

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

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



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 62 *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*

Liturgy Page 12ff in the Worship Supplement

Epistle Lesson Romans 1:1-7 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised in advance through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures. This gospel is about His Son—who in the flesh was born a descendant of David, who in the spirit of holiness was declared to be God’s powerful Son by His resurrection from the dead—Jesus Christ, our Lord. Through Him we received grace and the call to be an apostle on behalf of His name, to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles, including you, who were called by Jesus Christ.

To all those loved by God who are in Rome, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. [EHV]

Gospel Lesson Matthew 1:18-25 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother, Mary, was pledged in marriage to Joseph. Before they came together, she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her. So he decided to divorce her privately. But as he was considering these things, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son. And they will name him Immanuel,” which means, “God with us.” When Joseph woke up from his sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him. He took Mary home as his wife, but he was not intimate with her until she gave birth to her firstborn son. And he named him Jesus. [EHV]

Hymn 98 *Of the Father’s Love Begotten*

Sermon Hebrews 1:1-2a God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son.

We’re Here to Hear God Speak...

The Offertory

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Choir *Advent Absolution*

Father, we have not loved our God above all else;
Father, we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
Hear us, Your forgiveness we seek. Hide not from us Your face.
Help us, our flesh is weak. Absolve us by Your grace!

Comfort, comfort, all my people; Speak of peace, so says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness, Groaning from their sorrows; load.
Speak to all Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover, That their warfare now is over.

Comforter, break the darkness of the night. Come within.
Shine with the brightness of Your light!
Bring to us everlasting joy and peace. Let the life of faith increase!
Hear us, Your forgiveness we seek. Hide not from us Your face.
Help us, our flesh is weak. Absolve us by your grace.

All their sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserve His anger He no more will see or heed.
God will change their pining sadness Into ever springing gladness.

Hark the Herald's voice is crying In the desert far and near,
Calling people to repentance For the Kingdom now is here.
For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is spread abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token That His word is never broken.

Father, O hear us! Keep us for Your glorious day.
Preserve us in the way! Prepare our hearts, we pray.

Hymn 68 *The Advent of Our King*

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

Closing Hymn *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE Our annual Children’s Christmas Eve Service will be held on Saturday evening at 6:30. Our Christmas Day Festival Service will be held on Sunday morning at 9:30 (no Sunday School or Bible Class). Since it falls on a Saturday, there will be no New Year’s Eve service.

Normally, the last Sunday in December would be the weekend for the Lord’s Supper, but it will be celebrated on January 1 instead. As always, the pastor will be happy to commune you privately.

LADIES AID The annual Christmas potluck luncheon was postponed until this Tuesday evening at 6:30. All women of the congregation are invited.

KINSHIP The founder of the CLCI, Pastor V.S. Benjamin, was taken to heaven on November 21 at the age of 89. The church in India requested financial assistance for outstanding hospital and funeral expenses, as well as for costs associated with a memorial service at which they expect 5,000 attendees. With President Eichstadt’s approval, the Bd. of Missions has sent funds from Kinship to help with these expenses. As a result, Kinship is in need of replenishment.

2023 CLC Mission Helper Trip – The application deadline for the 2023 Mission Helper Trip to Nepal is quickly approaching. Applications need to be submitted by January 16th, 2023. Space is limited for this trip so please apply soon. Find more information at: <https://mht.lutheranmissions.org/>

CALENDARS Inspirational calendars for 2023 are available for \$5.00 each. Please see the anniversary table in the foyer.

CLC NEWS Pastor Timothy Daub has the call to Seattle/Tacoma, WA.

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USHERS 12/18 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.
12/25 Kendall B., Kraig B., Larry B. Jonathen L.
01/01 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.

CLEANING (Wk. 1) The Albrechts
B. Eigenberg, J. Eigenberg, R. Gustaf