

## The Sunday after Christmas

# 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

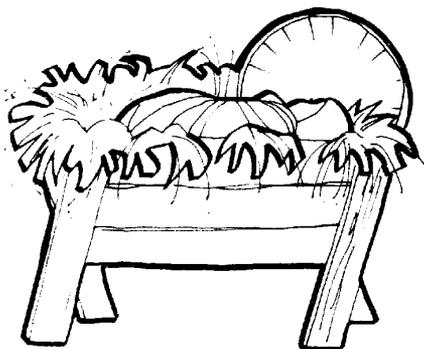
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[www.okabenalutheran.org](http://www.okabenalutheran.org)



**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. Thank you.

**Prelude** Mrs. Jennifer Dukleth

**Hymn** 98 *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

**Liturgy** Page 15 ff. in The Lutheran Hymnal

Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who hath truly kept His word  
And the sinners' Help and Friend Now at last to us doth send.

Welcome, O my Savior, now! Hail! My Portion, Lord, art Thou.  
Here, too, in my heart, I pray, Oh, prepare Thyself a way!

King of Glory, enter in; Cleanse if from the filth of son,  
As Thou hast so often done; It belongs to Thee alone.

TLH 91

**Epistle Lesson** Galatians 4:1-7 Now I say *that* the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

**Gospel Lesson** Luke 2:22-32 Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present *Him* to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the LORD"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name *was* Simeon, and this man *was* just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, A

light to *bring* revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.”

**Hymn** 99 *Now Are the Days Fulfilled*

**Sermon** Genesis 28:10-17 Jacob set out from Beersheba and traveled toward Haran. He came to a certain place and decided to spend the night there, because the sun had set. He took one of the stones from that place, put it under his head, and lay down to sleep in that place. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway set up on the earth with its top reaching to heaven. There were angels of God ascending and descending on it. There at the top stood the Lord, who said, “I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. The land on which you are lying, I give to you and to your descendants. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south. In you and in your seed all the families of the earth will be blessed. Now, I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back again into this land. Indeed, I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised to you.”

Jacob woke up from his sleep, and he said, “Certainly the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” He was afraid and he said, “How awe-inspiring is this place! This is nothing other than the house of God, and this is the gate to heaven.”

## God Used the Back Stairs...

**The Offertory**

**Hymn** 109 *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night*

**Prayer + The Lord’s Prayer**

**The Benediction**

**Hymn** 105:1-2, 6-8 *Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men*

**SCHEDULE** Our New Year’s Eve service will be held on Thursday evening at 7:00. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

**CLOSE COMMUNION** The Lord's Supper will be celebrated after the close of today's service.

The Bible exhorts us to be "*perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment*" (1 Cor. 1:10). Holy Communion is both a communing with God and a public statement that those communing together believe the same thing. We therefore ask that anyone who has not declared this unity through membership in a CLC congregation first schedule a meeting with the pastor before communing. We hold this position in loving obedience to the Word of God, not in judgment of anyone's Christian faith, sincerity, or standing before God.

**THANK YOU** The pastor and teachers are deeply touched by your kindness and generosity toward them and their families this Christmas. Your gifts are a great encouragement and are received with gratitude to the Lord and to you. We all consider it an honor to be able to serve the Lord here at St. John's .

**INSTALLATION** The installation of officers will be handled in the service next Sunday, January 3.

**SATURDAY SERVICE** We hope to be able to hold our regular Saturday service at 4:00 o'clock. This week.

**BIRTH** Cassandra Marie Strike was born to Carl Strike and Kayla nee Siwec on December 23. She will soon be born again through the Sacrament of Baptism. We rejoice with her family and pray that the Lord will bless Cassie throughout her life.

**CALENDARS** Inspirational calendars are available in the entryway. The cost is \$5.00 each. Please put your payment in the offering plate.

**CLC NEWS** Teacher Joshua Ohlmann, Sleepy Eye, has the call to West Columbia, SC. Teacher Paul Tiefel III, Eau Claire, has accepted the call to Hales Corners, WI. Pastor David Ude, Appleton, WI has the call to Cheyenne. Teacher Neil Bernthal, Winter Haven, FL has the call to Markesan, WI. Pastor Michael Eichstadt, Hales Corners, WI has the call to Eden Prairie.

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