

Sexagesima 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

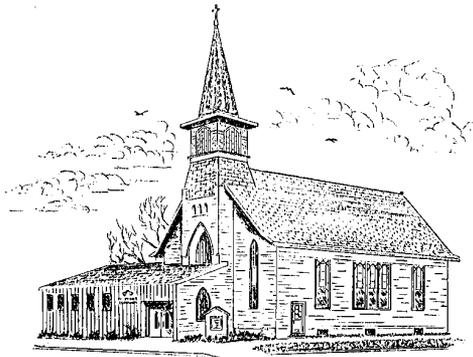
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WELCOME To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of 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. Lana Strike

Hymn 753 *Let the Children Come to Me*

Liturgy Page 12 ff. in the Worship Supplement

Epistle Lesson Hebrews 4:9-13 There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God *did* from His.

Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account.

Gospel Lesson Luke 8:4-15 And when a great multitude had gathered, and they had come to Him from every city, He spoke by a parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold." When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this parable mean?" And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest *it is given* in parables, that '*Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.*' "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock *are those* who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones *that* fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones *that* fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep *it* and bear fruit with patience.

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

Sermon Numbers 22:21-35 So Balaam rose in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the princes of Moab. Then God’s anger was aroused because he went, and the Angel of the Lord took His stand in the way as an adversary against him. And he was riding on his donkey, and his two servants *were* with him. Now the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand, and the donkey turned aside out of the way and went into the field. So Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back onto the road. Then the Angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, *with* a wall on this side and a wall on that side. And when the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord, she pushed herself against the wall and crushed Balaam’s foot against the wall; so he struck her again. Then the Angel of the Lord went further, and stood in a narrow place where there *was* no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. And when the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam’s anger was aroused, and he struck the donkey with his staff.

Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, “What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?” And Balaam said to the donkey, “Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!”

So the donkey said to Balaam, “*Am* I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since *I became* yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?” And he said, “No.” Then the Lord opened Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face. And the Angel of the Lord said to him, “Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because *your* way is perverse before Me. The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live.” And Balaam said to the Angel of the Lord, “I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back.” Then the Angel of the Lord said to Balaam, “Go with the men, but only the word that I speak to you, that you shall speak.” So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

More Impressive than a Talking Donkey...

The Offertory

Hymn 296 *Speak, O Lord, Thy Servant Heareth*

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

Hymn 46 *On What Has Now Been Sown*

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

MISSION SOCIETY The Mission Society met after church 1/31/21 to discuss plans for the 25/125 Anniversary Celebration. The date was set at 7/4/21, which is a Sunday. Plans would include a 9:30 Service, picnic lunch, 4th of July Parade at 2:00 followed by the Ice Cream Social. The theme is: 25/125 years In His Service. An AV presentation and participation by the children, games etc. is anticipated. Our next meeting will be after church 2/14/21 to continue plans on the above plus invitations and the photo directory. The cookbook and commemorative Items are available for purchase in the entryway.

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

CLC NEWS Teacher Valerie Hammett (Bernthal), Eau Claire) has the call to be the second fulltime teacher in Winter Haven, FL. Andrew Roehl, Eau Claire, has been called to serve as principal and teacher at Sleepy Eye. Mr. Caleb Noeldner, who is teaching in a public school in the Milwaukee area has been called to teach the upper grades in Eau Claire. June Schmid, who is currently teaching part time in Eau Claire has been called to teach full time in the lower grades.

Pastor Mark Tiefel, Lynnwood, WA has returned the call to Cheyenne. Pastor Emeritus Warren Fanning, was crowned with eternal glory last Sunday. He was the founder of the congregation in Bismarck.

ILC is accepting applicants for the 2021-22 year: an adult male for the boys' dorm and an adult female for the girls' dorm.

CLEANING (Wk. 2) The Boernsens, the Liepolds
The Luecks, P. Strike