

January 3, 2021

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## The Sunday after New Year

# 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** 85:1-3, 7-8 *From Heaven Above*

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

**Epistle Lesson** Romans 3:19-22 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.

**Gospel Lesson** Matthew 2:13-23 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

"A voice was heard in Ramah,  
Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children,  
Refusing to be comforted,  
Because they are no more."

Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

### **Installation of Officers**

**Hymn** 712 *What Child is This?*

**Sermon** 1 Peter 4:9-12 Dear friends, do not be surprised by the fiery trial that is happening among you to test you, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead rejoice whenever you are sharing in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed.

If you are insulted in connection with the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or as a meddler. But if you suffer for being a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God in connection with this name. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. Now if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who disobey the gospel of God? And if it is hard for the righteous to be saved, where will the ungodly sinner end up? So let those who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to their faithful Creator while doing what is good.

## **Who’s Bringing the Heat?**

### **The Offertory**

**Hymn** 710 *Once in Royal David’s City*

### **Prayer + The Lord’s Prayer**

### **The Benediction**

**Hymn** 713 *Your Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We*

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

Please also take a look at the calling tree to make sure we have the correct contact information.

**THANK YOU** "Thank you for all the prayers and thoughts for Marlene and me while we are recuperating. Special thank you to Pastor Albrecht for the visits and prayers. God is wonderful – He promised to take us to heaven which is the greatest gift of all time!" - Herb Brockshus

**ANNUAL MEETING** All voting members are encouraged to attend our Annual Meeting on 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.

**ANSWERS MAGAZINE** The issue that was in your mailbox comes with a few comments from the donor that the magazine has, at times, included some things that we would not agree with doctrinally. The purpose of the publication is to heighten awareness of the battle between Creationism and Evolutionism. It provides scientific answers to questions that are often raised by unbelievers. This issue provides a list of 20, scientific facts that point to the young age of the earth. You will definitely find the magazine to be worth your time to read and consider. Our thanks to the donor for this gift.

**CALENDARS** Inspirational calendars are available in the entryway (one the table that has the anniversary items). The cost is \$5.00 each. Please put your payment in the offering plate.

**CLC NEWS** Pastor Charles Edwards in Myanmar suffered a massive stroke yesterday (12/28) and later passed away. He was sixty-four years old and was the only theologically trained pastor of the National Lutheran Church of Myanmar that he founded in Yangon. These are sad and uncertain times for the NLC-Myanmar and his family. Please remember them in your prayers.

**CLEANING** (Wk. 1) The Ruthenbecks  
J. Appel, E. Bass, S. Winters, J. Zuehlke