

The Fourteenth 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. Kathy Lueck

Hymn 540:1-3, 5 *With the Lord Begin Thy Task*

Liturgy Page 5ff. 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 -

Old Testament Lesson 1 Kings 17:8-16 Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "Arise, go to Zarephath, which *belongs* to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow *was* there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink." And as she was going to get *it*, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." So she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I *am* gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go *and* do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring *it* to me; and afterward make *some* for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.'" So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for *many* days. The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke by Elijah.

Gospel Lesson Matthew 6:24-34 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they nei-

ther sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, *will He* not much more *clothe* you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble.

Hymn 789 *Consider How the Birds Above*

Sermon Acts 12:1-11 Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread. So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover.

Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, “Arise quickly!” And his chains fell off his hands. Then the angel said to him, “Gird yourself and tie on your sandals”; and so he did. And he said to him, “Put on your garment and follow me.” So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.

And when Peter had come to himself, he said, “Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people.

Our God Still Reigns...

The Offertory

Hymn 744 *How Great Thou Art!*

The Benediction

Hymn 410 *Jesus, Lead Thou On*

ENROLLMENT Two new students were welcomed to our school last week (grades 1 and 3). Current enrollment stands at 13. We thank the Lord for the opportunity He sets before us and pray that He richly blesses the work of our CDS.

NON-CDS CONFIRMATION The pastor would like to meet with the parents of this year’s non-CDS students after today’s service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Parents of Upper Grade students are asked to meet in the church right after the service.

COMMUNION The pastor will not be available for the service on Sept. 27. The Elders have recommended moving the Communion date to October 4. As always, the pastor is happy to commune individuals privately.

MISSION FESTIVAL Plans are to hold Mission Festival on October 11, with Pastor Drehle of Sioux Falls as our guest speaker. Since a normal potluck is not possible due to Covid-19 restrictions, the plan is to tentatively aim for an outdoor dinner, weather permitting.

CLC NEWS Pastor Todd Ohlmann (Foreign Missionary – currently living in the St. Louis area) has the call to Eden Prairie. Seminary Graduate, Nick Naumann, has the call to Bowdle/Ipswich, SD.

CLEANING (Wk 1) J. Albrecht, N. Albrecht, C. Ling
B. Eigenberg, J. Eigenberg, L Ferguson