

The First Sunday after Easter

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

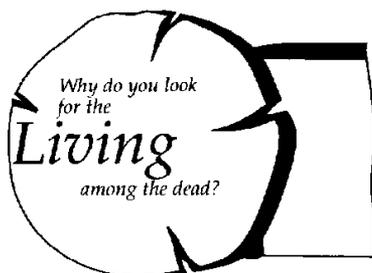
Lana Strike, Upper Grades – 507-360-9491

Ruth Eigenberg, Lower Grades – 507-360-7725

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[www.okabenalutheran.org](http://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** 203 *Morning Breaks Upon the Tomb*

**Epistle Lesson** 1 John 5:4-10 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.

If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

**Gospel Lesson** John 20:19-31 “Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not

seen and yet have believed." And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."

**Hymn** 208:1, 4-8 *Ye Sons and Daughters of the King*

**Sermon** 1 Peter 1:3-9 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls

## Start Spending Your Inheritance...

**Hymn** 210 *The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done*

**Prayer + The Lord's Prayer**

**The Benediction**

**Hymn** 207:1-2 *Like the Golden Sun Ascending*

**CALL MEETING** A special voters meeting will be held immediately after the service this morning. The purpose will be to call a teacher for the 2021-2022 academic year. All voting members are encouraged to attend.

**LADIES AID** The April meeting will be held on Tuesday evening at 6:30. At this meeting, we will adopt a plan for reading and discussing the book, "Enough for Now."

**QUARTERLY MEETING** A regular voters meeting will be held next Sunday, April 18. Typically, the agenda includes choosing dates for VBS, SS Picnic, Finance Committee meeting, July Quarterly. The voters will be given an update on the anniversary work of the Mission Society. Agenda items should be in the hands of Chairman pro tem Dr. Sumey as soon as possible.

**CLC NEWS** Eric Libby has accepted the call to serve as Teacher/Counselor at Immanuel High School in Mankato. Mrs. Carrie Reim has been called to teach with primary emphasis on kindergarten at Messiah, Hales Corners, WI.

**CLC Youth Camp** registration currently is open to those entering 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade this Fall. Registrations for 8th graders will be accepted ***starting at 4:00 PM Central, this Sunday, April 11th.*** We will still be abiding by a lower-than-usual capacity, so it is our recommendation that you register your campers right away when it opens. If we receive any 8th grade registrations prior to 4:00 PM CT on Sunday, *they will be voided.* Also, please note that we will not be running a bus service this year. Camp is June 13-19 in Pillager, MN. Cost is \$180 per camper. Here is the link to register: <https://youthcampclc.wixsite.com/camp/register>. Please feel free to contact the camp directors with any questions- [youth-camp.clc@gmail.com](mailto:youth-camp.clc@gmail.com)

**MISSIONARY EVENSEN** “I just returned from seeing the doctor and according to the results of my second blood test everything is now normal. No malaria parasites were detected this time, whereas 480 parasites per micro litre were detected 2 weeks ago (that equates to 480,000,000 per litre of blood).”

“Malarial symptoms are caused by these parasites, which are transmitted from an infected person to another person by one certain species of mosquito. Since this second test was negative for the parasites, the 3-day course of high-level combined anti-malarial parasite medicine appears to have killed all the parasites. Thanks be to God!”

“Thank you all for your prayers, and if you have shared my malaria diagnosis with your congregations, please share this good news and thank them all for their prayers as well.”

In Christ, Peter Evensen

**CLEANING** (Wk. 3) M. DeWall, S. DeWall, J. Jensen  
The Kazembas