

October 23, 2022

Vol. XXIV No. 43

The Nineteenth 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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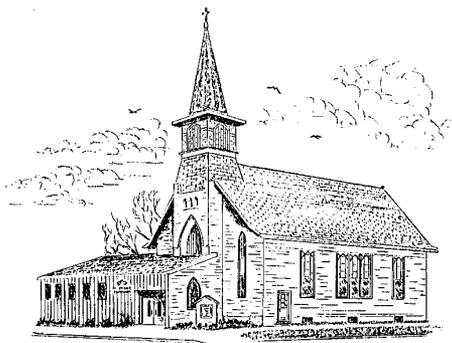
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www.okabenalutheran.org



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.

Prelude Mrs. Kathy Lueck

Hymn 250 *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name*

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 44:9-20

All those who form an idol are good for nothing.
All the things which delight them provide no benefit.
As for their witnesses—they do not see.
They know nothing, so they will be ashamed.

Who is this who forms a god or casts a metal image that can provide no profit? Look at him! All his associates will be ashamed. The craftsmen are merely men. Let them all gather themselves and take a stand. They will be terrified and ashamed together.

A blacksmith uses a cutting tool and makes an idol over hot coals. With hammers he shapes it. He makes it with his strong arm, but he becomes hungry and has no strength left. He does not drink water, and so he grows faint.

A woodworker stretches out a measuring line. He marks the lines with a stylus. He shapes the idol with chisels. He marks it with a compass. Then he carves it till it is shaped like a person, like a splendid man to inhabit a shrine.

He goes to cut down cedars for himself, or he chooses a holm tree or an oak, and he lets it grow strong among the trees of a forest. Or he plants a cedar, and rain causes it to grow tall, but it becomes fuel for a man to burn. He takes part of it to warm himself. He lights a fire to bake bread, and then from the rest he makes a god and worships it. He carves an idol and bows down to it. Half of it he burns in a fire—over that half he eats meat. He roasts meat and is satisfied. So he is warm and says, “Ah! I am warm. I see the light of the fire.” Then from what is left he makes a god to serve as his idol. He bows down to it. He worships it, and he prays to it, “Save me, because you are my god.”

They are ignorant. They do not understand, because their eyes are plastered shut, and they cannot see. Their hearts are unable to gain insight. A person does not take this to heart, so he has no knowledge or understanding to say, “Half of it I burn in the fire, and I bake bread on its coals. I roast meat, and I eat. Should I make the rest of it into a disgusting idol? Should I bow down to a piece of wood?” He is like a sheep grazing on

ashes. A deceived mind leads him astray. He will not save his life, nor will he say, “Isn’t what I am holding in my right hand a fraud?”

Gospel Lesson Matthew 9:1-8 So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.”

And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, “This Man blasphemes!” But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” And he arose and departed to his house. Now when the multitudes saw *it*, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

Hymn 245 *God Loved the World So That He Gave*

Sermon Isaiah 44:21-23 Remember these things, O Jacob, because you are My servant, Israel. I am forming you to be My servant. You, Israel, you will never be forgotten by Me. I am blowing away your rebellious deeds like a cloud, and your sins like a mist. Return to Me, because I am redeeming you.

Shout for joy, you heavens, because of what the Lord is doing.
Make a joyful shout, you depths of the earth.
Burst forth with shouts of joy, you mountains,
you forest and every tree in it,
because the Lord has redeemed Jacob,
and in Israel He will display his beauty.

There is No God Like Our God...

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Hymn 243 *Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices*

Prayer + The Lord’s Prayer

The Benediction

Closing Hymn 792 *Let All Things Now Living*

REFORMATION SERVICE A special Reformation Service by the students of our Christian Day School will be held during the service next Sunday. A potluck meal will follow.

COMMUNION Due to the CDS service, the celebration of the Sacrament will be moved from October 30 to November 6. If that presents a problem with your schedule, the pastor will be happy to commune you privately.

MISSION FESTIVAL Pastor Johnathan Schnose will be preaching for our annual event on Sunday, November 6. There will be a potluck following that service as well.

VOTERS MEETING Minutes will be available next Sunday.

CHRISTMAS EVE We are looking for volunteers to help with this year's Children's Service. Please see the sign-up sheet in the entryway and indicate the things you are willing to assist with.

JOINT REFORMATION SERVICE All are welcome to attend a special Reformation Day service at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mankato, at 4:00 pm on Sunday, October 30, 2022. A potluck will follow the service. You are welcome to bring along a side dish or dessert to share if you'd like.

CLC NEWS Pastor Joe Naumann, Mankato, has the call to Lynnwood and Tacoma, WA.

Pastor John Hein, Fridley, was with thymic carcinoma, an aggressive cancer of the thymus gland. This condition is serious, rare, and challenging to treat.

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USHERS 10/23 Kendall B., Kraig B., Larry B. Jonathen L.
10/30 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F.
11/06 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.

CLEANING (Wk. 1) The Voits
The Ruthenbecks