

October 4, 2020

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The Seventeenth 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.

If you would like to know more about our church's doctrine and practice, please speak with the pastor. He will be happy to visit with you at your convenience. We hope that you will join us again, soon.

Prelude Mrs. Jennifer Dukleth

Hymn 476 *Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand*

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 Philippians 3:17-21 Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is their* belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things. For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Gospel Lesson Matthew 22:15-22 Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in His talk. And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men. Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?”

But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, “Why do you test Me, you hypocrites? Show Me the tax money.” So they brought Him a denarius.

And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." When they had heard these words, they marveled, and left Him and went their way.

Hymn 471:1, 3-6 *Hark! The Sound of Holy Voices*

Sermon Isaiah 65:17-25 "Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in My people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more. "Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; he who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere youth; he who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed. They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of My people; My chosen ones will long enjoy the works of their hands. They will not toil in vain or bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the LORD, they and their descendants with them. Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all My holy mountain," says the LORD.

Longing for Heaven...

The Offertory

Hymn 656 *Behold a Host, Arrayed in White*

The Benediction

Hymn 660:1-2, 4 *I'm But a Stranger Here*

COMMUNION The Lord's Supper will be celebrated immediately after today's service in the sanctuary. If you are a visitor today, please be aware of the fact that we practice close-communion, meaning that only communicant members of St. John's or of a sister congregation in the

Church of the Lutheran Confession are communed at our altar. We do this, not in judgment of anyone's personal faith or standing with the Lord, but as an expression of the oneness that God has created on the basis of Scripture. If you're not familiar with this ancient custom, please see the pastor. He will be happy to visit with you at your convenience.

FLOWERS The arrangements on the altar were given in loving memory of Curtis Kalfs. Curt was crowned with eternal glory on October 6, 2010.

MISSION FESTIVAL Mission Festival will be held next Sunday. Please let the Elders know today if you are in favor of holding an outdoor, picnic potluck.

CONFERENCE Lord willing, the pastor will be attending the MN Pastoral Conference in Sleepy Eye on Tuesday and Wednesday. He does plan to be back in time for Confirmation classes.

LADIES AID The October meeting will be held next Tuesday evening, October 13.

VOTERS The 3rd Quarterly meeting will be held on Sunday, October 18. Please direct agenda items to Chairman Ron Strike.

PAVERS AVAILABLE In order to simplify the grounds-care at the teacherage, some of the landscaping pavers have been removed. These are available to our members for free. There's a pallet of samples on the west side of the house. Please let one of the Trustees know if you are interested.

CLC NEWS Seminary graduate, Nick Naumann, has returned the call to Bowdle/Ipswich, SD. Two former WELS pastors, Luke Willitz and Johnathan Schnose has passed the initial phase of the colloquy process. Both have taken secular jobs as they await a call or being added to our clergy roster (the latter takes place after phase II). Mr. Willitz and family are members at Sleepy Eye. Mr. Schnose and his wife are members at Detroit. Former pastor Steven Sydow has accepted the call to serve as a student counselor at ILC. His call includes the male students at Immanuel. Mrs. Bethany Gurgel has been called to function in the same way for the female students.

CLEANING (Wk 4) R. Gustaf, D. Voit, N. Voit
The Ruthenbecks