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The Eleventh 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

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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. Jennifer Dukleth

Hymn 19:1-5 *All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above*

Liturgy Page 12ff. in the front of the Worship Supplement

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 55:6-11

Seek the Lord while He may be found,
Call upon Him while He is near.
Let the wicked forsake his way,
And the unrighteous man his thoughts;
Let him return to the Lord,
And He will have mercy on him;
And to our God,
For He will abundantly pardon.
“For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts,
Nor *are* your ways My ways,” says the Lord.
“For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts.
“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven,
And do not return there,
But water the earth,
And make it bring forth and bud,
That it may give seed to the sower
And bread to the eater,
So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;
It shall not return to Me void,
But it shall accomplish what I please,
And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

Gospel Lesson Mark 7:31-37 “Again, departing from the region of Tyre and Sidon, He came through the midst of the region of Decapolis to the Sea of Galilee. Then they brought to Him one who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech, and they begged Him to put His hand on him. And He took him aside from the multitude, and put His fingers in his ears, and He spat and touched his tongue. Then, looking up to heaven, He sighed, and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he

spoke plainly. Then He commanded them that they should tell no one; but the more He commanded them, the more widely they proclaimed it. And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Hymn 277 *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

Sermon Romans 10:13-17 For *“whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”* How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: *“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!”* But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, *“LORD, who has believed our report?”* So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

This Message Needs to be Shared...

Hymn 496 *Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying*

The Benediction

Hymn 784 *Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me*

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CDS Our Christian Day School is planning to hold in-school classes starting this Tuesday. We are planning for 11 students. The opening service will be held at 8:00 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

In our increasingly godless culture, the need for operating a Christian Day School comes more sharply into focus. The blessings the Lord provides through a Christian Education are incalculable.

SUNDAY SCHOOL The new Sunday School season begins, Lord-willing, on Sunday, September 13. If you are interested in serving as a Sunday School Teacher this year, please speak with a member of the School Board.

BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION A new policy has gone into effect for handling the Boxtops. They will no longer be printed on the container and mailed in. Now it's necessary to scan your receipts within two weeks of the purchase

date and upload them via their app. Any Boxtops you have that are not expired should be given to Dayna as soon as possible. If you don't care to scan your receipts yourself, please give them to Jolene.

COKE REWARDS Thanks to those who've been saving and submitting the Coke-related product icons online, our School just received a check for approximately \$34. If you use Coke products, please consider scanning and uploading them from your phone. If you would like more information, please speak with David Schmidt.

FALL BIBLE CLASS Our first Adult Bible Class will be held on the Sunday after Labor Day. If there are topics of special interest to you, please let the pastor know as soon as possible.

You are also welcome to attend our Family Bible Class after the service in the basement. We will be discussing the fact that God often (usually) answers our cries for help in ways that we aren't expecting. We need constant reminders that we walk by faith, not by sight.

CONGRATULATIONS Nick and Katherine Moffenbier (recently transferred to Watertown, SD) were blessed with a healthy baby boy on Thursday, August 20. We join them in thanking the Lord for this special gift. May the Lord be with and bless their son throughout his life.

MAN UP CONFERENCE Due to COVID-19, the September conference has been postponed until next year. The hosts of the conference are looking into ways of offering something online this Fall.

ILC Immanuel Lutheran College will begin the Fall semester with in-person classes. Our congregation will have six young people attending: High School – Faith and Hannah Kazemba, Luke Strike; College – Christian Kazemba, Zachary Strike; Seminary – Jonah Albrecht. We wish them, and all of our students, the Lord's blessing on the new school year. We pray that the Lord will allow for in-person classes throughout the academic year.

CLC NEWS Pastor Chad Seybt, Cheyenne, has the call to Fairchild/Millston/Onalaska, WI. Pastor Del Maas, Mapleton, ND has accepted the call to serve the group in Ponsford, MN. This will become a joint-parish.

CLEANING (Wk 2) The Boernsens and the Liepolds
The Luecks, P. Strike