

The Twelfth 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

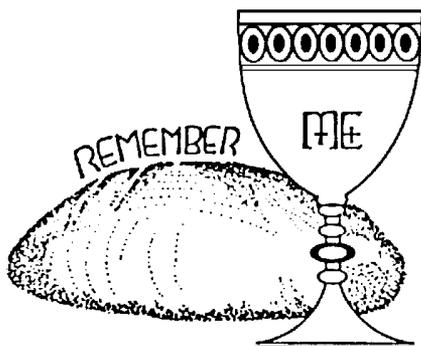
Lana Strike, Upper Grades – 507-360-9491

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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. Lana Strike

Hymn 361 *O Jesus, King Most Wonderful*

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!
- WS 775 -

Epistle Lesson James 3:1-12 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he *is* a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.

See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. *It is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring send forth fresh *water* and bitter from the same opening? Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

Gospel Lesson Matthew 12:31-42 "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy *against* the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not

be forgiven him, either in this age or in the *age* to come. “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by *its* fruit. Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.” But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah *is* here. The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon *is* here.

Hymn 296 *Speak, O Lord, Thy Servant Heareth*

Sermon Matthew 16:21-26 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.” Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

The Cross in Perspective...

Hymn 751 *God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It*

The Benediction

Hymn 451 *Stand Up, Stand Up, for Jesus*

COMMUNION The communion portion of the service will be handled after the regular service. Communicants will be served in the pew. Please note that we practice the custom of Close-Communion.

THANK YOU We wish to thank the individual who built the plexiglass shields for the classrooms. Also, thanks to the one who installed a wifi access point in the auditorium.

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.

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.

CORRECTION In the sermon last week, the pastor said that Ezekiel was taken captive in Nebuchadnezzar's first raid of Jerusalem (612 B.C.). Daniel and others were taken, but Ezekiel would not be deported until 605 B.C.

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 If you use Coke products, please consider scanning and uploading the special badges for the school. If you would like more information, please speak with David Schmidt.

CLC NEWS Pastor Luke Bernthal, Mountain View, CA has returned the call to Eden Prairie. Pastor Thomas Schuetze, Lakewood, CO has the call to Morris. Pastor Ben Libby, Tacoma, WA has the call to Bowdle/Ipswich, SD.

CLEANING (Wk 3) The Luecks, P. Strike
D. Iverson, D. Ling, C. Rovere, S. Sumej