

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

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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.

As with other public buildings in MN, masks are required for churches. We also 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. Thank you.

Prelude Mrs. Lana Strike

Hymn 68 *The Advent of Our King*

Liturgy Page 12 ff. in the Worship Supplement

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, comfort My people, says your God.
Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her.
Her warfare really is over.
Her guilt is fully paid for.
Yes, she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.
A voice is calling out:
In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord.
In the wasteland make a level highway for our God.
Every valley will be raised up,
and every mountain and hill will be made low.
The rugged ground will become level,
and the rough places will become a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all flesh together will see it.
Yes, the mouth of the Lord has spoken. [EHV]

Gospel Lesson Mark 1:1-8 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This is how it is written in the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am sending My messenger ahead of You,
who will prepare the way for You.
A voice of one calling out in the wilderness,
"Prepare the way of the Lord.
Make his paths straight."

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him. They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He preached, "One more powerful than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals! I baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." [EHV]

Hymn 701 *Prepare the Royal Highway*

Sermon 2 Peter 3:3-14 Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation.” For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless.

A Lutheran View of the End Times

Living with an End-Times’ Attitude

The Offertory

Hymn 72 *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

Prayer + The Lord’s Prayer

The Benediction

Hymn 705 *Come, O Long-Expected Jesus*

ADVENT The second of three midweek services will be held this Wednesday evening at 7. The potluck luncheon that would normally follow the service has been canceled.

CHRISTMAS EVE PRACTICE Practice will be held this afternoon, at approximately 12:30. If your children are not able to attend, please relay that to their Sunday School Teacher.

VOTERS The Election meeting will be held after today's service. All voting members are encouraged to attend. Extra copies of the Nominations list that was included with the bulletin last Sunday will be available upon request.

LADIES AID The annual Christmas meeting will be held on Tuesday evening at 6:30. Social distancing and other restrictions will be practiced. All women of the congregation are invited. There will be a Christmas potluck luncheon to follow.

DOOR LOCKS If you find the church and school doors locked, you are welcome to use the Ring doorbell on the entrance to the elevator room and someone should be able to let you in. If not, please contact the Trustees or the pastor for the code. You will need to use the elevator entrance keypad to enter the code.

LADIES BIBLE CLASS The class meets every Tuesday afternoon at 1:15 in the kitchen. Currently, the group is working through Genesis. Please see Karen Strike for more information.

CLC NEWS Teacher Matt Thurow, Inver Grove Heights, MN has returned the call to W. Columbia, SC. Teacher Paul Tiefel III, Eau Claire, has the call to Hales Corners, WI. Pastor Michael Gurath, Phoenix, has returned the call to Cheyenne. Since the CLC Convention had to be canceled for COVID reasons, there will be, Lord willing, back-to-back Convention years. The dates for 2021 are June 24-27.

CLEANING (Wk. 1) J. Albrecht, N. Albrecht, C. Ling
B. Eigenberg, J. Eigenberg, L. Ferguson