

March 19, 2023

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The Fourth Sunday in Lent

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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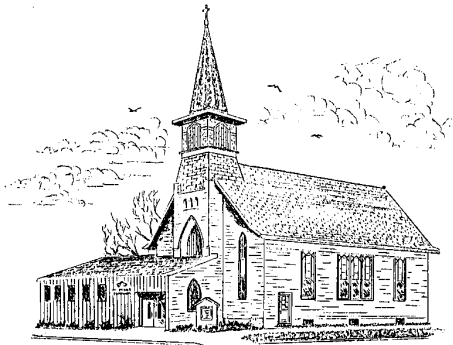
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WELCOME To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified for the sins of the world.

Thanks for coming today. If you are looking for a church home, please speak with the pastor and he will be glad to call on you.

Prelude Mrs. Kathy Lueck

Hymn 176 *Behold the Savior of Mankind*

Order of Service Page 12ff. in the Worship Supplement

Epistle Lesson Galatians 4:21-31 Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. But he *who was* of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar— for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children— but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written:

“Rejoice, O barren, *you* who do not bear! Break forth and shout, you who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children than she who has a husband.”

Now we, brethren, as Isaac *was*, are children of promise. But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him *who was born* according to the Spirit, even so *it is* now. Nevertheless, what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.” So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

Gospel Lesson John 6:36-51 But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, “I am the bread which came down from heaven.” And they said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, ‘I have come down from heaven?’”

Jesus therefore answered and said to them, “Do not murmur among yourselves. No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father. Most assuredly, I

say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

Hymn 367 *Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus*

The Sermon John 9:1-7 Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

The WHY Questions of Life...

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Ensemble *Rock of Ages*

Hymn 759 *These are the Facts*

Prayer + The Lord’s Prayer

The Benediction

Hymn 529:1-2 *I Leave All Things to God’s Direction*

BAPTISM Logan Allen Rovere was born to Chase and Shelby (Ling) Rovere on March 15. Yesterday he was born again of water and the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Baptism. Through God’s gift of Baptism he was

cleansed of all sin and became a member of God's eternal kingdom. May the Lord bless and preserve him in this faith throughout his life.

LENT Wednesday evening marks the 5th of 6 midweek services this year. The series is entitled, "*The Crucial Hours*," a theme that was borrowed from a book by that name, written by Wm. Lauterbach. Be sure to join us on Wednesday evening at 7. A finger-food potluck follows.

ITEMS AVAILABLE Be sure to take a look at the items that were donated to our church and school. These are located in the middle room. If you, or someone you know could make good use of them, please help yourself.

MISSION PRAYER REQUESTS The latest request for prayers is on the entryway table. "*The prayer of a righteous person is able to do much because it is effective.*" James 5:16 [EHV] Missionary Bruce Naumann's blog can be found here: <https://clc-tz.blogspot.com/>

CLC NEWS Pastor Luke Bernthal, Mt. View, CA has the call to be the third pastor in Eau Claire. Peace Through Christ School in Middleton, WI has called Leah Ude to be their teacher. She and her family live in Eau Claire.

Christ's Explorers Camp Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church (W. Columbia, SC) will be hosting Christ's Explorers Camp July 20th - 23rd in Sevierville, TN. Camp is open to students entering grades 3-9 for the 2023-24 school year. ***Registration opens on Saturday, April 1st at 9 AM (EST).*** Registrations will be limited to the first 25 boys and 25 girls. You may register online at christsexplorerscamp.com.

ILC After Banquet Committee If you are interested in donating to this project, please speak with the pastor.

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USHERS 03/19 Kendall B., Kraig B., Larry B. Jonathen L.
03/26 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.
04/02 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.

CLEANING (Wk. 2) C. Ahrens, The Fogelmans
The Voits