

The First Sunday in Advent

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. Jennifer Dukleth

Hymn 60 *Hark, a Thrilling Voice is Sounding*

Liturgy Page 15 ff. in The Lutheran Hymnal

Oh, come, Oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Oh, come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Epistle Lesson Romans 13:11-14 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Gospel Lesson Matthew 21:1-9 Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose *them* and bring *them* to Me. And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them." All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.'" So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set *Him* on them. And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread *them* on the road. Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Hosanna in the highest!"

Hymn 56 *Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring*

Sermon Malachi 4:1-6 "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave

them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

“Remember the law of My servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

A Lutheran View of the End Times

Judgment Day

The Offertory

Hymn 702 *As Angels Joyed with One Accord*

Prayer + The Lord’s Prayer

The Benediction

Hymn 659 *Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy*

COMMUNION The Lord’s Supper will be celebrated after the regular service. Communicants should remain in their pews and the elements will be distributed by the Elders.

ADVENT The first of three midweek services will be this Wednesday evening at 7. Due to COVID restrictions, we will need to forego the usual pot-luck luncheon that would normally follow the service.

CHRISTMAS EVE PRACTICE It is hoped that we can move the regular practice from Sunday afternoon to a time on Saturday morning. The parents will be polled about this at the rehearsal today. If you are unable to attend the practice today, please speak with Mrs. Ruth Eigenberg.

SECURITY As you may have noticed, the building has been secured with new, combination locks on the exterior doors. If you need to access the building and the door is locked, you can use the Ring Doorbell on the elevator entrance and it can be unlocked remotely, or, call the Trustees or pastor for the keycode (we prefer not to announce it since we are live streaming the service. We also prefer not to publish it in the bulletin.).

We appreciate the fact that the building is more secure. This is especially true when the school day is in progress.

DECORATING We plan to finish decorating the church after the Communion service. Thanks to those who did much of the work in advance. If you are able to help, your efforts will be appreciated.

VOTERS The Election meeting will be held on Sunday, December 6, immediately after the service.

We strongly encourage our eligible young men (21 years and older) to become involved as voting members. Your individual gifts will be a blessing to our entire congregation. Please speak with Ron Strike or one of the Elders for more information.

THANK YOU “Thank you to all who called and sent greetings to us. It helps time go by. We’re doing well. Very much appreciated! God bless!” – Herman and Lylas Eigenberg.

LADIES BIBLE CLASS The class meets every Tuesday afternoon at 1:15 in the kitchen. Currently, the group is working through Genesis. Please see Karen Strike for more information.

NEW ADDRESS Doreen Iverson’s new address should be: P.O. Box 4, 101 Oak Drive, Clayton, WI 54004. Please note the corrected zip-code.

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

CLC NEWS Pastor Del Maas, who serves the congregation near Fargo and the group in Detroit Lakes, has the call to Bowdle/Ipswich, SD.

CLEANING (Wk. 4) D. Ling, C. Rovere, S. Sumeay
J. Albrecht, N. Albrecht, C. Ling