

March 26, 2023

Vol. XXV No. 13

The Fifth 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

James Albrecht, Pastor – 507-351-8584

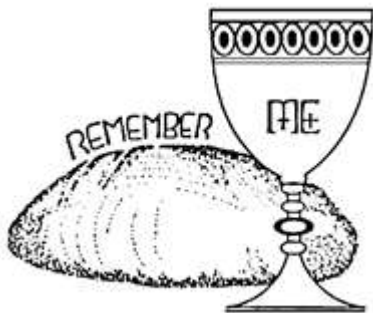
Benjamin Hansen, Upper Grades – 715-491-3837

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 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 visit you at your convenience.

Prelude Mrs. Kathy Lueck

Hymn 176 *Behold the Savior of Mankind*

Order of Service Page 15ff. in The Lutheran Hymnal

Old Testament Lesson Ezekiel 37:1-14 The hand of the Lord was upon me. He brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley, which was full of bones. He had me pass through them and go all over among them. There were very many on the valley floor, and they were very dry.

He said to me, “Son of man, can these dry bones live?” I answered, “Lord God, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.’”

This is what the Lord God says to these bones.

I am about to make breath enter you so that you will live. I will attach tendons to you. I will put flesh back on you. I will cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you will live. Then you will know that I am the Lord.

So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I was prophesying there was a noise, a rattling, as the bones came together, one bone connecting to another. As I watched, tendons were attached to them, then flesh grew over them, and skin covered them. But there was no breath in them.

Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the wind. Prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind that this is what the Lord God says. From the four winds, come, O wind, and breathe into these slain so that they may live.”

So I prophesied as he commanded me. Breath entered them, and they came back to life. They stood on their feet, a very, very large army.

Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They are saying, ‘Our bones are dried up. Our hope is lost. We have been completely cut off.’ Therefore, prophecy and say to them that this is what the Lord God says. My people, I am going to open your graves and raise you up from your graves and bring you back to the soil of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live. I will settle you on your own land, and you will know that I, the Lord, have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.” [EHV]

Gospel Lesson John 11:1ff. Now a certain *man* was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. It was *that* Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother

Lazarus was sick. Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, “Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.” When Jesus heard *that*, He said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.

So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. Now Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?” She said to Him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

Hymn 326 *Lord, to Thee I Make Confession*

The Sermon Ezekiel 37:1-14

What Can Dry Bones Teach Us about Hope?

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Choir *Lamb of God*

The Communion Liturgy

Distribution Hymns 755, *The Lamb*, 150, 171

CLOSE COMMUNION In the early church, Holy Communion was thought of so highly that no one except confirmed members of the church were even allowed to watch it! This practice was more strict than necessary, of

course. But the early church did understand something that many today do not: that communion was never intended for indiscriminate use by everyone, but was restricted to those who are properly prepared. If you have never communed with us before, and desire the benefits of the Lord's Supper, please set up an appointment with the pastor to discuss how you can prepare properly.

If you are visiting today, and are not familiar with this practice, please do not feel offended. This is not a judgment about your personal faith or standing with God. It is simply an expression of the doctrinal unity that God has created among us.

LENT Wednesday evening marks our final midweek Lenten service for the year. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will be held next week. Be sure to join us on at 7. A finger-food potluck follows.

FURNACE The new furnace is on order. Lord willing, it will be installed on Tuesday or Wednesday.

CLC NEWS Calvary Lutheran in Marquette, MI is requesting a graduate from Immanuel Lutheran Seminary. Pastor Luke Bernthal, Mt. View, CA is considering the call to Messiah Eau Claire.

Tour Choir The concert that was performed at Berea (Inver Grove Heights) can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ci7spZxpMYU>

CLC Youth Camp registration is open! Camp takes place from June 11th-17th, 2023 at Camp JIM in Pillager, MN for students 6th-12th grade. Visit their website for more information and to register your camper between now and May 31st! <https://youthcampclc.wixsite.com/camp>

Service text and music reprinted and used by permission under OneLicense #A-7126690 and Concordia Publishing House, license #130002755.

Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version® of the Holy Bible, ©1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

USHERS 03/26 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.
04/02 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.
04/09 Kendall B., Kraig B., Larry B. Jonathen L.

CLEANING (Wk. 3) The Voits
The Ruthenbecks