

The First Sunday after Easter

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

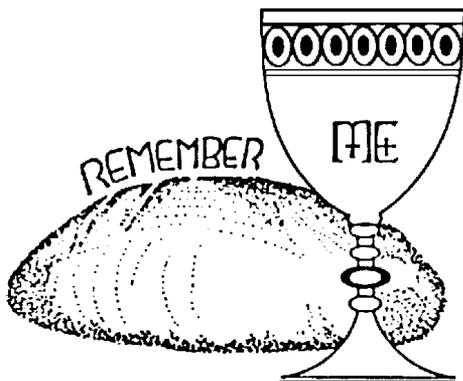
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WELCOME To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. If you are looking for a church home, and would like to know more about our beliefs and practices, the pastor will be happy to meet with you at your convenience.

Organist Mrs. Jennifer Dukleth

Hymn 193 *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

Order of Service Page 15ff. in The Lutheran Hymnal, substituting WS 799 for the Gloria in Excelsis (see below)

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb Who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
And honor, blessing, and glory are His.

Sing with all the people of God,
And join in the hymn of all creation.

Epistle Lesson 1 John 5:4-10 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.

If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

Gospel Lesson John 20:19-31 "Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."

Hymn 198 *He's Risen! He's Risen!*

Sermon 1 John 5:6 This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.

Easter's D-Day Means Heaven's V-Day...

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Distribution Hymns 755, 207, 208, 206

The Benediction

Closing Hymn 206:9 *Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense*

HOLY COMMUNION The Bible exhorts us to be "*perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*" Holy Communion is therefore both a communing with God and a public statement that those communing together believe the same thing. 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 God.

MEDITATIONS Since a number of people ordered the Daily Rest devotionals, we will need to get a list of all who wish to continue with Meditations. The signup sheet is on the entryway table.

MOWING Please inform the Cemetery Board if you are willing to assist with the mowing or trimming this summer. At the time of writing, the pastor was not aware of any volunteers.

CALL The voters elected to call a graduate from the Teaching Program at ILC. The Call Committee meets this Wednesday evening in Eau Claire. There are two teacher graduates and two calls, ours and the school in Clarkston, WA. It is not clear whether both graduates would consider a call at this time.

Five congregations have submitted calls for the one pastoral candidate. They are: Corpus Christi, TX; Spokane, WA; Morris, MN; Bowdle, SD and Ipswich, SD (joint-parish). The Bowdle-Ipswich vacancy will occur because of Pastor Mark Gullerud's upcoming retirement. We've also learned that Professor Paul Sullivan will retire at the end of the 2019—2020 school year.

Financial Aid Applications Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary has a financial aid program that helps students to attend by assisting with loans, multi-student grants, college and seminary grants, scholarships, and work study. While the scholarships are automatically applied based upon academic performance, these other items are provided upon application made by the responsible party. In order to be as helpful and as equitable to all, these forms need to be submitted by the deadline which is May 1, 2019, for the 2019-20 academic year. If any potential student is giving any interest in attending Immanuel, applying now ensures that you will be considered for financial assistance. While applications have already been provided to the families of current students, you may still find them at ilc.edu/resources/ under the heading "Financial Assistance Forms & Info."

USHERS Bruce E., Steve R., Joe L., Nathan A., Josh T.
Kendall B., Kraig B., Larry B., Jonathen L., Jonah A.

CLEANING (Wk 3) The Eigenbergs, L. Ferguson
C. Ahrens, The Fogelmans