

## The Second 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*

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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. Kathy Lueck

**Hymn** 68 *The Advent of Our King*

**Epistle Lesson** Romans 15:4-13 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises *made* to the fathers, and that the Gentiles might glorify God for *His* mercy, as it is written: *“For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name.”* And again he says: *“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!”* And again: *“Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!”* And again, Isaiah says: *“There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope.”* Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Gospel Lesson** Luke 12:35-40 “Let your waist be girded and *your* lamps burning; and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. Blessed *are* those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down *to eat*, and will come and serve them. And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find *them* so, blessed are those servants. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

**Hymn** 72 *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

**Sermon** Isaiah 64:1-8 Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down! That the mountains might shake at Your presence—As fire burns brushwood, As fire causes water to boil— To make Your name known to Your adversaries, That the nations may tremble at Your presence!

When You did awesome things for which we did not look, You came down, The mountains shook at Your presence. For since the beginning of the

world Men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, Nor has the eye seen any God besides You, Who acts for the one who waits for Him. You meet him who rejoices and does righteousness, Who remembers You in Your ways. You are indeed angry, for we have sinned—In these ways we continue; And we need to be saved.

But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away. And there is no one who calls on Your name, Who stirs himself up to take hold of You; For You have hidden Your face from us, And have consumed us because of our iniquities. But now, O Lord, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand.

## The Prayer of Advent...

### The Offertory

#### Offering of Thankful Hearts

#### Choir Just Beyond the Manger

Just beyond the manger, I hear no lullabies,  
I see no golden hay, I feel no starlight.  
Just beyond the manger, I hear the hammer fall,  
I see a rugged cross, I feel the chill of night.  
Just beyond the manger.

Just beyond the manger, I see no swaddling clothes,  
I hear no angels sing, I feel no candle glow.  
Just beyond the manger, I see a lonely hill,  
The Savior crying still, I hear the thunder roll.  
Just beyond the manger.

Forgive us, Lord, and grant us eyes to see  
In ev'ry Christmas Calvary; implant it in our hearts.  
Help us recall 'mid trees of red and gold,  
On another tree raised long ago we hung God's brightest star.  
Just beyond the manger. I hear no lullabies,  
Just beyond the manger.

## Prayer + The Lord's Prayer

### The Benediction

Closing Hymn 70:1-2, 4 *Hosanna to the Living Lord*

**ADVENT** The second midweek service will be held on Wednesday evening at 7:00. A finger-food lunch will follow. Be sure to take advantage of these special opportunities to grow in faith and knowledge of your Savior.

**MEETING** The Elections meeting will be held in the auditorium in the basement, immediately after today's service. A revised nominations list corrects a number of errors in last week's list of candidates. Nominations will also be taken from the floor. Those who no longer wish to serve in their capacity at this time should speak with Chairman Ron Strike.

**CDS** The CDS students will sing for the Okabena bank open house on Wednesday, December 7, at 10:00 am. All are welcome.

**CALENDARS** Inspirational calendars for 2023 have arrived and are available for \$5.00 each. Please see the table in the church foyer.

**CLC NEWS** Pastor Bruce Naumann, Eau Claire, has accepted the Third Foreign Missionary call. Pastor Rob Sauers, Fond du lac, WI is considering the call to Winter Haven, FL.

**Eastern Nebraska Contacts** Prince of Peace of Hecla, SD, will be sponsoring monthly services in Lincoln, NE, the third weekend of every month. If you know of any CLC members living in the greater Eastern Nebraska/Western Iowa region, please send their contact info to [pastor\\_daub@hotmail.com](mailto:pastor_daub@hotmail.com).

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**USHERS** 12/04 Kendall B., Kraig B., Larry B. Jonathen L.

12/11 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F.

12/18 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.

**CLEANING** (Wk. 3) The Luecks, P. Strike

D. Ling, C. Rovere, S. Sumey