

The Third 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

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. Lana Strike

Hymn 783 *Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep*

Order of Service Page 15ff. in The Lutheran Hymnal

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb Who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
And honor, blessing, and glory are His.

Sing with all the people of God,
And join in the hymn of all creation.

Epistle Lesson Revelation 7:13-17 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Gospel Lesson John 10:11-18 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, *he who is* not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My *sheep*, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock *and* one shepherd.

"Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

Hymn *Lamb of God*

Sermon John 10:1-10 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them. Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who *ever* came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

Shepherd-Testing

The Communion Liturgy

Distribution 755, The Lamb

Closing Hymn 436 The Lord’s My Shepherd

COMMUNION The Bible tells us to be “*perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*” One way that unity is expressed is by communing together. We therefore ask that anyone who has not established this unity through membership in a CLC congregation first schedule a meeting with the pastor before communing. We hold this position in loving obedience to the Word of God, not in judgment of anyone's Christian faith, sincerity, or standing before God.

QUARTERLY MEETING In addition to regular reports, the voters discussed and/or adopted the following: The re-siding of the church will be backed off by a year with the hope that the cost of materials will return to pre-COVID levels. Touch-up painting will be done prior to the anniversary celebration. VBS dates and calls were delegated to the School Board. Summer schedule begins on the Sunday after Memorial Day, with church at 9:30

and Family Bible Class to follow. The 2nd Quarterly meeting will be held on July 18, with the Budget Committee meeting on July 11. The Trustees reported on a number of things that need repaired, added, or replaced, including a second video camera, the A/C at the teacherage, the church furnace, etc. They were given approval for the cost of these items, as well as the cost of copyright requirements for the church, school, and choir. Adapted from the minutes by Secretary Bruce Eigenberg.

Copies the Treasurer's Report are available on the entryway table.

LADIES AID Discussion/study sessions for the book, "Enough for Now" will be held on the 2nd and 4th weeks of each month, starting this week. Those who wish to meet in the afternoon will gather at 2 p.m. on Wednesdays. Those who prefer the evening will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday evenings. It will also be possible to join the evening group online. See Lori Ruthenbeck with any questions.

MISSION SOCIETY Please plan to attend the meeting after the service this morning.

ILC THEATER The public is invited to attend the Immanuel Lutheran College play production of *Mrs. Wiggs and the Cabbage Patch* on Friday at 1:30 pm and Saturday at 7:30 pm. Both play performances will be livestreamed at youtube.com/ilcvideos. The public is also invited to attend an outdoor band concert on Friday at 3:30 pm and student music performances on Saturday night at 7:00 pm in the gym. Seating in the gym will be limited and attendees will be required to wear masks and follow social distancing guidelines.

CLC Youth Camp will begin accepting registrations for 7th graders starting at 4:00 PM Central, this Sunday, April 25th. The registration form will continue to be open for grades 8-12 between now and then. If we receive any 7th grade registrations prior to 4:00 PM CT on Sunday, they will be voided. Register at: <https://youthcampclc.wixsite.com/camp/register>

CLC NEWS Pastor Caleb Schaller, Eau Claire, has the call to Sister Lakes, MI. Mr. Eric Libby has returned the call to serve as Immanuel, Mankato's High School Assistant Principal / School Counselor.

CLEANING (Wk. 1) The Boernsens and Liepolds
The Luecks, P. Strike