

The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

P.O. Box 98, Okabena, MN 56161

A member congregation of the
Church of the Lutheran Confession

James Albrecht, Pastor – 507-853-4417

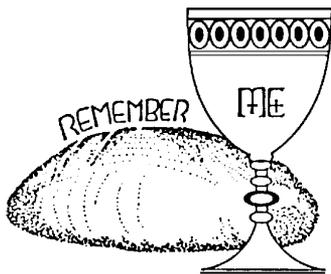
Lana Strike, Upper Grades – 507-360-9491

Ruth Eigenberg, Lower Grades – 507-360-7725

Jolene Albrecht, Kindergarten – 507-351-1204

Church/School Phone – 507-853-4550

www.okabenalutheran.org



WELCOME To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world.

As with other public buildings in MN, masks are now required for churches. We also practice social distancing as recommended by our government. Please do not use any of the pews where the seat cushions have been turned on edge, and reserve socializing for the outdoors. Thank you.

Prelude Mrs. Kathy Lueck

Hymn 320 *Lord Jesus, Think on Me*

Liturgy Page 15ff. in The Lutheran Hymnal

Thy strong word bespeaks us righteous; Bright with Thine own holiness,
Glorious, now we press toward glory, And our lives our hopes confess:
Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise to thee who light does send!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia without end.

God the Father, light-creator, To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten, Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light revealer, Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the Holy Trinity!

Old Testament Lesson Jeremiah 32:23-25 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: "They shall again use this speech in the land of Judah and in its cities, when I bring back their captivity: 'The Lord bless you, O home of justice, *and* mountain of holiness!' And there shall dwell in Judah itself, and in all its cities together, farmers and those going out with flocks. For I have satiated the weary soul, and I have replenished every sorrowful soul."

Gospel Lesson Matthew 10:24-31 "A disciple is not above *his* teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more *will they call* those of his household! Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. "Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Hymn 764 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

Sermon Hebrews 12:12-17 Therefore strengthen your weak hands and feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated but rather healed. Pursue peace with everyone and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord. Take care so that no one falls short of God's grace and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and so defile many. Take care that no one becomes sexually immoral or worldly, like Esau, who gave away his right as firstborn for a single meal. Certainly you know that afterward he was rejected when he wanted

to inherit the blessing, for he found no chance to change his father's mind, even though he sought it with tears.

Why COVID-19?

Hymn 323 *With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh*

The Benediction

Hymn 53 *Abide, O Dearest Jesus*

COMMUNION The Lord's Supper will be celebrated immediately after today's service. Communicants will be done in the pew vs. coming to the front. If you are visiting today, please be aware of the fact that we practice "close-communion." This means that doctrinal unity is a requisite for communing at our altar. If you'd like more information, be sure to ask the pastor.

QUARTLERY MEETING The following items of business were conducted at last week's meeting. Nick, Katherine, and Avery Moffenbier were transferred to Trinity Lutheran in Watertown, SD. The voters discussed the need for securing the church and school. Meetings will continue in order to decide what system is best for our needs (the goal is to have a system ready by the opening of school). The voters decided to issue "open" calls to our teachers (vs. one year calls). Ruth Eigenberg and Lana Strike were called for the Lower and Upper Grades. Jolene Albrecht was called to serve as a para (her compensation will be hourly vs. salary). The voters discussed the future of our teacherage. Comments and ideas should be passed along to Brandt Wendland. A budget of \$243,205.10 was approved (copies are available on the entryway table). The body approved the idea of getting more information from the county about Care Act funds that are available. Since October 31 lands on a Saturday, our Reformation service will be held on Sunday, November 1. The Elders were charged with making plans for our annual Mission Festival. A 3% cost of living adjustment was made for all of the called workers. The October voters meeting is set for Sunday the 18th. Adapted from the minutes of Secretary Bruce Eigenberg.

CALL Dear Members of St. John's,

I received the call extended to me at the July voters meeting to teach during the 2020-2021 school year in your Christian Day School. I recognize

this call as from the Lord and have considered it with much prayer and reflection.

With the Lord's guidance I have been led to accept this call and am looking forward to working with the lambs placed in the care of our school. It is such a blessing to be able to teach God's Word throughout the day in a school such as St. John's and I am humbled to be involved in the education of these precious children.

I thank you very much for all the prayers and support offered during this past school year and ask you to please keep our congregation, school, staff, and students in your prayers, especially as we navigate the challenges of education during these uncertain times. May the Lord's encouragement and guiding hand continue to be with our congregation and school.

In His service, Ruth Eigenberg

VBS A special thanks to all who assisted with Bible School last week.

TOUR CHOIR The concert that was supposed to be held here on Thursday evening has been cancelled due to new restrictions from the governor. The Choir will present an outdoor concert at ILC on Friday evening (7:30).

CLC NEWS Pastor Richard Kanzenbach, Fairchild/Millston/Onalaska, WI has accepted the call to Lemmon, SD.

Maintenance Position: A full-time position has opened in the maintenance department of ILC following the faithful service of John Fox. In service to the LORD and for the welfare of our students, the responsibilities include the maintenance and improvement of the grounds, roads, buildings and equipment on the campus, plowing, mowing, etc. If you would like more information please contact Professor Daniel Schierenbeck or speak with the pastor. (dan.schierenbeck@ilc.edu/660.864.9231).

BOOK Deborah Ude's third book, "*Sunshine in Shadows,*" is now available. on Amazon (the digital version is \$2.99 and the printed paperback is \$11.99.) All three of Debi's books are also available in printed form at the CLC Bookstore or directly from John Ude, john.ude@ilc.edu.

CLEANING (Wk 2) E. Bass, S. Winters, J. Zuehlke
J. Jensen, M. DeWall, S. DeWall