

## The Thirteenth 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*

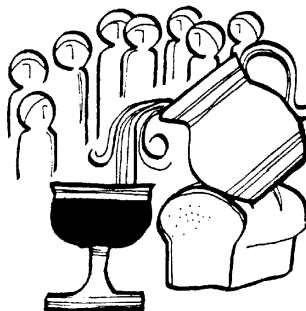
James Albrecht, Pastor – 507-351-8584

Lana Strike, Upper Grades – 507-360-9491

Ruth Eigenberg, Lower Grades – 507-360-7725

Church/School Phone – 507-853-4550

[www.okabenalutheran.org](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.

**Organist** Mrs. Kathy Lueck

**Hymn** 258 *Lord of Our Life and God of Our Salvation*

**Order of Service** Page 15ff. in The Lutheran Hymnal

**Epistle Lesson** Romans 7:14-20 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

**Gospel Lesson** Mark 7:1-13 Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem. Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault. For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, like the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches.

Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?”

He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’

For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.”

He said to them, “All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ But you say, ‘If a man says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban”—’ (that is, a gift to God), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

**Hymn** 326 *Lord, to Thee I Make Confession*

**Sermon** Isaiah 29:11-19 [EHV] For you this whole vision has become like the words of a sealed scroll. If you give it to someone who can read, and you say, "Read this, please," he will say, "I can't. It is sealed." And if you give it to someone who cannot read, and you say, "Read this, please," he will say, "I can't read."

The Lord says:

These people approach Me with their words,  
and they honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me.  
Their worship of Me is nothing but commandments taught by men.  
So watch how I will continue to amaze these people  
with amazing, extraordinary things.  
The wisdom of the wise will perish,  
and the intelligence of the intelligent will be hidden.  
Woe to those who try to hide their plans from the Lord.  
Their deeds are done in darkness, and they think that no one sees them  
or knows what they are doing.  
You turn things upside down!  
Should the Potter be treated like clay?  
Should the thing that was made say to its Maker, "You didn't make me"?  
Should the creation say to the Creator, "You know nothing"?

Isn't it true that in a very short time  
Lebanon will be turned into a fertile field,  
and the fertile field will seem like a forest?  
On that day, the deaf will hear the words from a book,  
and out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see.  
The humble will rejoice in the Lord once again,  
and the poor will delight in the Holy One of Israel.

## **The Light of the Gospel Reveals The Darkness of Unbelief**

**The Offering**

**The Communion Liturgy**

**Distribution Hymns** 755, 799, 751, 744

**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. We therefore ask that anyone who has not established this unity through membership in a CLC congregation first schedule a meeting with the pastor before communing. We hold this position in loving obedience to the Word of God, not in judgment of anyone's Christian faith, sincerity, or standing before the Lord.

**FEEDING/PLAY ROOM** The Ladies Aid is working on a project to turn the middle room downstairs into a feeding room/playroom for babies and kids. They are looking for some items to complete the room. If you have one of these, please contact Mary Albrecht.

- changing table
- sound machine
- rockers/glider chairs
- baby/toddler books
- a few baby and toddler toys

**FALL SCHEDULE** Our Fall Sunday School/Bible Class season begins on September 8, two weeks from today.

**MISSION FESTIVAL** Pastor Joe Naumann from Mankato will serve as our Mission Festival speaker on Sunday, September 8. A potluck meal will follow the service. Please plan accordingly.

**CLC NEWS** Pastor Zachary Sippert, Bowdle/Ipswich, SD has the call to Sleepy Eye. ILC has its opening service this afternoon at 3 p.m. It will be live-streamed. Visit [www.ilc.edu](http://www.ilc.edu) for more information.

Service text and music reprinted and used by permission under OneLicense #A-7126690 and Concordia Publishing House, license #130002755.

Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version® of the Holy Bible, ©1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

**USHERS** 08/25 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.  
09/01 Kendall B., Larry B.  
09/08 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.

**CLEANING** (Wk. 1) The Eigenbergs  
C. Ahrens, M. Fogelman