

Mission Festival

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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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 772 *On Galilee's High Mountain*

M: In the name of the Father

C: Whose glory is declared by the heavens,

M: and of the Son

C: Who calls us to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth,

M: and of the Holy Spirit

C: Who empowers us to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. Amen.

Confession of Sins Turn to Hymn 764

M: Gracious Lord, You have preserved the Gospel message throughout history, from the first Promise made to Adam and Eve, until now. Its message of Your love to us in Christ, of Your complete pardon for our sins, and of eternal life in heaven are the greatest treasure we could ever have. With this Gift, come the privilege and responsibility to spread its message throughout the world.

Hymn 764, stanza 1

M: Ours is an evil generation, a culture that is filled with spiritual indifference, a society that has lost its moral bearings. We have not been exempt from its influences. We confess that we have been too friendly with the world and have allowed it to dull our sensitivity and misdirect our priorities. Help us to recognize and overcome the enemies of our faith: the Devil, the world, and our own flesh, with Your Word.

Hymn 764, stanza 2

M: So often we have overlooked the needs of those who live near us and have shown so little concern for those who are far away. There is always so much more we could do to bring others the Good News of their Savior, Jesus Christ.

Hymn 764, stanza 3

M: Gracious Lord, we confess that we are in dire need of Your Spirit's help. We need a heart that loves You more, a faith that trusts You more, a life that reflects more clearly the vast riches of Your love.

Hymn 764, stanza 4

M: Today we especially confess our self-centeredness in our Christian faith.

C: We have so often received the precious Gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ, but we have kept it to ourselves. We have failed to share it with those who still live in bondage to sin. We have been too indifferent, too busy, and too intimidated, Lord, when You have brought other people to us who have spiritual needs: members of our families, our neighbors, our friends, fellow workers and those who live in our communities. Forgive

us, Lord, for being unconcerned about those who do not have the assurance of Truth, forgiveness, and eternal life with You. Forgive us for not sharing the abundant resources You have given us to accomplish Your mission to the ends of the earth. Be merciful to us, for we have kept our faith to ourselves. For Jesus' sake, forgive us and restore us to a joyful life of courageous faith and ministry. Through us, speak Your words of comfort and hope and victory into all the corners of this world! Amen.

M: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake, God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit, who gives us a new life and a new mission, along with His own words and His own power, as a testimony to others. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen. (spoken)

Hymn 770, stanzas 1 & 5

Prayer: Heavenly Father, You have called us from many races and tongues to be witnesses of the Good News of Your Son to every nation, tribe, language and people. Help us to share Your precious Gospel with all who have not heard of Your great love for them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen. (spoken)

OT Lesson Isaiah 6:1-8 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above Him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." And I heard the

voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

Gospel Lesson Matthew 9:35-38 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

Hymn 507 *Spread, Oh, Spread, Thou Mighty Word*

Sermon John 4:27-30, 39-42 And at this *point* His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, “What do You seek?” or, “Why are You talking with her?” The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, “Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” Then they went out of the city and came to Him. And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I *ever* did.” So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard *Him* and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.”

It's What God has Said

Pastor Cory Drehle, Sioux Falls, SD

The Offertory

Hymn 508 *Thou Whose Almighty Word*

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer + Benediction

Hymn 496 *Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying*

THANK YOU We thank Pastor Drehle for his Gospel message and encouragement this morning. He is a 2020 graduate from our Seminary in

Eau Claire. Originally from the Kansas City area, his folks now reside in Texas. We appreciate the opportunity to have him address us today.

POTLUCK All are invited to the potluck meal that will be served after the service. Social distancing will be practiced. Tables have been spread out in the basement and individuals will serve you in the line.

ANNIVERSARY CLOTHING The shipment has arrived. If you haven't already paid for your order, the payment should be made to the Sumeys, who covered the order in our behalf.

LADIES AID The October meeting will be held on Tuesday evening at 6:30.

NOTE OF THANKS "We want to thank everyone for their prayers and support for our baby girl these past couple of months. We also want to thank those that celebrated the upcoming arrival of Sophie last weekend at the baby shower. Your kindness and generosity are so appreciated!

"We will be heading to Omaha on October 29th to be induced and look forward to sharing Sophie's progress with her first surgery while down there." -- Nathan and Mary Albrecht

VOTERS The 3rd Quarterly meeting will be held next Sunday. In addition to the regular Board reports: Holiday worship schedule, Election meeting date, Nominating Committee meeting date, Annual Meeting date. Agenda items should be given to Chairman Ron Strike as soon as possible.

CDS SERVICE Lord willing, the students of our Day School will present a Reformation service on Sunday, October 25. This will mean moving our usual Communion Sunday to the first Sunday in November. As always, the pastor will be happy to commune you privately.

CLC NEWS Mr. Johnathan Schnose, who recently passed the first part of the colloquy process, has received calls (to be an onsite Vacancy Pastor) in Morris, and also in Bowdle/Ipswich, SD. Other pastoral vacancies include: Eden Prairie, MN, Cheyenne, WY, Spokane, WA, and the replacement of Prof. John Reim at the end of this academic year. "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

CLEANING (Wk 1) The Ruthenbecks

J. Appel, E. Bass, S. Winters, J. Zuehlke