

Reformation Festival

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

James Albrecht, Pastor – 507-351-8584

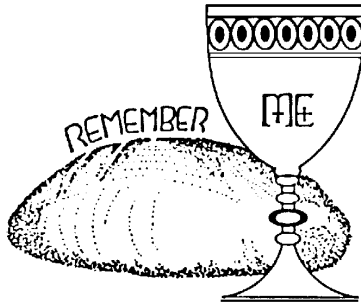
Benjamin Hansen, Upper Grades – 715-491-3837

Lana Strike, Lower Grades – 507-360-9491

Ruth Eigenberg, Kindergarten / Preschool – 507-360-7725

Church/School Phone – 507-853-4550

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 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. Lana Strike

Hymn 261 *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word*

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit:

C: Amen!

P: O Lord, open Thou my lips:

C: And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me:

C: Make haste to help me, O Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and every shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia!

Responsive Confession and Absolution (Insert)

Epistle Lesson Romans 3:19-28 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth *as* a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

Gospel Lesson Matthew 11:12-15 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to receive *it*, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

Reformation Creed

I believe that God desired, planned, promised and carried out my salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ. I believe that this gift of eternal life comes to me only by Spirit-worked faith in the Gospel. I believe that God has

revealed all spiritual truth by His Spirit through His holy, inspired, and infallible Word.

God promises that His Word is eternal, powerful and effective, and that He will preserve and protect His Word and His Church through all time. As Satan seeks to destroy what God has created, God raises up faithful servants and leaders in His Church. These gifts of prophets, apostles, evangelists, pastors and teachers He has used to strengthen and renew the foundation and faith of His Church. Jesus promises that the very gates of hell will not prevail against it.

For these and all other blessings of the Reformation, we lift our hearts in praise and thanksgiving. May we always stand upon Your Word; may we never do otherwise. God help us! Amen.

Hymn 266 *O God, Our Lord, Thy Holy Word*

Sermon John 8:31-36 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How *can* You say, ‘You will be made free?’” Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, *but* a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

The Opposite of Gospel is...

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Choir “*For All the Saints*” -- Congregation joins in stanza 5

Communion Liturgy

Distribution Hymns 755 (add. stanzas from Insert), 262, 387

COMMUNION If you are visiting our service today, please note that we still practice the ancient custom of “close communion.” This means that only members of St. John’s or of a sister congregation in the CLC are communed at our altar. The Bible says that communing together is an expression of

unity (1 Corinthians 10:17) between those who share the same beliefs. In no way is this a judgment upon you or your personal faith.

MISSION FESTIVAL Pastor Luke Willitz will serve as our Mission Festival Speaker next Sunday. Please plan for a potluck dinner to follow the morning service. He will also be conducting the Bible Class at 9:30.

HOSPITALIZED Herman Eigenberg is currently a patient in the Sanford Hospital in Sioux Falls. Alfred Eigenberg has been dealing with several, difficult health issues. He is a resident in the Good Samaritan Home in Windom. Please remember them in your prayers.

Sophie Albrecht will be leaving for Boston tomorrow morning. She will undergo a series of tests in order to determine if she is a candidate for a surgery that would delay the need for a heart transplant. Most likely, the family will remain in the Boston area for at least a month. Your prayers in her behalf are appreciated.

BABY SHOWER A baby shower will be held for Shelby (Ling) Rovere and Megan Sumeay, here on Saturday at 1:30 p.m. All women of the congregation are invited to attend.

CLC NEWS Pastor David Ude, Appleton, WI has returned the call to Tacoma, WA. Pastor Rob Sauers, Fond du lac, WI has the call to St. Louis. Pastor John Hein, Fridley, MN, leaves tomorrow for a two-week Mission Trip to Liberia. Retired Professor Paul Sullivan is suffering from an aggressive and advanced form of cancer. His time of grace will soon end. If you'd like to send a card or a word of Gospel encouragement, his address: 632 Ripley Ave. Eau Claire, WI 54701 sullivanpaul@gmail.com.

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USHERS 10/31 Kendall B., Kraig B., Larry B. Jonathen L.
11/07 Phil S., Zachary S., Nathan V., Anthony F.
11/14 Trevor B., Tim Z., Austin F., Christian K., David R.

CLEANING (Wk. 3) J. Albrecht, N. Albrecht, C. Ling
B. Eigenberg, J. Eigenberg, R. Gustaf