

March 7, 2021

Vol. XXIII No. 10

The Third 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

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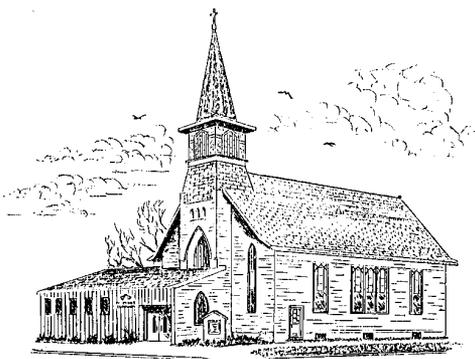
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WELCOME To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of 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 523:1-4, 8 *Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me*

Liturgy Page 12 ff. in the Worship Supplement

Epistle Lesson Revelation 2:1-7 “To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, ‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.”’

Gospel Lesson Luke 11:14-28 And He was casting out a demon, and it was mute. So it was, when the demon had gone out, that the mute spoke; and the multitudes marveled. But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.” Others, testing *Him*, sought from Him a sign from heaven. But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them: “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house *divided* against a house falls. If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? Because you say I cast out demons by Beelzebub. And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast *them* out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils. He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters. “When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds *it* swept and put in order. Then he goes and takes with *him* seven other spirits more

wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first.”

And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, “Blessed is the womb that bore You, and *the* breasts which nursed You!” But He said, “More than that, blessed *are* those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

Hymn 723 *What Wondrous Love is This?*

Sermon Ephesians 5:3-14 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them.

For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.”

Children of Light...

The Offertory

Hymn 175 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Prayer + The Lord’s Prayer

The Benediction

Hymn 47 *Savior Again, to Thy Dear Name We Raise*

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).

PICTURE DIRECTORY Pictures will be taken again today in the auditorium. The goal is to have up-to-date photos of everyone to include in the 125th anniversary booklet. A special thanks to the Voits for handling this.

BOOK There is a sign-up sheet for “*Enough for Now,*” a book that will be used in a monthly, Women’s study-group. A copy of the book is on the entryway table along with the sheet to sign. A summary of the book is found on the back cover.

HOSPITALIZED Sid Paul was released from the hospital (total knee replacement) yesterday and is recovering at home. Lord willing, Sophie will be released on Tuesday.

ILC TOUR CHOIR The choir will present a concert of sacred music on Thursday, March 18 at 7 p.m. The concert will be held in the Round Lake Community Center (plenty of room for social distancing). The address

TIME CHANGE Please remember to set your clocks ahead on Saturday.

CLC NEWS Cheyenne and Bowdle/Ipswich, SD have submitted calls for this year’s Seminary graduate. Mr. Nathan Wales returned calls to Sleepy Eye and Eau Claire. Teacher Mark Kranz has the call to Winter Haven, FL.

YOUTH CAMP at Camp Jim in Pillager, MN is currently a “go” for June 13-19, 2021. Because of spacing restrictions in Minnesota, attendance at this point is limited to those entering 9th through 12th grade in the Fall of 2021. Should restrictions be lifted, the camp directors will be ready to open registration to those entering 6th-8th grade as well. Initial registration date for Grades 9-12 will be on Palm Sunday, March 28, at 3:00 p.m. Central. Because of COVID uncertainties, no registration fee will be due at that time. Cost to be paid at a later date will be \$180 per camper. Watch for a registration reminder and web address in the coming weeks.

CLEANING (Wk. 2) B. Eigenberg, J. Eigenberg, L. Ferguson
C. Ahrens, A. Fogelman, M. Fogelman