

The Second Sunday in Advent

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. Lana Strike

Hymn 701 *Prepare the Royal Highway*

Liturgy page 5 ff. in The Lutheran Hymnal

Epistle Lesson 2 Peter 3:8-14 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless.

Gospel Lesson Mark 1:1-8 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the Prophets:

“Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,
Who will prepare Your way before You.”
“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
Make His paths straight.’”

John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Hymn 63 *On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry*

Sermon Jeremiah 23:5-8

“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord,
“That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness;
A King shall reign and prosper,
And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.
In His days Judah will be saved,
And Israel will dwell safely;
Now this is His name by which He will be called:

THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

“Therefore, behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “that they shall no longer say, ‘As the Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,’ but, ‘As the Lord lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.’ And they shall dwell in their own land.”

The Lord is My Righteousness...

The Offertory

Choir *While by My Sheep*

Hymn 72 *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers (tune from Insert)*

Prayer + The Lord’s Prayer

The Benediction

Hymn *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns (tune in Insert)*

ELECTION MEETING The voters were happy to receive Ryan and Emily Mueller into membership by transfer from Batavia, IL.

The following were elected or re-elected to office: Elder – Regan Lueck; Chairman – Phil Strike; Secretary – Bruce Eigenberg; Treasurer – Nathan Albrecht; School Board – Lloyd Kalfs; Finance Board – Larry Boernsen and Ron Strike; Trustee – Les Ruthenbeck; Cemetery Board – Craig Ahrens. Al-len Jensen and Dr. Sumey were appointed as Communion Assistants.

LADIES AID All women of the congregation are invited to the potluck Christmas gathering on Tuesday evening at 6:30. The group will sing Christmas carols and listen to the Christmas Gospel.

ADVENT The second of three midweek services will be held on Wednesday evening at 7. A finger-food lunch will follow.

MISSION SOCIETY The Mission Society had decided to hold a holiday wish drive for the Helping Hand Pregnancy Center in Worthington, and also for our Christian Day School here at St. John's.

There is a flyer in the entryway with a wishlist of items that the pregnancy center is looking for. Gifts may be placed in the tote that is in the entryway marked specifically for the center.

Before going downstairs, there is a Giving Tree with tags hung up on the wall. Each tag has an item/service written on it that the school is in need of. If interested in assisting the school, please remove the tag so others know the wish is being fulfilled.

If you would like to contribute money towards the pregnancy center or school, to go towards a larger item, please mark which and place it in Mary Albrecht's mailbox. Thank you!

CLC NEWS Pastor Michael Wilke, Saginaw, MI has the call to Marquette/Iron River, MI. Pastor David Pfeiffer, W. Columbia, SC has the call to Mankato. Mrs. Michaela Winters has resigned from her Call in Hales Corners, WI (effective at the end of this school year) to be able to spend more time with their infant daughter.

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USHERS 12/10 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.
12/17 Kendall B., Larry B. Jonathen L.
12/24 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.

CLEANING (Wk. 4) The Voits
The Ruthenbecks