

The Sunday after Ascension

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*

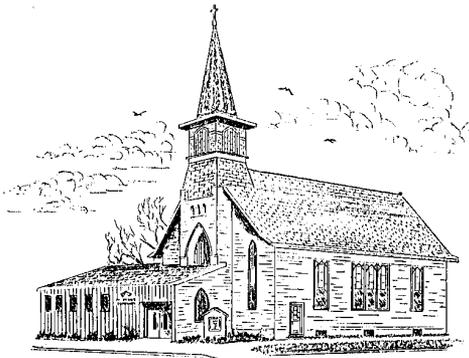
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[www.okabenalutheran.org](http://www.okabenalutheran.org)



**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, 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** 361 *O Jesus, King Most Wonderful*

**Liturgy** Page 5ff. in The Lutheran Hymnal

God, we praise You! God we bless You! God, we name You sov'reign Lord!  
Mighty King Whom angels worship, Father, by Your Church adored:  
All creation shows Your glory; Heav'n and earth draw near Your throne,  
Singing, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord of hosts and God alone!"

True apostles, faithful prophets, Saints who set their world ablaze,  
Martyrs, once unknown, unheeded, Join one growing song of praise,  
While Your Church on earth confesses One majestic Trinity:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God, our Hope eternally.

**Epistle Lesson** 1 Corinthians 9:24-10:5 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain *it*. And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for an imperishable crown*. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as *one who* beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. But with most of them God was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the wilderness.

**Gospel Lesson** Matthew 20:1-16 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.'

"So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and give them *their wages*, beginning with the last to the first.' And when those came who *were hired* about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. But when the first came, they supposed that

they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. And when they had received *it*, they complained against the landowner, saying, 'These last *men* have worked *only* one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.' But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take *what is yours* and go your way. I wish to give to this last man *the same* as to you. Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am god?' So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."

**Hymn** 777 *Amazing Grace*

**Sermon** Matthew 20:1-16

## **God's 'Unfair' Labor Practices**

From Ministry by Mail, Pastor Michael Eichstadt

Jesus Christ, the King of glory, Everlasting Son of God,  
Humble was Your virgin mother, Hard the lonely path You trod:  
By Your cross is sin defeated, Hell confronted face to face,  
Heaven opened to believers, Sinners justified by grace.

**Offering of Thankful Hearts**

**Hymn** 778 *Grace Has a Thrilling Sound*

**Prayer + The Lord's Prayer**

**The Benediction**

**Closing Hymn** 47 *Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise*

**THANK YOU** We owe a special thanks to Dr. Sumey for handling the service today in the pastor's absence. We are grateful that he is willing to use his gifts in this way. The pastor and Jolene are visiting family in Wisconsin.

**CALL MEETING** At last Sunday's meeting, the voters called Mrs. June Schmid of Eau Claire. She is one of the two graduates from the Teaching Program this Spring. Her husband is a Telecommunications Technician and

would need to find this type of work in our area. The couple has four young children. June was featured in The Lutheran Spokesman a few months ago. Her acknowledgement letter is below.

*Dear Members of St. John's Lutheran Church,*

*I have received the call to serve your congregation as a teacher. I recognize this as a divine call from our Lord. I pray for His guidance as I consider this call. I also ask for your prayers for our family throughout this process.*

*In Christ, June Schmid*

**SURGERY** Roger Wendland was blessed with successful carotid artery surgery on Wednesday morning in Sioux Falls. His sister, LaDonna, will have a similar procedure done tomorrow. Alice DeWall will also have surgery in the Sanford Heart Hospital on Monday. Please remember them in prayer.

**SPOKESMAN** Subscriptions to The Lutheran Spokesman are due. The cost is \$14 per year. Please use the signup sheet on the entryway table.

**DELEGATE CONFERENCE** The MN Delegate Conference will be held here on Saturday, June 8, from 10:00 a.m. until 5 p.m. Phil Strike and Dr. Sumey have volunteered to represent our congregation as delegates. The sessions are open to everyone.

**VBS** This summer's VBS will be held from July 15-19. Please think of people who could be invited to join us. If you are willing to help in any way, see Jolene Albrecht or Marj Fogelman.

**POSTER DISTRIBUTORS** In order to better facilitate the posting of information of upcoming events, we are looking for a volunteer from each of the following areas: Okabena, Heron Lake, Lakefield, Brewster, Windom, Worthington, and Round Lake. There is a sign-up sheet in the entryway. Once we have volunteers for the areas listed, we will have a better idea of the number of posters to produce. We hope to utilize this in time for VBS.

**USHERS** Phil S., Zachary S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Ryan D.  
Bruce E., Steve R., Joe L., Nathan A., Josh T.

**CLEANING** (Wk 4) R. Gustaf, J. Zuehlke  
J. DeWall, R. DeWall, T. DeWall, J. Kazemba