

March 10, 2024

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The Fourth 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

James Albrecht, Pastor – 507-351-8584

Lana Strike, Upper Grades – 507-360-9491

Ruth Eigenberg, Lower Grades – 507-360-7725

Church/School Phone – 507-853-4550

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. Lana Strike

Hymn 151:1-4 *Christ, the Life of All the Living*

Epistle Lesson Ephesians 2:1-10 And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Gospel Lesson John 3:14-21 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

Hymn 245 *God Loved the World So That He Gave*

Sermon Numbers 21:4-9 Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people

became very discouraged on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses: “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread.” So the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.

Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord that He take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.” So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

The Poisonless Snake...

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Choir *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed*

Hymn 367 *Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus*

Prayer + The Lord’s Prayer

The Benediction

Hymn 769 *Lift High the Cross*

LENT Only 2 Wednesday evening Lenten Services remain this year. Our series is entitled, God on Trial. Last week we considered some of the misconceptions that surrounded Jesus’ trial. This week we’ll consider the question that was posed by Pilate, “What is Truth?” Be sure to set aside time this Wednesday evening at 7. A fellowship, finger-food luncheon follows.

COPIER The voters are currently offering our old copier to any of our members who are interested via a sealed bid. Since there may be more than one interested party, this method seemed to be the most fair and prudent way

of handling it. The copier is an old model but has worked well. Bids should go to the Treasurer today.

ONLINE GIVING At the Annual Meeting, the voters asked the Treasurer to explore options for online giving. This is now available as a menu item at the top of our website. If you have any problems or questions, please direct them to the Treasurer.

CLC NEWS Pastor Michael Gurath, Phoenix, has returned the call to Mankato. They have since called Pastor Nathanael Mayhew of Sleepy Eye. Teacher Matthew Kranz, Mankato, has returned the call to Eau Claire. Teacher Levi Schaller, Fridley, is still considering the call to Hales Corners, WI. Teacher Josh Ohlmann, W. Columbia, SC has the call to Saginaw, MI. Teacher Neil Bernthal, Winter Haven, FL has the call to Fond du lac, WI.

ILC Dorm Supervisors: After serving as dorm supervisors, both Paul and Courtney Agenten plan on resigning at the end of this academic year. We thank them both for their faithful service to the LORD and for being such positive role models to our dorm students. ILC is accepting applicants for these two positions to begin the 2024-25 year, an adult male for the boys' dorm and an adult female for the girls' dorm. These roles are vital to our campus given how they provide spiritual counsel and a fatherly or motherly role to those students who are living away from home. Those who are CLC members in good standing and are able and willing to fill this position may contact ILC President Daniel Schierenbeck (dan.schierenbeck@ilc.edu/660.864.9231) for more information about the responsibilities and compensation for this position. An application is available online at ilc.edu > Forms and Applications > ILC Employment Application. Review of applications begins April 1.

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USHERS 03/10 Kendall B., Larry B.
03/17 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.
03/24 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.

CLEANING (Wk. 1) The Voits
The Ruthenbecks