

May 2, 2021

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The Fourth 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

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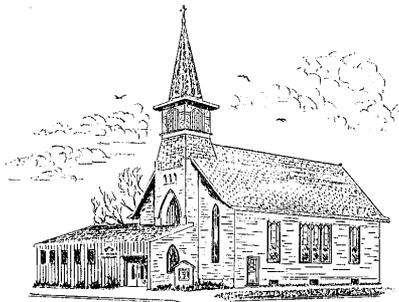
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WELCOME To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of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

Hymn 728 *Christ is Living*

Epistle Lesson 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him thus* no longer. Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Gospel Lesson John 16:5-15 "But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you.

Hymn 226:1-4, 8 *Come, Oh, Come, Thou Quickening Spirit*

Sermon 2 Timothy 2:8-13 Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, *even* to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glo-

ry. *This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.*

The Anchor for Your Faith...

Hymn 370 *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

Hymn 759 *These Are the Facts*

MISSION SOCIETY The Mission Society met after Church 4/25/21 to plan our Anniversary celebrations on 7/4/21. Jan Voit is adding additional historical information to the photo directory. We didn't reach a decision on utilizing an online site for efficient updates at a cost of \$95 per year. Pastor Albrecht noted that the annual report (one year summary) would be separate from the anniversary (multi-year) directory. We are asking Pastors Fossum and Seybt to be a part of the Worship Service. Allen Jensen will contact Pastor Fossum. Pastor Seybt is already planning to attend. The service could end with alumni and teachers singing "Go, My Children, With My Blessing."

The picnic lunch menu was set with beans, potato salad, chips and fruit joining the pork sandwiches. We will have sign up sheets for those items as well as the Ice Cream Social supplies. Per the latest state guidelines we can only have 6 seats at each table. We will discuss cake options at our next meeting. The Church has been invited to have a float in the 6/26/21 Heron Lake "Blue Heron Days" parade. The Society thinks this is a good idea and will turn to the School Board for further consideration. The next meeting is scheduled for 5/16/21.

CLC CONVENTION "The CLC boards and coordinating council met last month to prepare their reports for this summer's convention. The convention prospectus will be sent out soon. Please read it carefully. Especially note the information regarding the calling of a third foreign missionary, the report of the ILC Building Planning Committee, and the matter of the Joint Statement." – CLC President M. Eichstadt

The calling of a 3rd Foreign Missionary is requested in order to better handle the opportunities arising in different parts of the world. Currently, Missionary Evensen is headquartered in East Africa, and Missionary Ohlmann works out of St. Louis. Pastor Ohlmann is currently on-site in Nepal.

The ILC Building Committee is recommending the construction of a new gymnasium complex. The current gym would be used as a chapel and theater. The project (depending on design) will mostly be paid for by a sizeable bequest that covered the outstanding balance on the Academic Center, with almost \$1 million left over.

The Joint Statement is the document on Church Fellowship that was drafted by representatives from the WELS, ELS, and CLC. It was considered by the last convention and was referred to the 2019 CLC General Pastoral Conference for further study. The two church bodies, WELS and ELS, officially adopted it as a settlement of the differences between them and the CLC. This Convention will need to decide whether it actually resolves the differences that caused the separation.

These will be further discussed in upcoming Bible Classes.

CLC NEWS Pastor Tom Naumann, Detroit, has the call to Cheyenne. Recently colloquized Luke Willitz has the call to Bowdle / Ipswich, SD.

Porcupine Mountains Youth Camp-Out August 11-15, 2021, For Grades 8-12, Camp fee \$85 (from EC) or \$95 (from MN). Lodging and meals are included in this fee.

We'll camp at the Union Bay group campsite on Lake Superior. Activities will include devotions, group discussions, hiking, swimming, beach time, lots of different games, and many other activities. It's okay if you haven't camped before, we'll help you learn! We have a limit of 48 campers. Registration deadline is Monday, July 5th. Transportation will be provided from Eau Claire, WI. Once registration has closed, we'll send packing lists and forms to be completed by a parent or guardian. Check out the **Porcupine Mountains Camp-Out** Facebook page to see pictures. Register at www.tinyurl.com/Porkies2021 **Questions? Contact Adam Schmid: (608) 386-3714 aschmidy2003@gmail.com.**

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