

Joint Mission Festival

November 9th, 2025

Pastors: Zach Sippert & Paul Nolting

Organist: Lana Strike



TO ALL NATIONS

CLC - Minnesota Conference
2025 Joint Mission Festival



ST. JOHN'S

Lutheran Church & School

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— www.okabenalutheran.org —

✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #37

"Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee"

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
G Amen.

The Introit

Ps. 24:1-2; 22:27

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

- P** The earth is the LORD's and the fulness thereof,
G **The world and those who dwell therein,**
P For He has founded it upon the seas
G **And established it upon the rivers.**
P All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,
G **And all the families of the nations shall worship before you.**

Confession and Absolution

We come before God recognizing we are sinful & need His forgiveness.

- P** Let us confess our sins to the Lord:
- G** **Dear Father in heaven, You are mighty in all You do and say. You have shown Your unfailing love to us even though we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We worship and adore You because You have sacrificed Your only beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, for the full payment and forgiveness of all our sins. As sinful human beings, we often fail to share Your Word and have often been poor examples as Your dear children.**
- Forgive us, Lord, for these offenses, and give us the courage and strength to boldly confess and glorify Your name and Your truth to all. Let us walk before You as a light to this dark world. All this we confess and pray in the name of Your Son, our risen and eternal Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**
- P** Upon this confession of your sins, by the promise and authority of Christ our Savior, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

☞ *If Thou, merciful Redeemer,
Hadst not saved us from this plight,
In like darkness we should languish
Hopeless, helpless, in sin's night.
Lovingly Thou, Lord, didst seek us
In the beauty of Thy grace;
Now with joy we freely serve Thee,
We, Thy blessed, chosen race.*

*Knowing Thee and Thy salvation,
Grateful love dare never cease
To proclaim Thy tender mercies,
Gracious Lord, Thy heav'nly peace.
Sound we forth the Gospel tidings
To the earth's remotest bound
That the sinner has been pardoned
And forgiveness can be found.*

Collect Prayer of the Day

A prayer that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.

P Almighty God, in Your kindness You cause the light of the Gospel to shine among us. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, help us to share the good news of Your salvation that all who hear it may rejoice in the gift of Your unending love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☞ Amen.



Isaiah 60:1-16

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³ And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴ Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you;

your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD. ⁷ All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you; the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; they shall come up with acceptance on my altar, and I will beautify my beautiful house. ⁸ Who are these that fly like a cloud, and like doves to their windows? ⁹ For the coastlands shall hope for me, the ships of Tarshish first, to bring your children from afar, their silver and gold with them, for the name of the LORD your God, and for the Holy One of Israel, because he has made you beautiful. ¹⁰ Foreigners shall build up your walls, and their kings shall minister to you; for in my wrath I struck you, but in my favor I have had mercy on you. ¹¹ Your gates shall be open continually; day and night they shall not be shut, that people may bring to you the wealth of the nations, with their kings led in procession. ¹² For the nation and kingdom that will not serve you shall perish; those nations shall be utterly laid waste. ¹³ The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, the cypress, the plane, and the pine, to beautify the place of my sanctuary, and I will make the place of my feet glorious. ¹⁴ The sons of those who afflicted you shall come bending low to you, and all who despised you shall bow down at your feet; they shall call you the City of the LORD, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel. ¹⁵ Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, with no one passing through, I will make you majestic forever, a joy from age to age. ¹⁶ You shall suck the milk of nations; you shall nurse at the breast of kings; and you shall know that I, the LORD, am your Savior and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.





2 Corinthians 5:14-21

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. ¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

“Entrusting to us the message of reconciliation . . . therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ.”



Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

☐ I BELIEVE...

that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified, and kept me in true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all sins to me and all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead and give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

Hymn: WS #772

"On Galilee's High Mountain"

**Acts 8:26-39**

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that

goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good

news about Jesus. ³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

We Too Are Called!

In order to be successful in our calling:

- I. Listen and Act
- II. Listen and Share
- III. Listen and Rejoice

The Offertory

TLH #496:4

**☞ ♪ Let none hear you idly saying,
"There is nothing I can do,"
While the souls of men are dying
And the Master calls for you.
Take the task He gives you gladly,
Let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when He calleth,
"Here am I, send me, send me!"**

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Hymn: WS #770

"I Hear the Savior Calling"

✠ Responsive Lord's Prayer for Missions ✠

☞ Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

☞ Grant that the Gospel of Jesus Christ may be proclaimed among us and throughout the world in all its truth and purity, and that we and all believers may live holy and consecrated lives to the glory of Your holy name.

☞ Thy kingdom come.

P Grant that the proclamation of the Gospel may bear much fruit, that large numbers of men, women, and children from every nation, tribe, and language may be brought into Your kingdom of grace in this life, and into Your kingdom of glory in the life to come. Bless Your missionaries in far-away harvest fields, as well as fathers and mothers at home, that they may faithfully teach Your saving Word to their children. Through the Word may the Spirit increase knowledge, strengthen faith, and renew the joy of all in Christ Jesus their Savior.

☞ Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

P Grant that we may never forget that it is Your will that *all* people be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Grant that we may always remember that we are to be witnesses of Christ to the farthest corners of the earth. Bless our efforts to proclaim the Gospel both in our country and abroad. And help us to remember that it is Your will that we live a holy life, that others may not only hear our words but also see our good works and give glory to You.

☞ Give us this day our daily bread.

P Grant that we may always remember that every good gift is from You, since the earth is Yours and the fulness thereof. We thank You for the priceless gifts of family and friends. May we always trust You to give us our daily bread, that we may therefore share our blessings with others and return to You a large measure of the gifts You have entrusted to us, that Your kingdom may be spread from pole to pole and around the globe to every mountain dwelling and remotest village.

☞ And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

P Forgive us for all the times we have given offense and so kept others from coming to You. Forgive us for not witnessing about Christ in our own community and throughout the world. Forgive us for so often forgetting that Christ died for us so that we who live might not henceforth live for ourselves, but for Him who died for us and rose again. Grant that we also

forgive those who trespass against us, that we may love our enemies, bless those who curse us, do good to those who hate us, and pray for those who mistreat us and persecute us, that we might by all means lead some to Christ.

G And lead us not into temptation.

P Grant that Satan, the world, and our own flesh may not tempt us to neglect the supreme task of the Church. Grant that we may not be tempted to waste our time while the world rushes toward eternal destruction, that we may never be tempted to squander our money on luxuries and the pleasures of this world and deny to others the Bread of Life. Grant that we may never be tempted to use our God-given talents to our own glory and selfish interests, but that we may always use these talents to show forth the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

G But deliver us from evil.

P Protect us from all harm and danger. Grant that we may boldly confess our faith in Jesus no matter what the circumstances, no matter what the result. Grant that we may be willing and happy to deny ourselves and take up the cross of self-sacrifice that others might live. Grant that we, like our Savior, may be willing to lay down our lives, if need be, that others might live.

G For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing given by God for His people.

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

G Amen!

Closing Hymn: WS #769

"Lift High the Cross"



Thank you! – Thank you to Pastor Sippert and Pastor Emeritus Nolting for sharing the word with us this afternoon. And thank you to all our visitors for joining us for our Joint Mission Festival. Visitors, please sign the guestbook in the entry way if you haven't done so already. All are invited to join us for a potluck in the fellowship hall after the service!

St. John's Veterans Day Program – St. John's School is putting on a Veterans Day program, presented by the school children, on November 11th at 10:30 am here at St. John's. There will be songs, recitations, recognition of veterans, and refreshments. All are welcome!

St. John's Coed Volleyball Team – Christian Kazemba is putting together another coed volleyball team for the winter season. Games are in Windom on Tuesday nights, starting on November 18th and running through March 10th. If you are interested in playing, please reach out to Christian.

2026 CLC Mission Helper Trip – The CLC Mission Helper Program is making preparations for another Mission Trip to Africa for the summer of 2026. The main focus of this trip will be presenting the Gospel, through a series of child evangelism lessons, to member and non-member children in village congregations. Possible areas of evangelism include the CLC–Tanzania, CLC–Kenya, CLC–Zambia, and CLC–Uganda. CLC members are welcome and encouraged to apply. For more information and to apply, visit www.mht.lutheranmissions.org.

Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors' Day is coming up on Friday, November 14th on the ILC campus in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Activities will begin with chapel at 10:05 A.M. in the Field House, followed by presentations and classroom visits until 2:50 p.m. Come and learn more about your church's college, and consider continuing your education in a solidly Christian setting! Visitors will be our guests for lunch and supper in the cafeteria, and in the evening are invited to join

us for ILC's fall theatrical production, *Enchanted Sleeping Beauty*. For questions, contact Academic Dean Paul Naumann. Office: 715-836-6636, cell: 253-228-8736, e-mail: paul.naumann@ilc.edu

CLC Call News – Pastor Michael Gurath of Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran, Phoenix, AZ, has **accepted** the call to Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church, Middleton, WI. <> Pastor Johnathan Schnose of Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church, Morris, MN, has **received** the call to Living Hope Lutheran, Appleton, WI.

Prayers for the CLC-India - The last week of October, **Cyclone Montha** hit the east coast of India in an area where 363 CLC-India congregations and 4300 members are located. 2,000 of these members are from the impoverished and marginalized Dalit tribal colonies. Government aid was announced, but in India, such aid is distributed only by Hindu nationalist party (BJP) leaders in districts where the BJP is in the majority. Christians are routinely turned away when requesting aid, and in some cases, they are physically beaten. Local police ignore the situation and, at times, actually join in the abuse. The CLC Board of Missions has approved Kinship funding to provide immediate, life-saving humanitarian aid to CLCI members who are suffering. You can see pictures of the devastation here: photos.app.goo.gl/pNzVTK3zCed8tMEp8. Please pray that the Lord will protect, provide, strengthen, and give hope to His children in India who are suffering. You can help with this and other humanitarian efforts by contributing to Kinship at: lutheranmissions.org/kinship/ or through your local congregation.

Ushers	11/9	Trevor B, Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R
	11/16	Kendall B, Larry B.
	11/23	Phil S, Nathan V, Anthony F, Daniel R.
Cleaning	This Week – Ling, Sumey, Rovere (wk. 4)	
	Up Next – The Albrechts	

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

November 10th - 15th, 2025

Mon Matthew 21:33-44 Jesus pictures the Jewish leaders as tenant farmers of a well developed vineyard who are unwilling to give the owner his fruit when it is due, even going so far as to kill the owner's son.

Tues Revelation 2:8-11 The Lord points out to the suffering church in Smyrna how rich they truly are! They may suffer for a period of time, but even death cannot take from them the crown of life!

Wed Jonah 3:10-4:11 Jonah reveals the reason he did not want to go to Nineveh. He did not want the Lord to show mercy to them and perhaps have some fruit from His vineyard there. The Lord reproves Jonah.

Thurs Proverbs 23:19-21 A father does not seek to harm his son, but pleads with him to walk straight and avoid the side streets of drunkenness and gluttony. These will not help, but impoverish those walking in them.

Fri Proverbs 23:22-25 Parents desire wisdom, discipline, and knowledge for their children because they want every blessing for them. That is why they find joy in the righteous child.

Sat Proverbs 23:26-35 The son is warned of the dangers of immorality and then drunkenness, which can also lead to it, as both the senses and the mind are assaulted by the "sparkling wine" (v33).

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