

The First Sunday in Lent

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 449 *My Soul, be on Thy Guard*

Order of Service Page 5 ff. in The Lutheran Hymnal

Epistle Lesson James 1:12-18 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

Gospel Lesson Mark 1:9-15 It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. Then a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.

Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Hymn 413 *I Walk in Danger All the Way*

Sermon Genesis 22:1-14 Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!"

And he said, "Here I am."

Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for

the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."

So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!"

And he said, "Here I am, my son."

Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.

Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!"

So he said, "Here I am."

And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. And Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

A Test You Really Have to Pass

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Choir *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*

Hymn 408 *Jesus Christ, My Pride and Glory*

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

Hymn 785 *Children of the Heavenly Father*

LENT Our second midweek service will be held on Wednesday evening at 7. Our theme this year is, "God on Trial." Not only was Jesus on trial in the courtrooms of Caiaphas and Pontius Pilate, He was also on trial in the courts of public opinion. The same is true today whenever people question or blame God for the bad things that happen. If we're honest, this happens far too often in our own hearts.

SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING A special voters meeting will be held immediately after the service next Sunday. The sole purpose is to decide what to do with our current copier after it is replaced on February 27. It is not eligible to be used as a trade-in. If you need more information, please speak with Rick Gustaf.

CLC NEWS Pastor Michael Gurath, Phoenix, has the call to Mankato. Teacher Matthew Thurow, Inver Grove Heights, MN currently has the ILC call. Teacher Matthew Kranz, Mankato, has the call to Eau Claire. Teacher Amy Osborne, W. Columbia, SC has the call to Markesan, WI. Pastor Paul Krause, Watertown/Hidewood, SD has returned the call to Marquette/Iron River, MI. Teacher Kendra Rodebaugh, Spokane, WA has the call to Hales Corners, WI.

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USHERS 02/18 Kendall B., Larry B.

02/25 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.

03/03 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.

CLEANING (Wk. 2) The Albrechts

The Eigenbergs, R. Gustaf