

COS Reformation Service

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

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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 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.

Today's service differs from the norm because our Christian Day School students will be presenting a Reformation Service entitled, "*We Walk by Faith.*" Our hope and prayer is that their message of sin and grace, Law and Gospel, life and death, will bless you in your Christian life.

St. John's started its Day School in 1995, in recognition of the church's centennial. Our students are blessed to not only receive an excellent education, but to daily learn how to apply the message of God's Word to their lives. Not only do they learn English, Math, Art, Music, and the Sciences, they learn these subjects from a Christian perspective. Instead of viewing the world as the product of accidental, by-chance evolution over the course of billions of years, they are taught the truth: God created this world in six normal days. His perfect world was ruined by man's sin. God resolved the problem of sin by coming to our earth to live and die as our Substitute.

In an age where it is hard for small, rural congregations to remain viable, we feel especially blessed to have a school. Our conviction is that, even if only one soul is kept in the faith as the result of the Gospel heard in our school, it is worth every penny that was spent and every ounce of energy that was poured into it.

Prelude Mrs. Kathy Lueck

Accompanist Julia Strike

ARTWORK The wooden crosses on display in the church windows are the work of our Upper Grade students. The magnets on the entryway table are the work of the K-3 students. Please help yourself to the magnets.

VOTERS The following items were discussed and/or acted upon in the meeting last Sunday: Transfer of Brooke Noeldner (Wendland) to Berea, Sioux Falls. This year's Confirmands were officially welcomed into communicant membership. Now that the project is complete, the balance in the Elevator Fund will be transferred into the Building Fund. With grant money from the county, the voters gave the green light for improving the Wi-Fi coverage in church and supplying the school with the resources (including Chrome Books for all grade levels and laptops for the teachers) for remote learning. Thanksgiving Day Service at 9:30. Midweek Advent services will be held on December 2, 9, and 16. Christmas Eve: 6:30. Christmas Day: 9:30. New Year's Eve: 7 p.m. The Nominations Committee

will meet three weeks prior to the December 6 Election meeting. Those elected will be installed on January 3. Annual meeting: January 17.

TIME CHANGE Please remember to turn back your clocks this Saturday night.

SATURDAY SERVICE We plan to hold our regular Saturday evening service this week. Once the time change occurs, we are likely to bump the service to an earlier timeslot. Please share your thoughts with the pastor.

PRIVATE COMMUNION Our monthly communion service will be held next week instead of today. If you are unable to attend next Sunday, the pastor will be happy to commune you privately after today's service.

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.

CLC NEWS Pastor Nathanael Mayhew, Sleepy Eye, has the call to Eden Prairie. Teacher Ted Quade, Hales Corners, WI has announced his plan to retire at the end of this school year.

Candidates for Immanuel Professor Call The Board of Regents for Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary invites "all pastors, professors, male teachers, and voting members of member congregations of the Church of the Lutheran Confession" (CLC Constitution) to nominate an individual or individuals to fill the vacancy which will be created by the retirement of Professor John Reim at the end of the 2020-21 academic year. The position would require someone seminary trained with the ability to teach primarily music, college Greek, and other potential disciplines commencing with the 2021-22 academic year. The person would serve as the director of the mass and tour choirs, potentially teaching piano and organ. Those submitting nominations are strongly encouraged to verify that the individual would be willing to be nominated and would need to include information regarding the nominee's educational background and teaching and/or professional experience, also indicating how the person might help our school in technology expertise, extracurricular activities, or administrative positions. Nominations are to be received by email or letter no later than midnight November 20, 2020 (letters postmarked November 10, 2020) to: Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087; email: jeb6217@yahoo.com.

WHAT MAKES A LUTHERAN LUTHERAN? If you asked the average person what it means to be Lutheran, almost invariably you will get the response, “A Lutheran is someone who follows Martin Luther.” It makes sense that a group with that name would be following its namesake. But it’s not.

Luther was abhorred that anyone should be called by his name. Those who were called “Lutherans” were given that title out of mockery. But the name stuck, even though we don’t agree with everything Luther wrote or proclaimed. We are called Lutherans because we believe that Scripture, (not individuals or church councils) is the first and final authority in all matters of faith and life.

Luther was taught that he needed to make things right with God by the way he lived. He did all the works that were prescribed but never found peace of mind. It wasn't until God opened his eyes through the study of Scripture that Luther understood that salvation is God's work, not ours.

Today, there are plenty of different ideas of how a person is saved. Maybe the most common idea in our post-modern world is that, no matter what you believe or what religion you are a part of, there are many roads leading to the same place. Even many Lutherans have bought into that false idea, thinking that different people are saved in different ways. But that simply is not possible.

The Bible says, “*By grace you are saved.*” Grace is God's rejection of every human effort to earn his own way. It isn't “By grace you will be saved,” or, “If you believe with all your heart you will be saved,” but “You ARE Saved!” Behind this statement stand the pain and agony, the birth, life, death and resurrection of God's own Son. Salvation is always God's work and not ours. We do not make a decision about salvation or plug our good works into the equation. What we bring to salvation is our sin and unbelief. Through faith, we receive God’s gracious proclamation that our every sin has been paid for and forgiven. We do not arrive at that on the basis of our human reason. That is what Scripture teaches and true Lutherans believe.

There are other key differences between the Lutheran Church and other Christian churches today. If you’d like to learn more, please speak with the pastor.

CLEANING (Wk. 3) J. Jensen, M. DeWall, S. DeWall
J. Kazemba