

Mission Festival

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

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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.

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. Be sure to join us again.

Prelude Mrs. Lana Strike

Hymn 492 *Lord of the Living Harvest*

Scripture Lessons Isaiah 66:10-14, Galatians 6:1-18

Hymn 507 *Spread, Oh, Spread, Thou Mighty Word*

Sermon Luke 10:1-20

“The harvest is plentiful.”

Pastor Luke Willitz

Hymn 502 *Saints of God, the Dawn is Brightening*

Choir *"How Shall They Hear," Who Have Not Heard*

"How shall they hear," who have not heard News of a Lord who loved and came;
Nor known his reconciling Word, Nor learned to trust a Savior's name?

"To all the world," to ev'ry place, Neighbors and friends and far-off lands,
Preach the good news of saving grace; Go while the Great Commission stands.

"Whom shall I send?" Who hears the call,
Constant in prayer, through toil and pain,
Telling of One who died for all, To bring a lost world home again?

"Lord, here am I." Your fire impart To this poor, cold, self-centered soul;
Touch but my lips, my hands, my heart, And make a world for Christ my goal.

Spirit of love, within us move; Spirit of truth, in pow'r come down!
So shall they hear and find and prove Christ is their life, their joy, their crown.

M: O Almighty God, whose Son died on the cross to redeem all the people
of the earth,

**C: Open our eyes to see that the harvest of souls is plentiful but the
workers are few.**

M: Open our hearts to a sincere concern for the souls of those who will be
lost without You.

**C: Open our wallets to support the preaching of Your Word in all the
earth, and hear our prayer for Your help and blessing.**

M: Look with compassion on the millions of people who are still sitting in
spiritual darkness under the shadow of death – both those near at hand
and those far away.

**C: Wherever Your called workers are proclaiming Your message of
salvation support them in their efforts and bless the labors of their hands.**

M: O Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit on us that we also might be active in
sharing Your Word with others.

C: Help us personally to speak your message of salvation to others and help us overcome our fear of witnessing to Your holy name.

P: Bless our church body and our church school to prepare pastors, teachers, and missionaries.

C: Touch the hearts of many young people with a deep love for You. Move many of them to commit their lives to a career in the public ministry.

M: On this Mission Festival we pray that You bless Your missions, as you have promised.

C: Let the workers be sent out, supported, and sustained. Let the communion of saints grow and expand in all the earth, and use each and every one of us in this blessed harvest.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring You our petitions for the successful sharing of Your Word in all the world.

The Lord's Prayer + Benediction

Hymn 496 *Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying*

THANK YOU We offer our thanks to Pastor Luke Willitz for his Gospel message and encouragement this morning. Pastor Willitz graduated from Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Seminary of Mankato, MN in the spring of 2012 and was ordained as a Lutheran pastor in September of the same year. He served as pastor of an ELS congregation in Sebring, FL for 5 years and a WELS congregation in Mosinee, WI for 2 ½ years. In January 2020, Luke and his wife Kim and their five children left their WELS congregation and briefly joined Living Hope Lutheran Church of Appleton, WI before relocating and transferring to Grace Lutheran Church of Sleepy Eye, MN. In April 2021 Luke completed his colloquy and was added to the CLC clergy roster. Luke has been conducting services regularly at our sister congregation in Eden Prairie, MN, which does not yet have a regular, full-time pastor. Luke and Kim now have six children. Their two daughters are 12-years-old and 7-months-old, with four boys in between. The oldest three children are students at Grace Lutheran School.

All are invited to stay for today's potluck meal. This will provide a chance to visit with Pastor Willitz.

HOSPITALIZED Herman (Lakeview Assisted Living – Heron Lake) and Alfred (Good Samaritan Home in Windom) Eigenberg were placed on hospice care last week. May the Lord bless their faith as their lives on earth wind down.

“For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven” (2 Cor. 5:1-2). Please remember these men and their families in your prayers.

Sophie is currently in Boston and is scheduled for a number of procedures this week. If the Lord wills, they will do a specialized surgery that would postpone her need for a heart transplant. There are risks involved and her parents will have some difficult decisions to make. They, too, will be grateful for your prayers.

CALL Your pastor has returned the call to Bowdle/Ipswich. He appreciates your prayers. Please pray for the two congregations as they wait on the Lord to fill their long pastoral vacancy.

SCHOOL BOARD Chairman Ron Strike would like to meet with the Board of Education in the library, immediately after the service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS Please meet briefly in the church right after our service.

CURTAINS We’d like to thank Ron and Karen Strike for making and installing new curtains in the church basement.

VETERANS DAY All are invited to attend a special Veteran’s Day program by our CDS students on Thursday at 1 p.m.

CLC NEWS Pastor Rob Sauers, Fond du lac, WI has the call to St. Louis. Pastor Neal Radichel, Mankato has the call to Eden Prairie.

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USHERS 11/07 Phil S., Zachary S., Nathan V., Anthony F.
11/14 Trevor B., Tim Z., Austin F., Christian K., David R.
11/21 Kendall B., Kraig B., Larry B. Jonathen L.

CLEANING (Wk. 4) B. Eigenberg, J. Eigenberg, R. Gustaf
C. Ahrens, A. Fogelman, M. Fogelman