

January 10, 2021

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The First Sunday after Epiphany

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. Kathy Lueck

Hymn 127 *As With Gladness Men of Old*

Liturgy Page 5 ff. in The Lutheran Hymnal, substituting the following stanzas for

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, To His feet your tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, Evermore His praises sing:
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favor To His people in distress;
Praise Him still the same as ever, Slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia, alleluia! Glorious is His faithfulness.
+ WS 742:1-2 +

Epistle Reading: Romans 12:1-5 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which* is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

Gospel Lesson Luke 2:41-52 His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know *it*; but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among *their* relatives and acquaintances. So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. Now so it was *that* after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously."

And He said to them, “Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?” But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.

Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Hymn 133 *Within the Father’s House*

Sermon Matthew 3:13-17 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?” But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Why?

The Offertory

Hymn 751 *God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It*

Prayer + The Lord’s Prayer

The Benediction

Hymn 54 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

ANNUAL MEETING All voting members are encouraged to attend our Annual Meeting next Sunday, January 17. In addition to regular Board reports, agenda items to-date include: setting our CBP estimate; Lenten/Easter Schedule; date for the April meeting; Convention Delegates (June 24-27, 2020). If you have items for the voters to consider, please bring them to the attention of Ron Strike as soon as possible.

ANNUAL REPORT If you have items for the annual report, please email them or put them in the pastor's mailbox.

Be sure to take a look at the calling tree and make sure we have your correct and up-to-date contact information.

ENGAGEMENT Kraig Boernsen and Jill Berkland have announced their plans to be married in December. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings in their new life together.

FLOWERS The floral arrangements were given by two donors in gratitude to the Lord for blessing us, despite all of the problems of 2020. It is so easy to see only the difficult days and to forget the countless blessings of our Savior.

THANK YOU The pastor's family would like to thank you for your many prayers and expressions of kindness during Sophie's long hospitalization. We praise the Lord that she was discharged on Monday and is doing well. The nature of her next surgery will be determined in the months ahead.

DECORATIONS We plan to take down the Christmas decorations after the service. If you are willing to assist, your help will be much appreciated.

CLC NEWS Desirae Naumann, the wife of Pastor Dave Naumann, and the mother of our former vicar, Tom Naumann, was crowned with eternal glory last Sunday evening. She was the sister of our former Teacher, Candy Ohlmann, and of our Foreign Missionary, Todd Ohlmann. Please remember her family in your prayers. If you wish to send a card:

Pastor David Naumann, 1119 14th St., Clarkston, WA 99403

Pastor Tom Naumann, 25515 Patricia Ave, Warren, MI 49041

Ms. Candice Ohlmann, 822 W. 3rd St., Valentine, NE 69201

Teacher Joshua Ohlmann, Sleepy Eye, MN has accepted the call to West Columbia, SC. Pastor Michael Eichstadt, Hales Corners, WI has returned the call to Eden Prairie.

CLEANING (Wk. 2) J. Appel, E. Bass, S. Winters, J. Zuehlke
M. DeWall, S. DeWall, J. Jensen