

July 4, 2021

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125th / 25th Anniversary Church / School

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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WELCOME To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name.

We are especially grateful that you have joined our celebration of 125 years of the Lord's blessings upon our church, and 25 years of our Christian Day School (pushed back one year because of COVID restrictions). Life has changed dramatically over that much time. Farming methods, modes of transportation, technology, etc. – the members from 1895 could not have imagined the luxuries we enjoy, the wealth we have, the advanced medical procedures we take for granted. But some things are the same. We begin life with the same sinful flesh and end life for the same spiritual reason as every previous generation all the way back to Adam. But more importantly, the Gospel hasn't changed either. The same Gospel promises that were made to those before us, remain ours today. This is what we celebrate today and everyday...the rich blessing of the Lord's pardon and forgiveness because of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

We hope you will join us for a meal of thanksgiving after the service this morning. Be sure to sign our guest book in the entryway.

Today's officiants are Pastor Vance Fossum, who served here from 1989-1998) and Pastor Chad Seybt, who taught here from 2007-2014).

Prelude Mrs. Lana Strike

Hymn 467:1-5 *Built on the Rock the Church Doth Stand*

Order of Service The Liturgy and hymns will be projected on the wall.

Old Testament Reading 1 Kings 8:22–30

CDS *There is a Higher Throne*

Gospel Lesson Matthew 18:1ff.

Epistle Lesson 1 Peter 1:3-25 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your

forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for

**“All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.”
And this word is the good news that was preached to you.**

Choir *This We Believe* (Creedal Hymn)

Sermon Hymn 175 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Sermon 1 Peter 1:22-25

St. John’s is “Old,” not Dead or Obsolete; for the living Word of the Lord remains forever!

Former St. John’s Pastor Vance Fossum

Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise The Three in One to sing
And thus proclaim In joyful song,
Both loud and long, That glorious name.

The Offering of Thankful Hearts

Choir *This is My Word*

Hymn 639 *For Many Years, O God of Grace*

Prayer + The Lord’s Prayer

CDS Alumni *Go, My Children, With My Blessing*

Hymn 467:6-7 *Built on the Rock the Church Doth Stand*

ANNIVERSARY BOOKS Anniversary booklets that present the history of St. John's are available for free, one copy per family. Please see the box in the entryway.

THANK YOU A very special thanks to all who shared their musical talents with us today! Though it is all done in glory to God, your work is appreciated by your fellow worshipers.

SCHEDULE After the service, letters from various churches will be read, a pictorial slide-show will be presented, and guests will have time to visit and fellowship. After the meal, the city of Okabena has a parade at 2:15 that is followed by a (free) Ice Cream Social served by St. John's.

ANNIVERSARY/BIRTHDAY Herman and Lylas Eigenberg will be celebrating their 68th Wedding Anniversary and Lylas' 86th birthday on July 5. You are welcome to join them on July 11 at the Cottonwood County Historical Society in Windom (from 2-4 p.m.). Cards can be sent c/o Lakeview Assisted Living, 941 10th Street, Heron Lake, 56137.

CONVENTION REPORT Our delegates will be presenting their reports on the work of our church body in Convention, sometime soon. If you are interested in holding a midweek evening session, please see the pastor.

HOSPITALIZED Sophie was Life-flighted to The Children's Hospital in Omaha yesterday morning. She will be re-evaluated this week and placed on a heart-transplant list. Her family will appreciate your prayers in her behalf.

INSTALLATION Mr. Hansen will be installed on Sunday, July 18. A potluck dinner will follow.

CLC NEWS Pastor Tim Daub, Hecla, SD has returned the call to Cheyenne.

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CLEANING (Wk. 3) The Kazembas
A. Aden, B. Dronen, L. Ferguson