

February 21, 2021

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The First Sunday in Lent

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

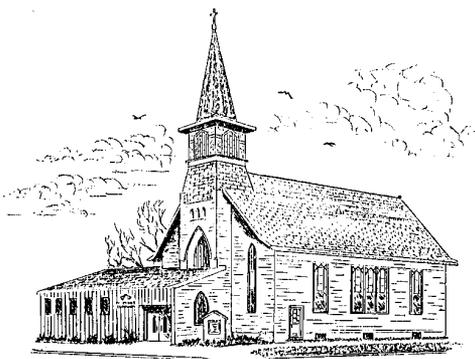
Lana Strike, Upper Grades – 507-360-9491

Ruth Eigenberg, Lower Grades – 507-360-7725

Jolene Albrecht, Kindergarten – 507-351-1204

Church/School Phone – 507-853-4550

www.okabenalutheran.org



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 449 *My Soul, be on Thy Guard*

Order of Service Page 12ff. in The Worship Supplement

Epistle Lesson Romans 5:1-11 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Gospel Lesson Matthew 4:1-11 "Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'" Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him."

Hymn 446 *Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray*

Sermon 1 Samuel 17:40-51 Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine. So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield went before him. And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking. So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands."

So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But there was no sword in the hand of David. Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

When Weakness is Strength...

The Offertory

Hymn 742 *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

Hymn 39:1-2, 5 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

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

LENT *"Hands of the Passion"* is the name of this year's Lenten series. Services will be held on Wednesdays at 4 and 7 p.m. The early service is intended for those who may be at higher risk and for those who do not care to drive in the dark. All are welcome to attend either service (masks required at 4 o'clock).

MISSION SOCIETY The Mission Society met briefly after church 2/14/21 to further plans for the 7/4/21 Anniversary Celebration. Jan Voit volunteered to compose and send out the invitations. She will also begin taking member photos for the picture directory after services beginning 2/28. We encourage members to have these taken rather than submit their own. Arrangements can be made with her if you are unable to attend services. She can also arrange copies of the photos if requested. She will also see that the invitation is included in the Branches publication. Pastor Albrecht will see that it is included on our website and in the Spokesman. Next meeting set for 3/14 after the service.

THANK YOU Thank you to all who made my 90th birthday a great day by remembering me with cards. God's blessings to all. Herman Eigenberg.

HOSPITALIZED Sophie Albrecht is currently a patient in the Children's Hospital in Omaha. She had a catheterization on Friday to loosen her pulmonary artery bands. The surgery was more involved than anticipated. She will be under observation for several days.

BAPTISM Micah Edward Schmidt was baptized in a private service here at church, yesterday afternoon. Through this washing of water and the Word, the Lord creates faith and adopts us into His family. May the Lord preserve Micah in the faith throughout his life.

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.

CLEANING (Wk. 4) D. Ling, C. Rovere, S. Sumeay
J. Albrecht, N. Albrecht, C. Ling