

July 18, 2021

Vol. XXIII No. 29

## The Seventh 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 – 507-351-8584

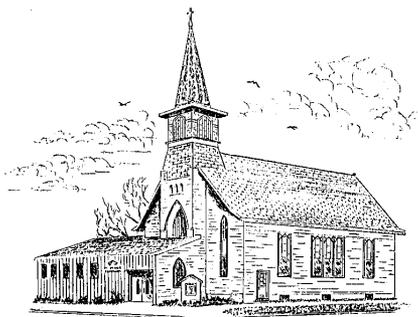
Benjamin Hansen, Upper Grades – 715-491-3837

Lana Strike, Lower Grades – 507-360-9491

Ruth Eigenberg, Kindergarten / Preschool – 507-360-7725

Church/School Phone – 507-853-4550

[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** Mr. Barry Hay

**Hymn** 627 *Gracious Savior, Gentle Shepherd*

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

**Old Testament Lesson** Jeremiah 23:1-6 “Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” declares the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: “You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the Lord. Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the Lord. “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’”

**Gospel Lesson** Mark 4:26-32 And He said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.” Then He said, “To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it? It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade.”

**Hymn** 628 *Shepherd of Tender Youth*

**Sermon** 2 Samuel 24:10-17 And David’s heart condemned him after he had numbered the people. So David said to the Lord, “I have sinned greatly in what I have done; but now, I pray, O Lord, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly.” Now when David arose in the morning, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Gad, David’s seer, saying, “Go and tell David, ‘Thus says the Lord: “I offer you three *things*; choose one of them for yourself, that I may do *it* to you.” ’ ” So Gad came to David and told him; and he said to him, “Shall seven years of famine come to you in your land? Or shall you flee three months before your enemies, while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days’ plague in your land? Now consider and see what answer I should take back to Him

who sent me.” And David said to Gad, “I am in great distress. Please let us fall into the hand of the Lord, for His mercies *are* great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man.” So the Lord sent a plague upon Israel from the morning till the appointed time. From Dan to Beersheba seventy thousand men of the people died. And when the angel stretched out His hand over Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord relented from the destruction, and said to the angel who was destroying the people, “It is enough; now restrain your hand.” And the angel of the Lord was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. Then David spoke to the Lord when he saw the angel who was striking the people, and said, “Surely I have sinned, and I have done wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done? Let Your hand, I pray, be against me and against my father’s house.”

## Shepherding is All About Grace...

### The Offering of Thankful Hearts

Choir *God Loves Me Dearly*

Hymn 780 *Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give*

### The Installation of Mr. Ben Hansen

CDS *Blest are They*

Prayer + The Lord’s Prayer

### The Benediction

Hymn 778 *Grace Has a Thrilling Sound*

**INSTALLATION** Benjamin Hansen grew up in Markesan, WI. He attended Faith Lutheran School and graduated from ILHS in 2015. He spent his summers working with his grandparents in Oakes ND, specifically on the cattle side of things. He spent 2 years at NDSU, then spent 4 years in ILC’s teaching program. He interned at Messiah in Eau Claire and at Messiah in Hales Corners. His parents are Martin and Shawn Hansen (who now live in ND). He has an older brother, Josh. Ben has worked a variety of jobs, including Subway, surveying for an engineering company in Wisconsin Dells,

working the laser and sandblaster at Harris Machine. He has done some video editing and has worked construction.

**COMMUNION** Lord willing, the pastor will be out of town helping family next weekend. Communion will be held on Sunday, August 1. If you'd like to commune privately, please speak with him.

**THANK YOU** A very special thank you to all who remembered us with lovely cards and greetings and visits, making for a very memorable day! God Bless. Herman and Lylas Eigenberg.

**HOSPITALIZED** LaDonna Rosen was released from the Tracy Hospital on Tuesday. Please remember her in your prayers.

**QUARTERLY MEETING** The July meeting will be held after the potluck meal. The agenda includes regular reports: the transfer of Doreen Iverson to Messiah, Eau Claire; adopting a budget for the new fiscal year, Mission Festival Date and Speaker, October meeting date.

**LADIES NIGHT OUT** The dinner outing will be on Tuesday evening. It's not too late to sign up. The sheet is in the entryway.

**VBS** Volunteers are still needed for Vacation Bible School (August 2-5). Sessions will run from 3:00 o'clock to 5:15. Please be sure to register online at our website so we have a better idea of how many students to expect. Posters are available on the entryway table. Please post them wherever possible.

**CLC NEWS** Pastor Mark Tiefel, Lynnwood, WA has the call to Eden Prairie. Pastor Luke Willitz has the call to Cheyenne, WY.

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**USHERS** 7/18 Kendall B., Kraig B., Larry B. Jonathen L., Jonah A.  
7/25 Phil S., Zachary S., Nathan V., Anthony F.

**CLEANING** (Wk. 3) The Boernsens and Liepolds  
The Luecks and Strikes