

July 30, 2023

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The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

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

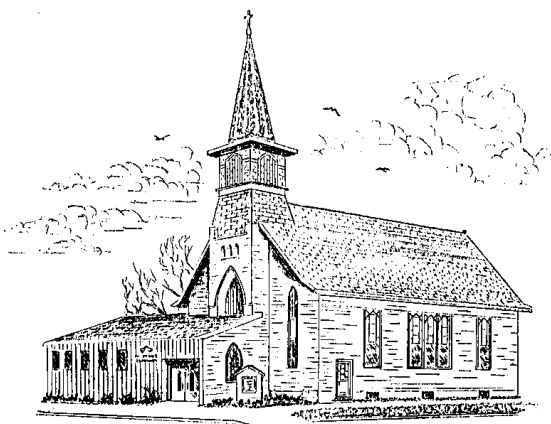
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www.okabenalutheran.org



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. Be sure to join us again.

Prelude Mrs. Kathy Lueck

Hymn 776 *Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose You*

Order of Service Page 15ff. in The Lutheran Hymnal

Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit: Great Jehovah, Three in One!
Glory, glory, While eternal ages run!

Glory be to Him who loved us, Washed us from each spot and stain;
Glory be to Him who bought us, Made us kings with Him to reign!
Glory, glory, To the Lamb that once was slain!
+ TLH 244 +

Old Testament Lesson Deuteronomy 7:6-9 “For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

“Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments.

Epistle Lesson Romans 8:28-39 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? *It is* God who justifies. Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us

from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written:

“For Your sake we are killed all day long;
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hymn *On Eagles’ Wings*

Sermon Matthew 13:44-52 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.” Jesus said to them, “Have you understood all these things?” They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.” Then He said to them, “Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old.”

The Greatest Treasure on Earth...

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Distribution Hymns 755, 347, 315

CLOSE COMMUNION The Bible exhorts us to be *“perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”* Holy Communion is therefore both a communing with God and a public statement that those communing together believe the same thing. We therefore ask that anyone

who has not established this unity through membership in a CLC congregation first schedule a meeting with the pastor before communing. We hold this position in loving obedience to the Word of God, not in judgment of anyone's Christian faith, sincerity, or standing before God.

VBS Vacation Bible School begins tomorrow morning at 9. “*Gone Fishing*,” is the theme of the weeklong program. If you know of children who would like to attend, it is not too late. Please speak with the coordinator, Lydia Strike, or the pastor.

PICNIC Next Sunday will be our annual picnic. Burgers and hot dogs will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass.

QUARTERLY MEETING 14 voters were present for last Sunday’s meeting. Released from membership: Coleman and Valerie (Caleb, Silas, Danika) Ling, Dalton Ling, and Joshua Thaemlitz. The Trustees were to look into the possibility of renting out the teacherage and will bring a proposal to the voters. Lana Strike was called to serve as Principal for the academic year. The budget, with a 5% cost of living adjustment for the teachers and a 6% for the pastor, was approved. A Reformation Service will be held on October 31 at 7 p.m. Next Quarterly meeting: October 15. The Cemetery Board will look into purchasing a mower for the church’s properties. They will also check on the legality of realigning grave markers. The voters asked to hold the meal for the Sunday School Picnic in the kitchen. Adapted from the minutes of Secretary pro-tem, Les Ruthenbeck.

CLC NEWS Pastor Sam Rodebaugh, Manchester, MO is considering the call to be the third pastor in Eau Claire. Missionary Peter Evenson has the call to Corpus Christi, TX.

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USHERS 07/30 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.
08/06 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.
08/13 Kendall B., Kraig B., Larry B. Jonathen L.

CLEANING (Wk. 1) The Liepolds and Luecks
The Strikes