

New Year's Day

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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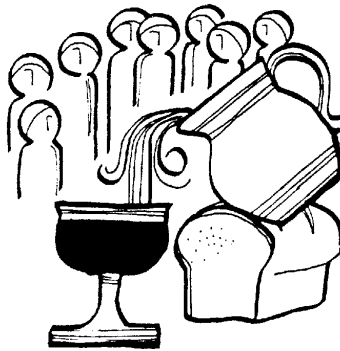
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www.okabenalutheran.org



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 111 *Thou Who Roll'st the Year Around*

P: Today we mark the end of another year of our lives and the start of a new one. Every thought, every word, and every action is now behind us. Not a single moment of the past can be changed. Actions cannot be undone. Words cannot be taken back. Sinful thoughts cannot be withdrawn. As we survey the past twelve months of 2021, we bow our heads in humble repentance and confess:

C: "But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rages; We all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."

P: The sinfulness of mankind is universal. All of us, without exception, are unclean before God because of our sin. Our depravity is total, we are completely sinful by nature. We are lost unless we have forgiveness. Therefore we rejoice in the Word of our God:

C: Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.

1. Now greet the swiftly changing year With joy and penitence sincere.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace Another year of grace.

3. This Jesus came to end sin's war; This Name of names for us He bore.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace Another year of grace.

P: We have passed through another springtime, summer, and fall, and are now in the midst of winter. Though the seasons pass without our notice, they teach us that our lives grow shorter and shorter each day:

C: So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

P: In 2022, one of our fellow Christians, Ron Pomerence, was summoned from this vale of tears to the eternal joys of heaven. We praise God for preserving him in the faith and for the blessings God provided through him. We long for the day when we will join all believers around the throne of God forever.

C: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "because they will rest from their labors, for their works follow them."

P: 2022 brought sickness to some of our members. There were hospitalizations, surgeries, and tests of faith. Our earthly bodies, which the Lord created to live forever, have been infected and ruined by sin. The Lord graciously hears and answers our prayers.

C: "I am the LORD who heals you." "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."

4. His love abundant far exceeds The volume of a whole year's needs.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace Another year of grace.

5. With Him as Lord to lead our way In want and in prosperity,
What need we fear in earth or space In this new year of grace.

P: 2022 was a year where God was present among us in His Word and Sacraments. Faithfully and eagerly the Lord came through His means of grace to bless us with the assurance that we are His forgiven children in Christ.

C: "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them."

P: 2022 was a year of many changes. On a global and personal level, changes have come for good or bad. As we step into 2023, more change is likely. Nevertheless, our greatest need and our greatest hope will never change:

C: "Jesus Christ, the same, yesterday, today, and forever."

6. "All glory be to God on high, And peace on earth!" The angels cry.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace Another year of grace!

Scripture Lesson

Hymn 112:1-4, 6 *To God the Anthem Raising*

Sermon Isaiah 30:8ff.

God's Grace is for Everyone...

The Offertory

Offering of Thankful Hearts

The Words of Institution

Distribution Hymns 92, 87, 715, 90, 108:1-7

Choir "The Aaronic Blessing"

Closing Hymn 108:8 *We Sing, Immanuel, Thy Praise*

CLOSE COMMUNION If you have not attended a Communion Service with us in the past, please note that we practice Close-Communion. This means that only communicant members of our congregation (or of a sister congregation in the CLC) are offered the Lord's Supper. This is not a judgment on you or your faith, but is a Scriptural practice that most churches once followed in humble obedience to Christ. If you would like to know what is involved in becoming a communicant member, please speak with the pastor.

HOSPITALIZED Roger Wendland is currently a patient in the Sioux Falls Sanford Hospital. Please remember him in your prayers.

THANK YOU The called workers wish to thank all of you for your kindness and generosity once again this Christmas season. It's a privilege to serve at St. John's and your gifts are a great encouragement in the work you have called us to do. Thank you!

SPECIAL MUSIC We'd like to thank all of you who used your musical gifts for the benefit of us all this season. We appreciate the hours of practice and the excellent work that was done.

INSTALLATION Newly elected officers will be installed as part of the service next Sunday.

CLC NEWS Pastor Timothy Daub has returned the call to Seattle/Tacoma, WA. Pastor Andrew Schaller, Marquette, MI has the call to Fond du Lac.

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USHERS 01/01 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.
01/08 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.
01/15 Kendall B., Kraig B., Larry B. Jonathen L.

CLEANING (Wk. 3) C. Ahrens, A Fogelman, M. Fogelman
D. Voit, N. Voit