

The Last Sunday in 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 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. Thank you.

Prelude Mrs. Lana Strike

Hymn 618 *Jerusalem, My Happy Home*

Liturgy Page 12 ff. in the Worship Supplement

Epistle Lesson 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 “But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.”

Gospel Lesson Matthew 25:1-13 “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish. Those who *were* foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

“And at midnight a cry was *heard*: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us *some* of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise answered, saying, ‘*No*, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’

“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Hymn 609 *Wake, Awake, for Night in Flying*

Sermon 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore comfort one another with these words.

A Lutheran View of the End Times

The Rapture

The Offertory

Hymn 604 *Great God, What Do I See and Hear?*

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

Hymn 660:1, 3-4 *I'm But a Stranger Here*

THANKSGIVING Our annual Thanksgiving service will be held on Thursday morning at 9:30.

ADVENT Next Sunday is the first Sunday in Advent. Three midweek services will be held, on December 2, 9, and 16. Lord willing, the Children's Christmas Eve service will be held at 6:30 p.m. on the 24th. With the COVID restrictions we may have to adjust how we handle the service. Students will be given their assignments today. Parents, please help them with memorizing their passages and hymns.

SATURDAY SERVICE We hope to have our regular Saturday afternoon service at 4 o'clock, this Saturday. The Lord's Supper will be celebrated.

HOME Iona Gehrls was able to return home last week. We join her and her family in thanking the Lord for restoring her health.

HOSPITALIZED "Praise God from Whom all blessings flow! Prayers continue to be answered as Sophie moves closer to discharge. The latest echo showed the left ventricle is starting to apex (growing) and pumping more blood. This is great news as it looks like the surgery will be a success! She is also taking feedings very well, and will hopefully be off the ng tube before we return. The cardiologists will meet Monday about possibly discharging us before December! We once again want to thank every one of our fellow Christians for the outreach and prayers that have been sent our way! It's Christian love like that, that really makes the stay down here better. A lot of the people staying at the Rainbow House don't have that. And the more people we meet, the more fortunate we feel about Sophie's condition. Please keep all of the parents and children in your prayers!" -- Nathan and Mary Albrecht

NEW ADDRESS Doreen Iverson has relocated to western Wisconsin in order to be closer to her children and grandchildren. Her new mailing address is: P.O. Box 4, 101 Oak Drive, Clayton, WI 56004. We wish her the Lord's richest blessings.

FLOWERS The altar flowers are in loving memory of Dale Aden. Dale's birthday was in November.

TOUR CHOIR A CD that includes choirs from 2016-2019 is available for \$12.00 each or two for \$20.

SECURITY A member of the School Board and one from the Trustees, along with the faculty, met with the Sheriff and Deputy this past week to discuss ways of making our facility more secure. The Trustees hope to bring a recommendation to the next Voters meeting.

CLC NEWS Pastor Michael Gurath, Phoenix, has the call to Cheyenne. Pastor Sam Rodebaugh, Winter Haven, FL has the call to Eden Prairie.

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