

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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

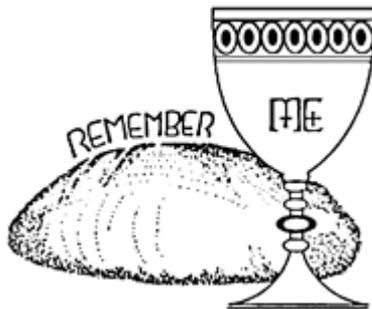
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www.okabenalutheran.org



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 412 *May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill*

Order of Service Page 15 ff. in The Lutheran Hymnal

Old Testament Lesson Deuteronomy 18:15-20 “The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, according to all you desired of the Lord your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.’

“And the Lord said to me: ‘What they have spoken is good. I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be *that* whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require *it* of him. But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’

Epistle Lesson 1 Corinthians 8 Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.

Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol *is* nothing in the world, and that *there is* no other God but one. For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), yet for us *there is* one God, the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom *are* all things, and through whom we *live*.

However, *there is* not in everyone that knowledge; for some, with consciousness of the idol, until now eat *it* as a thing offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse.

But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Hymn 326 *Lord, to Thee I Make Confession*

Sermon Mark 1:21-28 Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught. And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!" But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him. Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him." And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee.

The Authority of God

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Distribution Hymns 755, 395, 339

Closing Hymn 784 *Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me*

CLOSE COMMUNION If you are visiting our service today, please note that we practice "close-communion," which means that participation in Communion is restricted to communicant members in good standing. This is not a judgment upon your personal faith or standing with God.

ANNUAL MEETING **Membership:** The voters were happy to welcome Todd Rosen and Melinda Bose into communicant membership. Her children, Payton and Kendall were welcomed as pre-communicants. Teacher Ben Hansen was transferred to Messiah, Eau Claire.

Trustees: The sidewalk project on the south side of church is completed. The Trustees were asked to look into handrails and higher standing toilets for the downstairs bathrooms.

Treasurer: We are currently close to our projected income and expenses. Rent received from the Teacherage will be kept in a separate account.

School Board: The State of MN requires certification for the operation of Preschools. The details are unclear at this time.

The Board has looked into trading the current copy machine for a color copier. Bids range from \$6,000 to \$9,100 (not counting a trade-in). The Board was entrusted with making a proper decision.

Old Business: There was discussion about getting the best return on the balances in our Savings accounts. A member offered to pay the same interest that they are currently paying in their operating note at the bank. The voters approved.

New Business: The Cooperative Budget Plan (our commitment to the work of the synod) was set at \$45,000.

Lenten services will be held at 7 p.m. with a finger food lunch to follow. Easter schedule: 8 a.m. breakfast, 9:30 worship.

Craig Ahrens and Phil Strike will serve as delegates to this summer's convention. The April meeting will be held on the 21st. The treasurer was asked to setup a system that accepts online offerings. Adapted from the minutes of Secretary Bruce Eigenberg.

ANNUAL REPORT Please see the address list in the entryway and make sure that your information is up to date. Thank you.

CLC NEWS Pastor Thomas Schuetze, Lakewood, CO has returned the calls to Marquette and Iron River, MI. Pastor Timothy Daub, Hecla, SD has the call to Mankato.

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USHERS 01/28 Kendall B., Larry B. Jonathen L.
02/04 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.
02/11 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.

CLEANING (Wk. 3) The Liepolds and Luecks
The Strikes