

September 12, 2021

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The Fifteenth 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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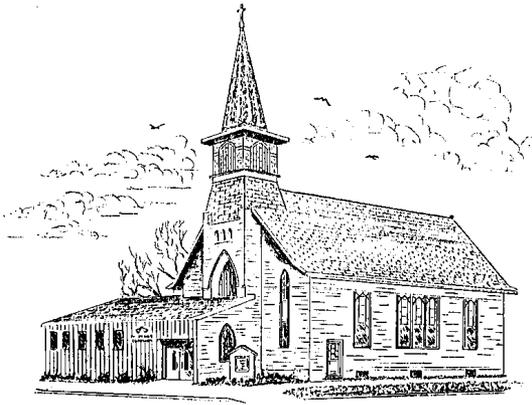
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**WELCOME** To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world.

If you are looking for a church home or would like to know more about our beliefs and practices, please see the pastor. He will be glad to visit with you at your convenience.

Be sure to join us again.

**Prelude** Mrs. Kathy Lueck

**Hymn** 540:1-3, 5 *With the Lord Begin Thy Task*

**Liturgy** Page 12ff. in The Worship Supplement

**Old Testament Lesson** 1 Kings 17:8-16 Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “Arise, go to Zarephath, which *belongs* to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.” So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow *was* there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink.” And as she was going to get *it*, he called to her and said, “Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” So she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I *am* gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.” And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go *and* do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring *it* to me; and afterward make *some* for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.’” So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for *many* days. The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke by Elijah.

**Gospel Lesson** Matthew 6:24-34 “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, *will He* not much more *clothe* you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things

the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble.

## **The Installation of Sunday School Teachers**

**Hymn** 789 *Consider How the Birds Above*

**Sermon** Philemon 1:4-21 I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

## **Mere Coincidence or Divine Providence?**

## Offertory

### Offering of Thankful Hearts

Hymn 529:1-4 *I Leave All Things to God's Direction*

### The Benediction

Hymn 39:1-2, 5 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENTS** Please meet briefly after today's service. Our teachers will be available to answer any questions and to give you the information you will need for the new Sunday School season.

**BOOK STUDY** The Ladies Study Group finished the current book. They plan to begin a new study after the harvest season. Please sign the sheet if this is of interest to you.

**LADIES NIGHT OUT** The next night-out is scheduled for September 21. Be sure to sign the sheet if you are planning to attend so that proper reservations can be made.

**FOAM TRAYS** Our CDS Art Department has a need for the foam trays that often come with certain meats and vegetables. If you have some to share, please leave them in the kitchen. Thank you.

**CLC NEWS** Pastor Caleb Schaller, Eau Claire, has returned the call to St. Louis. Mr. Nick Naumann, who had chosen not to accept a call after graduating from the seminary last year, has the call to serve in Eden Prairie.

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**USHERS** 9/12 Trevor B., Tim Z., Austin F., Christian K.,  
David R.

9/19 Kendall B., Kraig B., Larry B. Jonathen L.

**CLEANING** (Wk. 1) J. Appel, E. Bass, S. Winters, J. Zuehlke  
J. Jensen, S. DeWall