

June 16, 2024

Vol. XXVI No. 24

The Third Sunday after Trinity

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

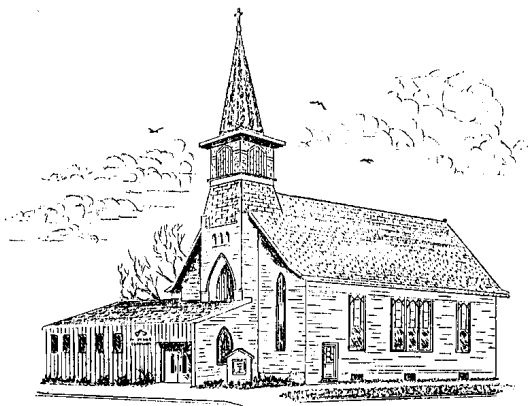
James Albrecht, Pastor – 507-351-8584

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 4 *God Himself is Present*

Epistle Lesson 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Gospel Lesson Mark 4:26-34 And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

Then He said, "To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it? It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade."

And with many such parables He spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it. But without a parable He did not speak to them. And when they were alone, He explained all things to His disciples.

Hymn 574 *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

Sermon Ezekiel 17:22-24 This is what the Lord God says. I myself will take part of the tip of the cedar and plant it. From the topmost of its shoots I will pluck off a tender sprig, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the high mountain of Israel I will plant it. It will produce branches, bear fruit, and become a magnificent cedar. Flying birds of every kind will live under it. In the shelter of its branches they will nest. Then all the trees in the countryside will know that I, the Lord, bring down the high tree and raise up the low tree, that I make the green tree dry up, and I make the dried-up tree blossom. I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will carry it out.

A Tree Story Unlike All Others...

The Offering

Hymn 293 *O Holy Spirit, Grant us Grace*

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

Hymn 789 *Consider How the Birds Above*

MISSION SOCIETY Our Pre-Fourth of July planning session will take place immediately after this morning's service. All are welcome to attend.

CONVENTION Craig Ahrens, Phil Strike, and the pastor will be in Eau Claire from Thursday morning through Sunday afternoon. Our two delegates will provide an overview of the work that the Convention is charged with after the service this morning. This will be your chance to express your personal concerns to them ahead of the synod meetings. Convention sessions will be livestreamed. Visit www.ilc.edu and click on "View Live Events."

SUBSCRIPTIONS In addition to The Lutheran Spokesman and Daily Rest, please indicate if you'd like to receive Meditations.

COMMUNION The pastor and Jolene will be at a family gathering over Sunday, June 30. The Elders approved moving Communion to the first Sunday in July.

Also, due to the timing of Vacation Bible School, our July celebration of the Lord's Supper will be moved to the first Sunday in August.

It is hoped that the scheduling changes will not cause an inconvenience for anyone. The pastor is always happy to offer private Communion as well.

CLEANING SCHEDULE The current schedule winds down after July 21. If you'd like to be added or removed from the list, please let Connie DeWall know as soon as possible: (507) 841-0689. We very much appreciate the work she does with this each year.

CLOTHING The St. John's clothing order deadline is June 23. Besides looking up the website there is a QR code on the clothing order posters both in the church entryway by the classrooms and the basement bulletin board.

VBS REGISTRATION Registration for Bible School (July 22-26) is now open on our website. Be sure to sign up your own children and invite your neighbors as well.

VBS PARADE Anyone interested in assembling, riding, or driving the St. John's parade float at the Blue Heron Days in Heron Lake or the Fourth of July in Okabena please talk to Ruth Eigenberg.

If you'd like to donate candy that will be handed out in the parades this summer, a box will be placed in the entryway. If you'd like to help in a different way, please see the sign-up sheet.

CLC NEWS Pastor Sam Rodebaugh, St. Louis, has the call to Sleepy Eye. Pastor Luke Bernthal, Mountain View/Hayward, CA has the call to Hales Corners, WI.

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USHERS 06/16 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.
06/23 Kendall B., Larry B.
06/30 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.

CLEANING (Wk. 3) The Ruthenbecks
J. Appel, S. Winters, J. Zuehlke