

October 22, 2023

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The Twentieth 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

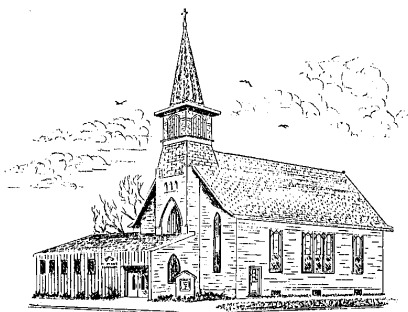
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WELCOME To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of 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 26:1-5 *Praise the Almighty, My Soul, Adore Him*

Liturgy Page 5ff. in The Lutheran Hymnal

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 45:1-7

This is what the Lord says to his anointed one,
to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped,
to subdue nations before him
by stripping kings of their weapons,
to open doors before him
so that the gates cannot be shut.
I myself will go before you,
and I will level high mountains.
I will break bronze doors into pieces,
and I will cut through iron bars.
I will give you treasures hidden in darkness
and riches concealed in secret places,
so that you will acknowledge that I am the Lord,
the one who calls you by name, the God of Israel.
For the sake of My servant Jacob,
for the sake of Israel My chosen one,
I will call you by your name.
I will give you an honored name, though you do not know Me.
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
Except for Me, there is no god.
I will equip you even though you do not know Me,
so that people will know from the rising of the sun
to the place where it sets
that there is no one except Me.
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
I am the One who forms light and creates darkness,
the One who makes peace and creates disaster.
I am the Lord, the One who does all these things.

Epistle Lesson 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Paul, Silas, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians, which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always give thanks to God for all of you as we make mention of you in our prayers, because we constantly remember before God our Father your work produced by faith, your labor produced by love, and your patient endurance produced by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dear brothers, loved by God, we know that God has chosen you, because our gospel did not come to you with mere words, but with power, with the Holy Spirit, and with deep conviction. You yourselves know very well what kind of people we proved to be for your sake, while we were with you. You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, when you welcomed the word during a time of great affliction with the joy from the Holy Spirit, so that you became a model for all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. Indeed, the word of the Lord has resounded from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith in God has become known. As a result, we do not need to say anything, because they themselves inform us about what kind of reception we received from you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God. They also report how you patiently wait for his Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead—Jesus, the One who is going to rescue us from the coming wrath.

Hymn 425:1-5 *All Depends on Our Possessing*

Sermon Matthew 22:15-21 Then the Pharisees went out and plotted together how to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are truthful and teach the way of God in accord with the truth. You are not concerned about gaining anyone’s approval because you are not swayed by appearances. So tell us, what do you think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” But Jesus knew their evil purpose and said, “Why are you testing me, hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” They brought him a denarius. He asked them, “Whose image and inscription is this?” “Caesar’s,” they replied to him. Then he said to them, “Therefore give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”[EHV]

It's ALL God's...

The Offertory

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Hymn 580:1-5, 8 *To Thee, Our God, We Fly*

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

Hymn 341:4-5 *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

VOTERS The following was discussed and/or approved. Kraig Boernsen was released at his request. The Trustees compared property insurance rates from other companies, and have chosen to stay with Northstar Insurance. They will update our policy to include the latest changes and the Cemetery. The curb/sidewalk project will be handled before winter. The Teacherage will be rented out to a member for \$650 per month, starting out with a 6 month lease. The School Board proposed a 3% raise for whatever teacher is also serving as the Principal. The Treasurer reported that we are currently ahead for Home and Missions. We are also under budget. The Cemetery Board discussed the need for straightening more stones (next year). They and the Trustees were given the okay to purchase a lawn mower for use on the church and cemetery properties. The Board also announced current lot prices: \$150 per member; \$300 per non-member. The holiday schedule includes: Thanksgiving Day at 9:30; three Midweek Advent Services, a regular service on Sunday morning, December 24, with the Children's Service that evening at 6:30. Christmas Day Service: 9:30. The New Year's Eve Service will be held on Sunday morning, December 31. Election Meeting: December 3; Annual Meeting: January 21. Adapted from the official minutes. Bruce Eigenberg, Secretary.

MISSION FESTIVAL We plan to celebrate on Sunday, November 5. A condensed service will be followed by a presentation on the Mission Helper Trip by Beth Sorensen. A potluck dinner will follow.

CLC NEWS Pastor David Reim, Vernon, BC has the call to Marquette/Iron River, MI. Pastor Luke Bernthal, Mt. View, CA has the call to Mankato. Mrs. Tina Eichstadt was released from the hospital in Hawaii. She and her husband have returned home.

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USHERS 10/22 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.
10/29 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.
11/05 Kendall B., Larry B. Jonathen L.

CLEANING (Wk. 1) The Boernsens
The Liepolds, The Luecks