

The Twenty-first 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*

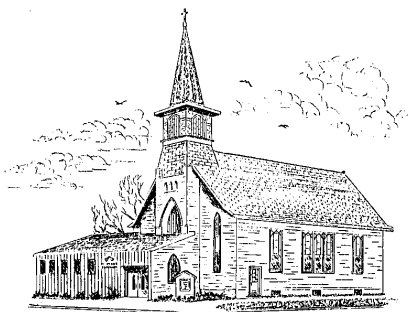
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[www.okabenalutheran.org](http://www.okabenalutheran.org)



**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** 439 *O God of Mercy, God of Might*

**Liturgy** Page 15ff. in The Lutheran Hymnal

**Old Testament Lesson**    Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18    The Lord told Moses to speak to the whole community of the Israelites and tell them these things: You shall be holy, because I, the Lord your God, am holy.

You shall not act unjustly in court cases. Do not show favoritism to a poor person, and do not show undue honor to an important person. You must judge your fellow citizens with justice.

You shall not go around spreading slander among your people. You shall not testify falsely against your neighbor in a capital case. I am the Lord.

You shall not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. You must openly rebuke your fellow citizen so that you do not become responsible for his sin. You must not take revenge. You must not bear a grudge against the members of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.  
[EHV]

**Epistle Lesson**    1 Thessalonians 2:1-13    Indeed, brothers, you yourselves know that our visit to you was not a waste of time. Even though we had suffered previously and were treated shamefully in Philippi (as you know), we were bold in our God to speak the gospel of God to you in the face of great opposition. For our appeal does not come from error or impure motives, or by way of deceit. Instead, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please people but God, who examines our hearts. Indeed, as you know, we never at any time used flattering speech, nor did we act with greed as a motive. God is our witness. Also, we did not seek the praise of people (neither yours nor anyone else's), even though we could have been a burden as Christ's apostles. On the contrary, we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. We yearned for you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

Surely, brothers, you remember our labor and hardship! We worked night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you, while we preached the gospel of God to you. You are witnesses, and so is God, of how devout, righteous, and blameless we were toward you who believe. In the same way, you know that we treated each of you as a father deals with his own children: encouraging, comforting, and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who is calling you into his kingdom and glory.

There is also another reason we give thanks to God unceasingly, namely, when you received God's word, which you heard from us, you did not receive it as the word of men but as the word of God (as it really is), which is now at work in you who believe. [EHV]

**Hymn** 339:1-5 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

**Sermon** Matthew 22:34-46 But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David." He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool" '?"

If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?" And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

## **The Greatest Questions of All Time...**

**The Offertory**

**Offering of Thankful Hearts**

**Choir** *One Faith, One Hope, One Lord*

**The Communion Liturgy**

**Distribution Hymns** 755, 262, 387

**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.

**REFORMATION FESTIVAL** We will hold a special service on Tuesday evening at 7.

**MISSION FESTIVAL** Mission Festival will be held next Sunday. It will include a presentation on the Mission Helper Trip by Beth Sorensen. A potluck dinner will follow.

During the morning Bible Class, we will view a presentation that was prepared by our Board of Missions. Be sure to attend.

**TIME CHANGE** Please remember to set your clocks back by one hour this weekend.

**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.

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**USHERS** 10/29 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.  
11/05 Kendall B., Larry B. Jonathen L.  
11/12 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.

**CLEANING** (Wk. 2) The Liepolds, The Luecks  
The Strikes