

The Second Sunday in Advent

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 – 507-853-4417

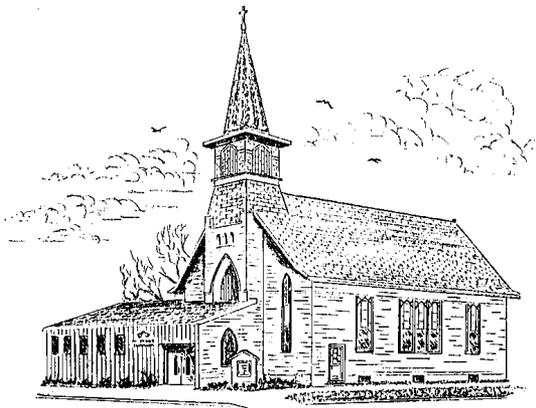
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www.okabenalutheran.org



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.

Organist Mrs. Jennifer Dukleth

Prelude Amber Ruthenbeck

Hymn 68 *The Advent of Our King*

Order of Service Page 5ff. in the front of The Lutheran Hymnal

Oh, come, Oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Oh, come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Epistle Lesson Romans 15:4-13 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises *made* to the fathers, and that the Gentiles might glorify God for *His* mercy, as it is written: *“For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name.”* And again he says: *“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!”* And again: *“Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!”* And again, Isaiah says: *“There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope.”* Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Lesson Luke 12:35-40 “Let your waist be girded and *your* lamps burning; and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. Blessed *are* those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down *to eat*, and will come and serve them. And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find *them* so, blessed are those servants. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Hymn 72 *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

Sermon Galatians 5:22-23 "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

The Fruit of the Spirit is: Peace

Offering of Thankful Hearts

CHOIR *Come, Messiah King*

Oh, come, Oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Oh, come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Come, O come, Messiah King,
Promised Son sent to redeem
Us one by one,
So we may tell
The wonders of Your matchless love,
Emmanuel.

Hymn 702 *As Angels Joyed with One Accord*

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Hymn 97:1-3 *Let Us All With Gladsome Voice*

MEMBERSHIP We warmly welcome into communicant membership: Sydney Paul, by transfer; Austin and Jocelyn Fogelman by profession of

faith. We thank the Lord for bringing them into our congregation and ask His blessings upon our relationship with each other.

LADIES AID The annual Christmas potluck will be held on Tuesday evening at 6:30. All women of the congregation are invited.

ELECTION MEETING The following were elected to office at last week's meeting: Chairman – Ron Strike; Secretary – Nathan Albrecht; Treasurer – Craig Ahrens; Elder – Dr. Steve Sumeay; Trustee – Steve Winters; Education – Brandt Wendland; Finance – Larry Boernsen, Herb Brockshus, Jim Kazemba; Cemetery – Jim Eigenberg. The chairman will also be making an appointment to complete one of the vacated terms on the Finance Board. Installation is planned for Sunday, December 31.

ADVENT The second of three midweek Advent services will be held on Wednesday evening at 7. What better way to prepare for Christmas than by gathering around our Savior's Word and offering Him our prayers and praise! Advent devotional booklets are available on the entryway table.

CHRISTMAS HYMNS You are welcome to list your favorites on the sheet in the entryway. We will try to include them all during the Christmas season.

MHT The CLC Mission Helper Trip to East Africa is slated for July 2018. Three members of St. John's will be traveling: Carl and Phil Strike, Jonah Albrecht. For three or four weeks, they will work in child evangelism teams in the villages of Kenya, Tanzania, and Zambia, bringing the Savior to many who have not heard of Him. Mission Helper Trips not only serve to spread the Gospel overseas, they produce a passion for mission work in those who have been a part of them. If you are interested in helping any of them, please speak to the individuals directly.

CALENDARS Inspirational calendars for 2018 are available on the entryway table. The cost is \$5. See the sign above the basket for more information.

BOOK Pastor Redlin is accepting orders for his latest book: "God's Promise Kept." The 430 page, devotional traces the promise from Creation to Sinai. Its story-like quality lets people be what we are – sinners in need of God's help. The book is at the printer now. Pre-order: \$15, no tax or shipping.

CLEANING (Wk 3) J. Appel, S. Winters
J. DeWall, R. DeWall, T. DeWall, J. Kazemba