

## The Third 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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[www.okabenalutheran.org](http://www.okabenalutheran.org)

Prepare  
the way  
of the  
LORD.



ISAIAH 40:3

**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** 60 *Hark, a Thrilling Voice is Sounding*

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

Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heaven our voice;  
He from whom joy streameth Poor in a manger lies;  
Not so brightly beameth The sun in yonder skies.  
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!

Now through His Son doth shine The Father's grace divine.  
Death o'er us had reigned Through sin and vanity;  
He for us obtained Eternal joy on high.  
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!

**Epistle Lesson** Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

**Gospel Lesson** Matthew 11:2-11 "And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: "The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. "And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me." As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? "But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. "But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. "For this is he of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.' "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

**Hymn** *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* (Insert)

**Sermon** Haggai 2:6-9 "For thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the Lord of hosts. 'The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' says the Lord of hosts. The glory of this latter temple

shall be greater than the former,' says the Lord of hosts. 'And in this place I will give peace,' says the Lord of hosts.

## The Big Picture of Advent

### Offering of Thankful Hearts

#### Choir *Peace Came to Earth*

Peace came to earth at last that chosen night  
When angels clove the sky with song and light  
And God embodied love and sheathed His might -  
Who could but gasp: Immanuel!  
Who could but sing: Immanuel!

And who could be the same for having held  
The Infant in their arms, and later felt  
The wounded hands and side, all doubts dispelled -  
Who could but sigh: Immanuel!  
Who could but shout: Immanuel!

You show the Father none has ever seen,  
In flesh and blood You bore our griefs and pain.  
In bread and wine You visit us again -  
Who could but see Immanuel!  
Who could but thrill: Immanuel!

How else could I have known You, O my God!  
How else could I have loved You, O my God!  
How else could I embrace You, O my God!  
Who could but pray: Immanuel!  
Who could but praise Immanuel!

Who could but sing, Who could but see,  
Who could but praise Immanuel!

Hymn 69:1-4 *Arise, Sons of the Kingdom*

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer

## **The Benediction**

**Hymn** 95:1-2, 4-5 *Savior of the Nations, Come*

**ADVENT** The final midweek service will be held this Wednesday evening at 7. There is a finger-potluck lunch to follow.

**CHRISTMAS EVE PRACTICE** Practice will be held this afternoon, at approximately 12:30.

**LADIES LUNCHEON** The annual Christmas Potluck Luncheon will be held on Tuesday evening at 6:30. All women of the congregation are invited to attend.

**VOTERS** The voters agreed to establish a brokerage account in order to receive donations of stock. The idea is merely to provide a tax-free vehicle for the donation. Due to the fact that Christmas falls on a Saturday, the voters opted to move the Saturday service to Sunday morning.

The following were elected or re-elected to office: Elder – Allen Jensen, Trustee – Lloyd Kalfs & Josh Zuehlke, Chairman – Ron Strike, Secretary – Bruce Eigenberg, Treasurer – Craig Ahrens, School Board – Coleman Ling, Steve Winters, Finance – Jim Eigenberg, David Schmidt, & Phil Strike, Cemetery – Joe Liepold, Communion Assistants – Jonah Albrecht, Allen Jensen, & Steven Sumey. Installation will take place on January 9.

**THANK YOU** Thank you to everyone who helped support our family at this time of sorrow in so many ways. It is very much appreciated. It also shows our faith and love in God. Thanks again, The Family of Herman Eigenberg.

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**USHERS** 12/12 Kendall B., Kraig B., Larry B. Jonathen L.  
12/19 Phil S., Zachary S., Nathan V., Anthony F.  
12/26 Trevor B., Tim Z., Austin F., Christian K., David R.

**CLEANING** (Wk. 4) S. DeWall, J. Jensen  
J. Kazemba, J. Thaemlitz