

January 7, 2024

Vol. XXVI No. 1

The 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

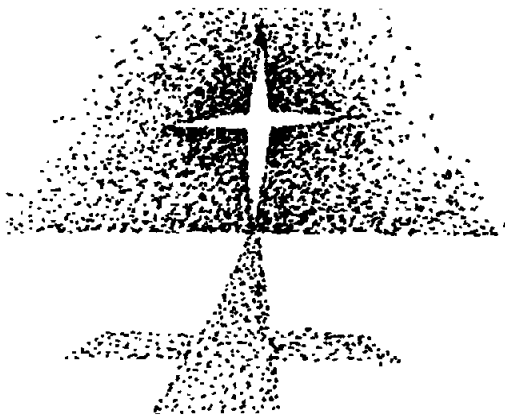
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WELCOME To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of 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 127 *As with Gladness Men of Old*

Order of Service Page 12ff. in the Worship Supplement.

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 42:1-6a. “Here is My servant, whom I uphold, My chosen One in whom I delight; I will put My Spirit on Him, and He will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise His voice in the streets. A bruised reed He will not break, and a smoldering wick He will not snuff out. In faithfulness He will bring forth justice; He will not falter or be discouraged till He establishes justice on earth. In His teaching the islands will put their hope.”

This is what God the Lord says—the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: “I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you...

Epistle Lesson Romans 6:1-11 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Installation of Officers

Hymn 134 *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

Sermon Matthew 3:13-17 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?”

But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him.

When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

The God Who Chose to be Baptized

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Hymn 751 *God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It*

Prayer + The Lord’s Prayer

The Benediction

Hymn 51 *Now May He Who From the Dead*

INSTALLATION Newly elected officers will be installed as part of the service this morning.

BOOK STUDY The group meets tomorrow evening (in person and online) at 6:30.

DECORATIONS The Christmas decorations will be taken down immediately after today’s service. If you are able to assist, your help will be greatly appreciated.

ANNUAL MEETING The annual Voters Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 21. There will be a potluck meal at noon. If you have items for the voters to consider, please see Phil Strike prior to the 21st.

CLC NEWS Pastor Thomas Schuetze, Lakewood, CO has the calls to Marquette, and Iron River, MI. (The two congregations are 87 miles apart.

Some of the work in Iron River is done virtually.) Pastor Aaron Ude, Rapid City, SD has the call to Mankato.

National Women's Retreat--You're Invited! Join your Christian sisters near and far at the next virtual retreat held via Zoom on Saturday, January 20th (Noon Eastern / 11:00 a.m. Central / 10:00 a.m. Mountain / 9:00 a.m. Pacific). This year's theme is "Press Pause: God Made Me..." and will highlight the differing gifts that God gave each of us to use to His glory. Register at: <http://tinyurl.com/NatRetreat24>

BELC Cyclone Aid In early December, Cyclone Michaung struck the eastern coast of India and damaged and flooded churches of the BELC as well as the Martin Luther Bible School (MLBS) pastor training center. Eleven of the fourteen districts of the BELC were affected. A total of 55 churches, as well as the MLBS, were damaged by the cyclone and are in need of repair. The Board of Missions has approved \$12,000 of disaster relief to be sent from Kinship to assist with building repair and reconstruction. Please remember our brethren of the BELC in your prayers, and consider supporting this effort through offerings to Kinship.

ILC Tour Choir For many years the ILC Tour Choir has been granted a special rate for using a charter bus during their yearly tour in holding concerts at various CLC congregations. This year that rate is being discontinued. After comparing the cost of using various bus companies, the common rate would be approximately \$11,000 higher than expected for budgetary reasons. Normally an offering is collected during the tour which will still happen. But this year CLC President Michael Wilke is authorizing this synod-wide announcement to allow others to share in their support of the Tour Choir. This offering would help offset the extra expense needed for the bus. Please designate your offering to "ILC Tour Choir."

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USHERS 01/07 Kendall B., Larry B. Jonathen L.
01/14 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.
01/21 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.

CLEANING (Wk. 4) J. Kazemba, J. Thaemlitz
S. Aden, L. Bauman, B. Dronen, L. Ferguson