

April 16, 2023

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The First Sunday after Easter

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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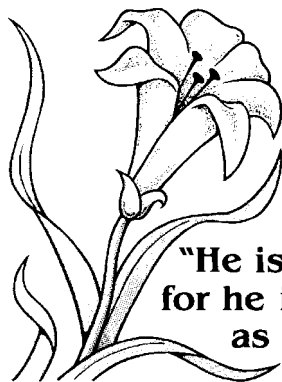
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**"He is not here;
for he is risen,
as he said."**

-Matthew 28:6

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. Lana Strike

Hymn 205 *The Day of Resurrection*

Epistle Lesson 1 John 5:4-10 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.

If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

Gospel Lesson John 20:19-31 “Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not

seen and yet have believed." And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."

Hymn 208:1, 4-8 *Ye Sons and Daughters of the King*

Sermon 1 Peter 1:3-9 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls

Basking in Easter Joy...

Hymn 736 *At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing*

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

Hymn 207:1-2 *Like the Golden Sun Ascending*

QUARTERLY The April Meeting will be held immediately after the noon pot-luck meal. All voting members of St. John's are encouraged to attend. Besides regular Board reports, the Agenda will include: bids for siding the church, setting dates for VBS and the SS picnic, School Board calling of VBS teachers, Summer Worship Schedule, Budget Committee Meeting date, Delegates for Spring MN Delegate Conference (Saturday, June 10, 10AM, Berea IGH), July Quarterly Meeting date. Any other agenda items should be given to Chairman Phil Strike as soon as possible.

THANK YOU Thanks to all who shared their musical talents with us through the Lent and Easter season. Your work was very well done.

LADIES DAY Ladies Day will be held on Sunday, April 30th following the church service. The sign-up sheet is in the entryway.

CLC NEWS Pastor Chad Seybt has returned the call to Lynnwood/Tacoma, WA. Pastor Nathanael Mayhew has the call to be the third pastor in Eau Claire. Those graduating from the Teaching and Preaching programs at ILC will, God willing, receive their calls on Wednesday evening. There is one graduate from each program. Two calls have been submitted for a Sem graduate: Marquette, MI and Lynnwood/Tacoma, WA.

The TVBS Committee has finalized our list of trips for this summer. We will be going to California, Wyoming, and North Dakota. We are now in need of volunteers to ensure we can make these trips possible. If you are interested in volunteering and would like more information please go to our website: <http://www.clctvbs.org/tvbs>. You will find information about the trips and a registration form. If you have any questions you may use the 'contact us' link or email us directly at the email address below. Please let us know if you would like more information or have any questions. The deadline for registering is April 15th. Thank you for considering!

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. The cost is \$100 per camper. The devotions and Bible studies will focus on how Jesus and His Word help us to overcome the darkness and confusion of the sinful world around us. Slots still available! You may register at www.christsexplorerscamp.com.

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USHERS 04/16 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.
04/23 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.
04/30 Kendall B., Kraig B., Larry B. Jonathen L.

CLEANING (Wk. 1) S. DeWall, J. Jensen
J. Kazemba, J. Thaemlitz