

The Twenty-second 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*

James Albrecht, Pastor – 507-853-4417

Lana Strike, Upper Grades – 507-360-9491

Ruth Eigenberg, Lower Grades – 507-360-7725

Jolene Albrecht, Kindergarten – 507-351-1204

Church/School Phone – 507-853-4550

[www.okabenalutheran.org](http://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 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. Jennifer Dukleth

**Hymn** 540 *With the Lord Begin Thy Task*

**Liturgy** Page 12 ff. in the Worship Supplement

**Epistle Lesson** Revelation 16:12-18 The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates. Its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings coming from the east. I saw three unclean spirits, like frogs, which came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are, in fact, miracle-working, demonic spirits, which go out to the kings of the whole earth to bring them together for the battle on the great day of the Almighty God.

“Look: I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes on, so that he does not walk around naked and his shame is not seen.”

Then they brought them together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

The seventh angel poured out his bowl on the air. And a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, “It is done.” There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, and crashes of thunder. There was also a great earthquake of a kind that has not occurred since mankind has been on the earth.

**Gospel Lesson** Luke 12:25-36 “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”

Then He spoke to them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

“But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be

counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

**Hymn** 611:1-6 *The Day is Surely Drawing Near*

**Sermon** Joel 3:9-17 Proclaim this among the nations: "Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, Let all the men of war draw near, Let them come up. Beat your plowshares into swords And your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak say, 'I am strong.' " Assemble and come, all you nations, And gather together all around. Cause Your mighty ones to go down there, O Lord. "Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; For the winepress is full, The vats overflow-- For their wickedness is great."

Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon will grow dark, And the stars will diminish their brightness. The Lord also will roar from Zion, And utter His voice from Jerusalem; The heavens and earth will shake; But the Lord will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel. "So you shall know that I am the Lord your God, Dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, And no aliens shall ever pass through her again."

## **A Lutheran View of the End Times**

### **Armageddon**

**The Offertory**

**Hymn** 794 *Jerusalem, Jerusalem*

**Prayer + The Lord's Prayer**

**The Benediction**

**Hymn** 616:1-4, 7 *Forever with the Lord*

**SURGERIES** Lord willing, Alfred Eigenberg will be having an angioplasty procedure done in Sioux Falls on Tuesday.

Also, Lord willing, Sophie Albrecht will undergo her first of three surgeries on Monday morning. The nine-hour operation will be one of the steps in repairing the heart problems she was born with.

*“And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months” (James 5:15-17).*

**ANNIVERSARY CLOTHING** If you haven’t already picked up your order, please see the pastor after the service.

**SATURDAY SERVICE** We hope to continue our Saturday services on an every-other-week basis. The service will be bumped to 4 p.m. so that everyone is able to return home before it is dark.

**WEDDING** One of our former members, Carl Ryan, was married in Detroit, MI yesterday afternoon. We wish him and his wife the Lord’s richest blessings in their life together.

**HOUSTON** On October the 18<sup>th</sup> several members of St. Matthew of Dallas who live in Conroe, Texas or the neighboring areas, adopted a congregational constitution, elected a church council and elders, and filed with the State to become an independent congregation. Eighteen individuals who had become part St. Matthew have since made up the founding members of Our Shepherd. Four individuals are currently moving through Adult Instruction with another other six individuals that attend regularly or semi-regularly. This is an exciting gift from the Lord. With this area of the country and, Conroe in particular (northern Houston suburb), swelling with people.

Things look bright for the congregation, not because they are well organized and dedicated (which they are) but because the Savior is with them as He is with all His people, blessing their steps as they seek to serve Him.

(Adapted from a report from Pastor Matthew Hanel. He, Pastor Sam Naumann [Corpus Christi], and layman Allen Durham are serving the group.)

**CLEANING** (Wk. 1) S. Aden, R. Dronen, J. Thaemlitz  
The Boernsens and Liepolds