

The Twenty-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

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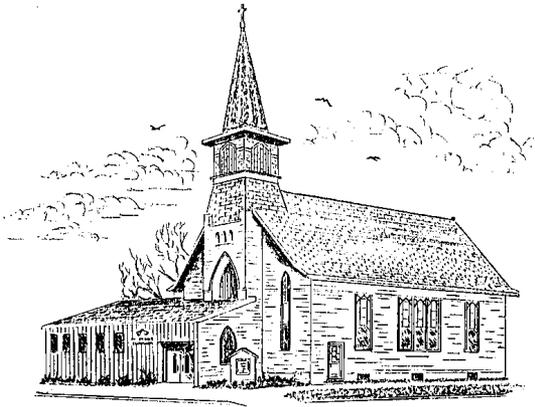
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WELCOME To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world.

Prelude Mrs. Lana Strike

Hymn 354 *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

Epistle Lesson 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. ¹⁵For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Gospel Lesson Matthew 24:14-28 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. ¹⁵“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation, ‘spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place’ (whoever reads, let him understand), ¹⁶“then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. ¹⁸And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. ¹⁹But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! ²⁰And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. ²¹For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²²And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened. ²³“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here *is* the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe *it*. ²⁴For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵See, I have told you beforehand. ²⁶“Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; or ‘Look, He *is* in the inner rooms!’ do not believe *it*. ²⁷For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ²⁸For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

Hymn 604 *Great God, What Do I See and Hear?*

Sermon 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 “But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves

know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing."

Why the Rapture is Not What People Think it is...

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Hymn 605 *The World is Very Evil*

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

Hymn 794 *Jerusalem, Jerusalem*

BAPTISM Jocelyn Fogelman was baptized privately after the service last Sunday. She and her husband, Austin, have completed the membership classes and have applied for communicant membership (to be handled in the next voters meeting). We rejoice with Jocelyn over the blessings that her Baptism brings. May the Lord graciously preserve the faith that He has created in her heart throughout her life!

THANKSGIVING Our annual Thanksgiving Day service will be held on Thursday morning at 9:30. The CDS students will be singing for the service.

CHRISTMAS EVE The recitation parts and songs have been assigned. The first practice will be held on Sunday, December 3, immediately after lunch.

CHURCH DECORATING We normally decorate the church for Christmas on the Sunday after Thanksgiving. It has been suggested that we move this to a different day, possibly a Saturday. Decorators could join in a potluck lunch or supper. We would like to see how many are interested in making a change. A signup sheet will be placed in the entryway.

BABY SHOWER A baby shower is planned for Lauren Albrecht on Saturday, November 25 at 10 a.m. at church.

MISSION HELPER TRIP There are eight young people from our sister congregation in Hales Corners, WI who plan to travel to Africa as part of this summer's Mission Helper program. The trip costs from \$3,000 to \$3,500 per person. The group is soliciting prayers in their behalf and will appreciate any monetary help that is offered from churches in our fellowship. More information is on the bulletin board.

At present, three individuals from St. John's (four, counting Lainy Durst) have also signed up for the trip: Phil and Carl Strike, Jonah Albrecht.

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES The following membership items will be included in the upcoming Election meeting: Application for communicant membership by Austin and Jocelyn Fogelman; receive Sydney Paul by transfer from Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA; transfer Katherine Moffenbier to Bowdle, SD; transfer Darren, Amy, Derek, Lainy, and Dani Durst to Immanuel, Mankato. If there are other transfers to be considered, please speak with the pastor.

UPCOMING EVENTS Please plan accordingly:

- Election Meeting, December 3, after the service
- December 3 – first Christmas Eve rehearsal
- December 6 – first midweek Advent service

CLC NEWS Pastor Andy Schaller, Marquette, MI has returned the call to Mankato. Pastor Todd Ohlmann, our Visiting Foreign Missionary, is posting a prayer request list on his blog: www.missionaryohlmann.blogspot.com. Be sure to check out the current needs.

CLEANING (Wk 3) The Ruthenbecks
M. DeWall, S. DeWall, G. Dukleth