

The Third Sunday after Trinity

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

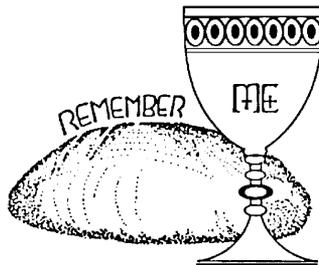
Lana Strike, Upper Grades – 507-360-9491

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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.

If you are looking for a church home or would like to know more about our beliefs and practices, please see the pastor. He will be glad to visit with you at your convenience.

**Prelude** Mrs. Lana Strike

**Hymn** 326 *Lord, to Thee I Make Confession*

**Order of Service** Page 12ff. in the Worship Supplement

**Epistle Lesson** 1 Timothy 1:12-17 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting *me* into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Gospel Lesson** Luke 15:11-24 Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to *his* father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls *to me*.' So he divided to them *his* livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him *anything*. "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."' "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put *it* on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on *his* feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill *it*, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

**Hymn** 342 *Chief of Sinners Though I Be*

**Sermon** Luke 15:1-10 "Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them." So He spoke this parable to them, saying: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one

of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? "And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. "And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' "I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance. "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? "And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!' "Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.""

## The "God's Love Chapter"

### The Offering of Thankful Hearts

**Distribution** 755, 324

**Hymn** 324:8 *Jesus Sinners Doth Receive*

**LORD'S SUPPER** If you are visiting our service today, please be aware of the fact that we practice "close communion." This means that only members of St. John's or of a sister congregation in the CLC are communed at our altar. The Bible says that communing together is an expression of our doctrinal unity. In no way is this a judgment upon anyone's personal faith.

**HOSPITALIZED** Dave Ahrens was admitted to the Sanford Hospital in Sioux Falls on Friday. He was diagnosed with COVID.

**PANTRY SHOWER** A pantry shower for our new teacher is underway. See Lori Ruthenbeck for more information.

**ANNIVERSARY** Please find several sign-up sheets in the entryway for the church picnic and Ice Cream Social. Volunteers are also needed to help with getting the property into shape.

**PREP WORK** We thank the individuals who came on Friday to power wash the church and to cut down the broken-off tree by the playground. Work-days are planned for Friday and Saturday 8:00 a.m.

We would also like to thank those who cleaned, painted, and did other work at the teacherage.

**MISSION SOCIETY** Please meet in the church immediately after the service.

**VBS** Contrary to last week’s announcement, Vacation Bible School is now planned for August 2-5. We are looking for volunteers to help with the program, including the planning and organization. Please see the sign-up sheets.

**CONVENTION** Phil Strike, Teacher Ben Hansen, and the pastor will be (Lord willing) at the CLC Convention in Eau Claire. (Craig Ahrens is in quarantine and will not be able to attend.) If you feel strongly about any of the Prospectus items of business, be sure to speak with Phil or the pastor. Pray that the Lord guides our church body according to His gracious will!

**CLEANING SCHEDULE** The current schedule winds down at the end of June. If you’d like to be added or removed from the list, please let Connie DeWall know as soon as possible: (507) 841-0689. We very much appreciate the work she does with this each year.

**SCHOOL PARENTS** Mr. Kazemba would like to meet with you after the service re the All-School reunion in Round Lake in August.

**RECIPE BOOK CORRECTION** On page 12, under “Sweet Onion Dressing,” the recipe should include 1 cup of sugar. Please pass along any other corrections that need attention.

**CLC NEWS** Pastor Tom Naumann, Detroit, has returned the call to Eden Prairie. Pastor Joe Naumann and his wife had their baby at 23 weeks and 3 days. The child is in the Children’s Hospital in Minneapolis. Please remember them in your prayers. They have a Caring Bridge page at: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/adelaidehopenaumann>. Pastor Mark Tiefel, Lynnwood, WA has returned the call to Sister Lakes, MI.

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**CLEANING** (Wk. 1) J. Appel, E. Bass, S. Winters, J. Zuehlke  
M. DeWall, S. DeWall, J. Jensen