

We Join Together in Worship

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church – Dickinson, ND
Sunday, September 4, 2011 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

Prelude, Welcome, Announcements, Confession & Forgiveness

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Merciful God, you have clothed us in Christ in our baptism. We confess that there are times when our words and actions deny the existence of your love.

Forgive us and weave your Spirit anew within us.

When we clothe ourselves with habits which reflect our own selfish desires rather than the selfless nature of Jesus,

forgive us and weave your Spirit anew within us.

When the lives of neighbors are unraveling because of poverty, broken relationships, substance abuse, discrimination, and we fail to love them as Jesus loves us,

forgive us and weave your Spirit anew within us.

Merciful God, take the frayed strands of our lives and weave them into something beautiful. This we pray in Jesus' name. **Amen**

Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. And so I declare to you: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!** (1 Timothy 1:15)

Opening Hymn – *Oh, Praise the Gracious Power*#651

Kyrie & Canticle of Praise (*Glory Be to God in Heaven... pg 204*).....Page 203

Prayer of the Day

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 “What are you wearing?”

Hymn of the Day – *This Little Light of Mine*.....**#677**

Apostles’ Creed, Prayers, Greetings of Peace.....Page 105

Gathered as the Body-of-Christ, we are joined into a fellowship and a Holy Communion

(9:30 a.m.) Sacrament of Holy BaptismPage 227

Meal

Offering and Offertory Hymn – *Where Charity and Love Prevail*, v. 1-2.....**#359**

- 1) **Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
brought here to-gether by Christ’s love, by love we thus are bound.**
- 2) **With grateful joy and holy fear, God’s charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in return.**

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**#522, #482, #640**

*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 3*) *God, Whose Almighty Word***#673**

- 3) **Spir-it of truth and love, life-giving, holy dove, Speed forth your flight;
move on the water’s face, bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth’s darkest place, let there be light.**

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, September 4, 2011

Presiding Minister: Pastor Lisa Lewton
Assisting Ministers: Mary Bruhschwein (Thursday)
Kathi Nygaard (8:00 a.m.)
Brittany Wentz (9:30 a.m.)
Organists: Barb Arneson (Thursday)
Cheryl Hewson (Sunday)
Cantors: Kathi Nygaard (8:00 a.m.)
Mike Stevenson (9:30 a.m.)
Servers: Robert Moser (Thursday)
Logein Chernich (8:00 a.m.)
Suzanna Moberg (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 welcome!

WORSHIP INFORMATION: Attendance last week was 334 . . . 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.*

HANDBELL CHOIR will be meeting on Sunday afternoons at 3:30 p.m. in the balcony beginning Sept. 11. If you are interested in joining contact Handbell Director, Cheryl Hewson at 483-5302.

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. Mentor Groups
7:00 p.m. Faith In Action (Stewardship)
Thursday: 7:00 p.m. Worship
7:30 p.m. Council Meeting
Friday: 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast/Bible Study/Ramada
5:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal
Saturday: 3:00 p.m. Hanson/Parkin Wedding
Next Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Church School Family Kick Off
6:30 p.m. LYO Informational Meeting
7:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group

BAPTIZED SUNDAY is Ashlynn Mary Barnett, daughter of Jeremy & Nicole Barnett. Her sponsors are Janice Kelling, Thomas Schweigert and Thad Kelling. We welcome her into the Lord's family.

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE will return to 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on Sun., Sept. 11. Thurs. 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 CLASS begins on Sept. 11 at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. Each Sunday of the month will focus on the Faith in Action Stewardship Campaign.

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.

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!

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.

FAITH IN ACTION SERVICE PROJECT: We are collecting school supplies for Dickinson Elementary Schools. On October 2, Serving Sunday, you may help sort these collected items and decorate a special box to be delivered to each elementary school. These supplies will help children in need as well as restock the schools classrooms mid-year.

DON'T JUST GO TO CHURCH – be THE CHURCH! - The Faith in Action fall stewardship campaign begins soon! During the campaign, we will focus on biblical compassion, service and Christ's heart for those in need, through special worship services, Sunday School classes and service opportunities. Then, you can be a part of a landmark day when on October 2, 2011 when we cancel the 10:30 a.m. worship service and instead worship through service in our community. Sign up will begin Thursday, Sept. 8 and ends September 19.

The goals for our fall stewardship program:

- Invite all ages to participate in returning 350 pledges in response to God's call for us to carry out our ministry and Live in service to Christ.
- Have all ages participate in a Serving Sunday and put our faith into action.
- Use service projects to engage and inspire all ages to see more clearly the role they play in God's ongoing work of grace.
- Have small groups participate in four weeks of study and fellowship

Don't wait to sign up for a project and order your Faith in Action t-shirt!

This is a focused, church-wide effort to make a real difference in our own community. Jesus said the world would know we're Christians by our love. It's time we serve together. It's time we grow together.....start here. Sign up will be available in the Commons Area:

Thursday, September 8	6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m and after worship
Sunday, September 11	9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m and after worship
Thursday, September 15	6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m and after worship
Sunday, September 18	9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m and after worship

SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS are part of this year's Fall Stewardship Emphasis. Groups are invited to meet 3-5 times in homes, at the church, or in a community space (hosts may choose the place and schedule). The primary hope in this activity is that people who are part of these small groups have fun, gain new or deepened friendships, learn more about themselves and others, and gain more insight into the stewardship of "BE-ing the Church" Discussion guides have been prepared to help direct and support discussions that could last about an hour. Meetings begin the last 4 weeks in September and 1st week of October. Additional hosts will be welcomed. Please call the church office (225-6747) to sign up for one of the following groups being offered:

<u>Host(s)</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Day/Time</u>
Earl & Darlene Pelton	home	Tues. evenings
Tim & Michelle Thiel	St. John	Wed. evenings

You are welcome to attend the Adult Sunday Class on Sundays at 9:15. The class will also be following the Faith in Action: Be the Church small group material.

Sunday, September 4, 2011
Lectionary 23
Proper 18
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who forgives our sin, heals every illness,
saves us from death, enfolds us with tender care,
and crowns us with steadfast love.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of abundant mercy,
**we confess that we are more ready
to be forgiven than to forgive others.
We hold too closely your gifts to us.
We trample your vineyard, our good earth.
Have mercy, O God;
turn us again to you and toward others;
and grant that we may live for you and die in you,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.
Amen.**

God is generous and faithful,
forgiving sins without number,
welcoming all to the feast,

giving us a place among the saints.
Through the humble obedience of + Christ Jesus,
who went to the cross for our sake,
you are forgiven and made whole.
The Spirit of God is at work in you,
enabling you to live for one another.
Amen.

GREETING

Grace and peace from our God and Father,
hope in our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the consolation of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW)

O Lord God,
enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy.
Without your help, we mortals will fail;
remove far from us everything that is harmful,
and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (LBW)

Almighty and eternal God, you know our problems and our weaknesses better than we ourselves. In your love and by your power help us in our confusion and, in spite of our weakness, make us firm in faith; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (96)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW)

Alleluia. In Christ God was reconciling the world¹ to himself,*
entrusting the message of reconcilia-¹ tion to us. Alleluia. (2 Cor. 5:19)

VERSE (LBW)

Alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Alleluia. (Phil. 4:4)

READINGS

Ezekiel 33:7–11

Exodus 12:1–14 (Semi-continuous)

Psalm 119:33–40

I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)

Psalm 149 (Semi-continuous)

Sing the LORD's praise in the assembly of the faithful. (Ps. 149:1)

Romans 13:8–14

Matthew 18:15–20

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7–11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

FIRST READING (SEMI-CONTINUOUS): Exodus 12:1–14

Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to

the number of people who eat of it. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

PSALM (ELW): Psalm 119:33–40

I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way [|] of your statutes,
and I shall keep it [|] to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall [|] keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with [|] all my heart.**

³⁵Lead me in the path of [|] your commandments,
for that is [|] my desire.

³⁶**Incline my heart to [|] your decrees
and not to [|] unjust gain. R**

³⁷Turn my eyes from be- [|] holding falsehood;
give me life [|] in your way.

³⁸**Fulfill your promise [|] to your servant,
which is for [|] those who fear you.**

³⁹Turn away the reproach [|] that I dread,
because your judg- [|] ments are good.

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for [|] your commandments;
by your righteousness en- [|] liven me. R**

PSALM (ELW) (SEMI-CONTINUOUS): Psalm 149

Sing the LORD's praise in the assembly of the faithful. (Ps. 149:1)

¹Hallelujah! Sing to the LORD ¹a new song,
 God's praise in the assembly ¹of the faithful.
²**Let Israel rejoice ¹in their maker;**
let the children of Zion be joyful ¹in their ruler.
³Let them praise their maker's ¹name with dancing;
 let them sing praise with tambou- ¹rine and harp.
⁴**For the LORD takes pleasure ¹in the people**
and adorns the ¹poor with victory. R
⁵Let the faithful re- ¹joice in triumph;
 let them sing for joy ¹on their beds.
⁶**Let the praises of God be ¹in their throat**
and a two-edged sword ¹in their hand,
⁷to wreak vengeance ¹on the nations
 and punishment ¹on the peoples,
⁸**to bind their ¹kings in chains**
and their nobles with ¹links of iron,
⁹to inflict on them the judg- ¹ment decreed;
 this is glory for all God's faithful ones. ¹Hallelujah! **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8–14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15–20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a

whole—should show wrongdoers their need for repentance.

¹⁵If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Seeking the renewal of the Holy Spirit in our communities and in our world, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Holy and life-giving God, unite your people in a life of righteousness and loving-kindness. Form us as your witnesses, so that when people seek compassion, they may find it in Christ-centered community. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bless the labors of farmers, herders, packagers, and all who work for the harvest and distribution of food. Make them a strong link between your abundant creation and all hungry people. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Guide the work of all elected officials. Create and encourage accountability in governments. Use these servants of the people to uphold justice in our world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Make the presence of Christ known among those who are ill, grieving, and broken-hearted. Bring your gifts of healing and wholeness to all who are sick and suffering (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Grant a spirit of thankfulness to all whose daily needs are met. Give hope to those who are unemployed or underemployed. Bind us together in service to one another. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

As we recall the lives of the saints who have revealed Christ to us, open our eyes to see his face in those gathered with us. Strengthen our faith in his ongoing work of redemption. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, holy God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
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, you that are blessed by God.
Come to the banquet.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our shepherd,
you have gathered us again from scattered places
and nourished us with rich food in word and sacrament.
Go with us now, that we may seek the lost,
bind up the injured, and strengthen the weak,
until you gather us and all the saints into your eternal feast
with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, you took the form of a servant,
offering yourself as food, comfort, and strength

to a sick and hurting world.
Anoint with a servant heart
those who take your word and sacrament
to our sisters and brothers
in their homes/in prisons/in hospitals.
Grant grace, mercy, healing, and hope to those
who feast on your body and blood
and receive your words of new life.
May we all recognize that we have a place and a home
in the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

BLESSING

The peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding,
+ guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Lord is near.
Thanks be to God.

COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Friday, September 9, 2011

Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Colombia, died 1654

Born into Spanish nobility, Claver became a Jesuit missionary, and served in present-day Colombia. His ministry was focused on the slaves that arrived there. He gave them food and medicine, learned their dialects, and taught them Christianity.