

## The Third 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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[www.okabenalutheran.org](http://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** 354 *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

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

**Epistle Lesson** 1 Corinthians 1:18–31 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.”

Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.”

**Sunday School** *“Children of the Heavenly Father”*

**Gospel Lesson** John 2:13–25 Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers’ money and overturned the tables. And He said to those who sold doves, “Take these things away! Do not make My Father’s house a house of merchandise!” Then His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.” So the Jews answered and said to Him, “What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?” Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?"

But He was speaking of the temple of His body. Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.

Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.

**Hymn** 175 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

**Sermon** Hosea 2:14-16 [EHV] But watch! I am going to court her. I will bring her into the wilderness. I will speak tenderly to her. There I will give her vineyards back to her. The Valley of Achor will be a door of hope. She will respond there as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up from the land of Egypt. In that day, declares the Lord, this is what will take place: You will call me "my husband." You will no longer call me "my master."

## God's Way...

**Offering of Thankful Hearts**

**Choir** *Without His Cross*

**Hymn** 416 *Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways*

**Prayer + The Lord's Prayer**

**The Benediction**

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

**LENT** We have passed the half-way point of our Lenten Services. Our series is entitled, God on Trial. Last week we heard the testimonies of Jesus and Peter. This week we'll consider some of the misconceptions in the case. 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.

**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 the call to Mankato. Teacher Matthew Thurow, Inver Grove Heights, MN has accepted the ILC call. Teacher Matthew Kranz, Mankato, has the call to Eau Claire. Teacher Levi Schaller, Fridley, has returned the call to Markesan, and 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.

**ManUp!** Registration is open for the 2024 ManUp! Weekend, which will be held on September 26-29, 2024, at beautiful Wyalusing State Park near Prairie du Chien, WI. The weekend will offer strength and encouragement for men 18 and older for their personal faith, family, and fellowship at church. The weekend will include Bible study, fellowship, leadership training, team building, relationship building, worship, and many outdoor bonding activities.

Register and send in your payment before August 31 for the discounted rate of \$75. Registration (includes lodging and meals) increases to \$150 on and after September 1st. <http://www.manup.clclutheran.org>.

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

**CLEANING** (Wk. 4) C. Ahrens, The Fogelmans  
The Voits