Depart in Heav'nly Peace*

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

Postlude

Informational Meeting Regarding Annual Meeting – After Worship Services

An informal informational meeting is available after each worship service today. This is a chance to ask questions, seek information, probe into the Annual Meeting business planned for next week. Some important questions require more attention or research time than is available during an annual meeting. The Informational Meeting a week ahead provides more time.

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 Thursday, February 3, 2011 and Sunday, February 6, 2011

Presiding Minister: Pastor Lisa Lewton

Assisting Ministers: Gayle Homiston (Thursday)

Jean Herauf (8:00 a.m.)

Chip Poland (10:30 a.m.)

Deacons: Sandy Beaudoin & Marcy Decker (8:00 a.m.)

Steve Lervik & Michelle Kovash (10:30 a.m.)

Organist: Cheryl Hewson

Servers: McKenzie Mortensen (Thursday)

Samantha Urbanec & Devany Roberts (8:00 a.m.)

Stetson Pedersen & Shane Baltzell (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 310 . . . 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.

BAPTIZED SUNDAY is Drew Daniel Glasser, son of Dan & Dana Glasser. His sponsors are Troy & Shari Wolf of New England, N.D.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Monday: 7:00 p.m. Friends of the Fund / Dickinson Elks Club
Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. Quilting
7:00 p.m. Yoga Class / upstairs
Wednesday: 6:00 p.m. Puppet Practice
6:30 p.m. Angel Children's Choir
6:45 p.m. Handbell Practice / balcony
7:00 p.m. Carol Children's Choir
7:00 p.m. Mentor Groups
Thursday: 7:00 p.m. Midweek Worship
7:30 p.m. Congregation Council
Friday: 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast / Bible Study at Ramada
Next Sunday: 11:30 a.m. Luncheon / church basement
12:30 p.m. Annual Meeting / sanctuary
5:30 p.m. Senior High Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group

ORGAN RENOVATION PROJECT – SPECIAL EVENTS

PLANNED: You are invited to attend “Sweets and Tunes”, an evening of special music and delicious treats on **Friday, February 25 at 7 p.m.** A limited number of tickets will be on sale for this elegant evening.

OPEN HOUSE BIRTHDAY PARTY for Evelyn Newton's 90th birthday will be at Hawk's Point from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 19. Everyone is invited to attend.

ANNUAL MEETING – SUN., FEBRUARY 13 AT 12:30 p.m.

The congregation's Annual Meeting will occur next Sunday in the sanctuary at 12:30 p.m., following a luncheon offered by the youth of the congregation, served from 11:30 a.m. until the start of the meeting (it is a fundraising event to support next summer's mission trip to Milwaukee, Wisconsin).

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL AND TRUST FUND

The Nominating Committee presents the following nominations:

Treasurer – 2 Year Term: Kyle Klein

*Congregation Council – 2 Year Term: Jon Brudvig, Jeff Senn,
Michelle Kovash, Jay Schobinger, and Nate Shilman*

*Trust Fund Committee – 3 Year Term: Jeri Braunagel,
Tasha Gartner, and Jeff Skaare*

CONSTITUTION QUESTIONS – Three questions will be voted on at the Annual Meeting, February 13, 2011 at 12:30 p.m.

1. Shall St. John bring into its constitution all of the *required elements and language of the ELCA model constitution for congregations?
2. Shall St. John include C5.05 establishing a “mission endowment fund” for “mission work beyond the operational budget of this congregation”? (Such a fund is already part of the Trust Fund.)
3. Shall C13.02 include retiring council members to be part of the Nominating Committee (adding to three appointed members)?

The proposed additions to the constitution can be found under “Docs” (top of page) in *StJohnELC.wordpress.com* and are available in the church office.

COMMUNIVERSITY CLASS: "God's Mission, God's Song" will be a Communiversity class on the four Sundays in February. The classes will be held at Hawk's Point at 3:00 p.m. It will study mission hymns from the earliest American mission efforts to the present day. We'll both listen to and sing the hymns, and explore the Biblical bases and theological purposes of the songs. The class will be taught by Colleen McKirdy.

STILL LOOKING FOR ADULTS: Youth Quake is the big junior high overnight event in Billings MT **February 25-27**. Jess is looking for adults to participate as advisors. As an advisor, your trip is paid for. If you are interested, please talk to Jess Throlson at the church office: jthrolson@stjohnelc.org.

5TH GRADE EARLY CONFIRMATION will be held Feb. 13, 20, and 27 in the basement as these families learn more about the sacrament of Holy Communion. An adult must accompany each student to Early Confirmation classes.

FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL happens on the first Sunday of each month in the basement. Sunday School families will learn about the sacrament of Holy Communion. This class will provide instruction for First Communion, or serve as a refresher for students who are already communing.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS & ACTIVITY BAGS for worship are in the Commons Area and on the south wall by the coat rack in the church entry.

JESS LEAVING: I have accepted a position at Gloria Dei in Anchorage, Alaska and will be moving there at the end of February. My last Sunday will be February 20. I have loved my time with you. Thank you for letting me share your lives and your youth. Thank you to the youth for all you have taught me and for opening your hearts to me. You are the wind beneath my wings!

THANKS, JESS! As we give thanks for Jess's years of Youth and Family Ministry at St. John, we will celebrate the gifts she has shared by publicly thanking her in worship on Thursday, Feb. 17 and Sunday, Feb. 20.

WHEN IS ASH WEDNESDAY? If it feels like the church season of Lent should arrive anytime soon, you will need to keep waiting. Lent begins as late as it possibly can with Ash Wednesday on March 9.

MENTOR GROUPS meet on Wednesday, February 9 at 7:00 p.m. All students are expected to attend.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES for the New Testament – section 2 will be held on these Wednesdays: February 16, 23, March 2 & 16 at 7:00 p.m.

BOOK SWAP: Have you checked out the book swap shelf in the Commons Area? You are welcome to leave or borrow a book anytime. No late fees.

SCOUTS' SUNDAY: To honor the founding of Boy Scouts of America on Feb. 8, 1910, Feb. 6 is Scouts' Sunday. Thank you to the Boy Scouts who are helping the ushers on Sunday.

NEXT SUNDAY: On Feb. 13 and the second Sundays of the upcoming months, worship music will take on a "celebrative" flavor! The **Celebration Service** will include some music you know, and some that may be new to you. We will learn Setting 6, give thanks for God's gift of the Water and the Word in Baptism, and *live in service to Christ* through our worship together.

THANK YOU TO OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBERS: As a congregation, we give thanks to these individuals who have served on the Congregation Council: Dave Anderson, Rita Dvorak, and Tim Lantz.

Sunday, February 6, 2011
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany / Lectionary 5

INTRODUCTION

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who spread out the heavens and the earth,
who gives light and breath to the nations,
who makes all things new.

Amen.

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

Holy and healing God,
**we confess that we have fallen short
of the life you desire for us.
We choose our priorities over your commandments.
We divide the body of Christ.
The earth groans under our demands.
Have mercy, O God.
Restore us and all things to health,
that we may do justice,
love kindness,
and walk humbly with you. Amen.**

Hear the voice from heaven:
"You are my own, my beloved."
You belong to Christ,
and through the power of the cross
+ your sins are all forgiven.
God is faithful and will strengthen you,
that your light may shine before others,
that you may be God's holy people in the world.
Amen.

GREETING

The grace of God in Christ Jesus,
poured out in every gift of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW)

Lord God,
with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you.
By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do,
and give us the grace and power to do them,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (LBW)

Almighty God, you sent your only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us to believe with joy what the Scriptures proclaim, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (15)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW)

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

VERSE (LBW)

Alleluia. Jesus said: I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life. Alleluia. (John 8:12)

READINGS

Isaiah 58:1–9a [9b–12]

Psalm 112:1–9 [10]

Light shines in the darkness for the upright. (Ps. 112:4)

1 Corinthians 2:1–12 [13–16]

Matthew 5:13–20

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1–9a [9b–12]

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

²Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

³"Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. ^{9b}
If you remove the yoke from among you,

the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

PSALM (ELW): Psalm 112:1–9 [10]

Light shines in the darkness for the upright. (Ps. 112:4)

¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who ¹fear the LORD
and have great delight in ¹God's commandments!
²**Their descendants will be mighty ¹in the land;
the generation of the upright ¹will be blessed.**
³Wealth and riches will be ¹in their house,
and their righteousness will ¹last forever.
⁴**Light shines in the darkness ¹for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full ¹of compassion. R**
⁵It is good for them to be gener- ¹ous in lending
and to manage their af- ¹fairs with justice.
⁶**For they will nev- ¹er be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlast- ¹ing remembrance.**
⁷They will not be afraid of any ¹evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting ¹in the LORD.
⁸**Their heart is established and ¹will not shrink,
until they see their desire up- ¹on their enemies.**
⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands ¹fast forever;
they will hold up their ¹head with honor.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1–12 [13–16]

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus

Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

⁹But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him" —

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

¹³And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

¹⁶"For who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?"

But we have the mind of Christ.\

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13–20

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

¹³You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As God's beloved children, let us pray that the light of Christ shine on the nations, the church, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Form your church to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that our good works may give you glory. Let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Use the collective work of government agencies, relief organizations, and advocacy groups to bring an end to injustice, oppression, hunger, and homelessness. Let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Bring healing to lands and waters that are polluted or neglected, and teach us restraint, that the resources of the earth may be distributed justly and fairly. Let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Tend to the needs of all who cry out to you, especially those facing economic uncertainty, those without hope, and those living with fear, grief, or illness (*especially*). Let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Gather this community of faith around the mystery of Christ crucified, that our lives be poured out for one another and for the sake of the world. Let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Gather us, with all your holy ones, to receive what no eye has seen, no ear heard, and no heart conceived: the blessing of unending life in your presence. Let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Receive our prayers and hopes, God of mercy and justice, for we pray in the name of Christ, the light of the world.

Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills
were gathered together to become one bread,
so let your church be gathered together
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom,
for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin of the world.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Ever-faithful God, you have taken us again into your arms
and nourished us as your dear children.

Lead us and guide us,
that we may share our bread and your healing light
with those who hunger and thirst,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Compassionate God, as Jesus called disciples to follow him,
bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament
with those who are *sick/homebound/imprisoned*.

May these gifts be signs of our love and prayers,
that through the sharing of the body and blood of Christ,
all may know your grace and healing revealed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

God the Father, the Majestic Glory;
God the Son, the Morning Star;
and God the Holy Spirit, the Comforter,
bless you and + grant you peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.