

July 19, 2020

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The Sixth 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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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.

Please note that we wish to practice social distancing as recommended by our government. Please do not use any of the pews where the seat cushions have been turned on edge, and reserve socializing for the outdoors. Thank you.

Prelude Mrs. Lana Strike

Hymn 16 *Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word*

Liturgy Page 12ff. in The Worship Supplement

Old Testament Lesson Genesis 4:3-15 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. So the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire *is* for you, but you should rule over it.”

Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where *is* Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know. *Am* I my brother’s keeper?” And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground. So now you *are* cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.”

And Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment *is* greater than I can bear! Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen *that* anyone who finds me will kill me.” And the Lord said to him, “Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the Lord set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.

Gospel Lesson Matthew 5:20-26 For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘*You shall not murder*, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire. Therefore if you

bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.

Hymn 371:1-6 *Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness*

Sermon Romans 6:12-18 Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its desires. Do not offer the members of your body to sin as tools of unrighteousness. Instead, offer yourselves to God as those who are alive from the dead, and offer the members of your body to God as tools of righteousness. Indeed, sin will not continue to control you, because you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Should we continue to sin, because we are not under law but under grace? Absolutely not! Do you not know that when you offer yourselves to obey someone as slaves, you are slaves of the one you are obeying—whether slaves of sin, resulting in death, or slaves of obedience, resulting in righteousness?

Thanks be to God that, although you used to be slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to the pattern of the teaching into which you were placed. After you were set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

Yes, You're a Slave...

Hymn 786 *Take My Life and Let it Be*

The Benediction

Hymn 15 *From All That Dwell Below the Skies*

QUARTLERY MEETING The July meeting will be held immediately after today's service. In addition to regular Board reports, the agenda includes: the reception of our six confirmands into communicant membership, the transfer of membership for Nick, Katherine, and Avery Mofffenbier to Trinity, Watertown, SD; the budget for fiscal year 2020-2021, CDS staffing

for 2020-2021, Trustees report on Security System for the church and school, Dates for Mission Festival and Reformation service, calling VBS and Sunday School Teachers, October meeting date. Additional agenda items should be in the hands of chairman Ron Strike as soon as possible.

SATURDAY SERVICE Please note that our Saturday evening services are held at 5 o'clock. The service is open to all, but facemasks (available at the door) and social distancing are required.

VBS In light of the COVID-19 restrictions, we've adapted this year's Vacation Bible School to allow us to hold classes and do crafts, while maintaining social distancing. Sessions will be held from 2:30-4:00, starting tomorrow afternoon. The VBS will only be held on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. A themed snack will be sent home with the children each day. Participation is limited to our own members (and students in our CDS).

1st and 2nd Quarter

Baptisms: Lylyan Jean Legg, Ella Grace Dingee, Aubrey Skye Dingee, and Laura Elizabeth Simpson on June 22.

Received into Membership: Monte Rosen

Released at her Request: Jocelyn Fogelman

United in Marriage: Kendall Boernsen and Maranatha Wiechmann on June 9.

MAN UP The 2020 ManUp! Men's Retreat will be held September 24-27, 2020, at beautiful Wyalusing State Park near Prairie du Chien, WI, about an hour south of La Crosse. ManUp! offers strength and encouragement for men 18 and older for their personal faith, family, and fellowship at church. The weekend will include Bible study, fellowship, leadership training, team building, relationship building, worship, and many outdoor bonding activities. The cost is \$75, including lodging and meals. You can register at this link: www.tinyurl.com/manup-2020. Visit our website, www.manup.clclutheran.org, for more information, pictures of previous "ManUp" weekends, and reviews of those who have attended in the past.

CLEANING (Wk 1) The Ruthenbecks

E. Bass, S. Winters, J. Zuehlke