

The Sixth 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*

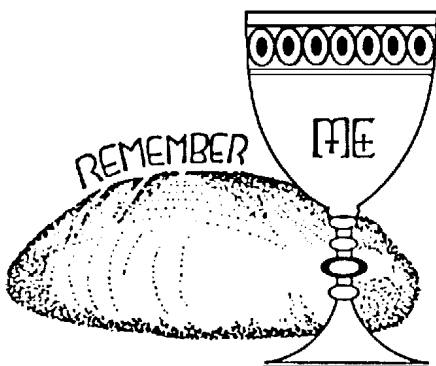
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[www.okabenalutheran.org](http://www.okabenalutheran.org)



**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. Kathy Lueck

**Hymn** 512:1-3, 5-6 *O Christ, Our True and Only Light*

**Old Testament Lesson** Ezekiel 2:1–5 [EHV] He said to me, “Son of man, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.” The Spirit entered into me as He spoke to me and brought me up to my feet. Then I heard Him speaking to me.

He said to me, “Son of man, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to disloyal nations, who have been disloyal to Me. They and their fathers have rebelled against Me to this very day. These children of Mine are brazen-faced and hard-hearted. I am sending you to them, and you are to tell them that this is what the Lord God says. Then, whether they listen or do not listen—for they are a rebellious house—then they will know that a prophet has been among them.

**Gospel Lesson** Mark 6:1–13 Jesus left there and went to his hometown. His disciples followed him. When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue. Many who heard him were amazed. They asked, “Where did this Man learn these things? What is this wisdom that has been given to this Man? How is it that miracles such as these are performed by His hands? Isn’t this the carpenter, the Son of Mary and the brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And aren’t His sisters here with us?” And they took offense at Him.

Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in His hometown and among His own relatives and in His own house.” He could not do any miracles there except to lay His hands on a few sick people and heal them. He was amazed at their unbelief. Then He went around the villages teaching.

Jesus called the Twelve and began to send them out two by two. He gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He instructed them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their money belts. They were to put on sandals but not to wear two coats. He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that area. Any place that will not receive you or listen to you, as you leave there, shake off the dust that is under your feet as a testimony against them.”

They went out and preached that people should repent. They also drove out many demons. They anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

## Hymn *On Eagles' Wings*

**Sermon** 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me.

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

# When is a Thorn Better than a Crown?

## The Offering

## The Communion Liturgy

Distribution Hymns 755, 751, 315

Closing Hymn 39:1-3 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

**COMMUNION** The Bible tells us to be "*perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*" One way that unity is expressed is by communing together. For that reason, we ask that anyone who has not established this unity through membership in a CLC congregation, speak with the pastor or one of the Elders before coming to the Lord's Table. We hold this position in loving obedience to the Word of God. This is by no

means a judgment of anyone's Christian faith, sincerity, or standing before God.

**FOURTH OF JULY** Thanks to all who donated ice cream, toppings, supplies, and your time and efforts for the ice cream social. Despite the weather, the turnout was great! 15 buckets were served.

**CLOTHING** The order deadline is at midnight tonight. Some of the options available are printed on a sheet that is posted by the steps going up into the school. Contact Ruth Eigenberg with any questions.

**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.

**SPOKESMAN** Subscribers should have received a copy of the Spokesman this past week. Unfortunately, the issue that went out was a repeat of the June issue. The good news is that you have another copy to give away. The bad news is that the July edition will be late. The editor has apologized for the mix-up.

**VBS** Registration for Bible School (July 22-26) is now open on our website. Anyone interested in assembling, riding, or driving the St. John's parade float on the Fourth please talk to Ruth Eigenberg.

**CLC NEWS** Pastor Aaron Ude, Rapid City, SD 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** 07/07 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.  
07/23 Kendall B., Larry B.  
06/30 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.

**CLEANING** (Wk. 2) J. Kazemba, J. Thaemlitz  
S. Aden, L. Baumann, B. Dronen, L. Ferguson