

Quinquagesima Sunday

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

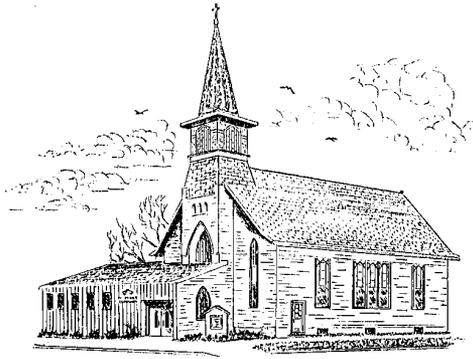
Lana Strike, Upper Grades – 507-360-9491

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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. Lana Strike

Hymn 354 *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

Liturgy Page 5 ff. in The Lutheran Hymnal

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 Lesson 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. But whether *there are* prophecies, they will fail; whether *there are* tongues, they will cease; whether *there is* knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.

Gospel Lesson Luke 18:31-43 Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. They will scourge *Him* and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." But they understood none of these things; this saying was hidden from them, and they did not know the things which were spoken.

Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw *it*, gave praise to God.

Hymn 409 *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*

Sermon Matthew 9:9-13 As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him. Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, *that* behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" When Jesus heard *that*, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what *this* means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

"Follow Me"

The Offertory

Solo *"Truth I'm Standing On"*

Hymn 759 *These are the Facts*

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

Hymn 800 *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

LADIES AID The February meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, February 23, at 6:30. Plans are to include a study of the book, "Enough for Now."

LENT Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of another Lenten season. We will be holding 6 evening services (plus Maundy Thursday and Good Friday) as a way to grow in our faith and prepare for the celebration of Easter Sunday. Please be sure to reserve time in your schedule for this opportunity to worship the Lord and to be enriched in your faith life.

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in the Wednesday evening service.

MISSION SOCIETY The Mission Society meets after the service to continue plans for the anniversary celebration this summer (July 4).

FLOWERS The arrangements on the altar are in celebration of Leonard and Norma Eigenberg's 60th wedding anniversary, and Leonard's 85th birthday (both today).

The arrangement by the pulpit is in celebration of Ron and Karen Strike's 50th wedding anniversary on February 12.

In a world where so many marriages fail, we praise the Lord for His rich blessings upon both couples!

READING FAIR The students of St. John's presented a Reading Fair this past Wednesday evening. Social distancing rules made it unworkable to invite everyone, so the students invited their own family members. The evening was video-taped. It can be seen at: https://youtu.be/mFrm7FyF_CA

SATURDAY SERVICE Lord willing, and weather permitting, we plan to hold a service on Saturday at 4 p.m.

FAVORITE HYMNS If you have favorite Lenten hymns, please write them on the sheet in the entryway and the pastor will incorporate them into the Lenten season.

CLC NEWS Mr. Nathan Wales, W. Columbia, SC has the call to serve as Principal and Teacher in Sleepy Eye.

CLEANING (Wk. 3) The Luecks, P. Strike
D. Ling, C. Rovere, S. Sumey