

CDS Reformation Service

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)



***“YOUR KINGDOM WITHOUT END”***

+ St. John's Christian Day School Students +

**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.

Today's service differs from the norm because our Christian Day School students will be presenting a Reformation Service entitled, "*Your Kingdom Without End.*" Our hope and prayer is that their message of sin and grace, Law and Gospel, life and death, will bless you in your Christian life.

St. John's started its Day School in 1995, in recognition of the church's centennial. Our students are blessed to not only receive an excellent education, but to daily learn how to apply the message of God's Word to their lives. Not only do they learn English, Math, Art, Music, and the Sciences, they learn these subjects from a Christian perspective. Instead of viewing the world as the product of accidental, by-chance evolution over the course of billions of years, they are taught the truth: God created this world in six normal days. His perfect world was ruined by man's sin. God resolved the problem of sin by coming to our earth to live and die as our Substitute.

In an age where it is hard for small, rural congregations to remain viable, we feel especially blessed to have a school. Our conviction is that, even if only one soul is kept in the faith as the result of the Gospel heard in our school, it is worth every penny that was spent and every ounce of energy that was poured into it.

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.

**NOON MEAL** All are welcome to join us for the meal that will follow today's service. The dinner will begin shortly after the service.

**TIME CHANGE** Please remember to turn back your clocks this Saturday night.

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

**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.

**VOTERS MEETING** Zachary Strike's request for transfer to Messiah, Eau Claire was approved. Mission Festival is set for November 6, with Pastor Schnose as the guest speaker. St. John's has offered to host the October 2024 CLC Teachers' Conference (accepted). Thanksgiving Day service at 9:30. Three midweek Advent services at 7 p.m. Christmas Eve service at 6:30. Christmas Day service at 9:30 (no Sunday School or Bible Class). Election Meeting set for the first Sunday in December. Annual Meeting: January 23, 2023. (From the minutes of Secretary Bruce Eigenberg.)

**JOINT REFORMATION SERVICE** All are welcome to attend a special Reformation Day service at 4 o'clock today, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mankato. 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 Dave Naumann, Orifino, ID and Clarkston, WA has been called as the Third Foreign Missionary. Pastor Luke Bernthal, Mt. View, CA has the call to Winter Haven, FL.

**COLLEGE VISITORS' DAY** is coming up on Friday, November 11th on the ILC campus in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Activities will begin with chapel at 10:05 A.M. in the Field House, followed by presentations and classroom visits until 2:50 p.m. Come and learn more about your church's college, and consider continuing your education in a solidly Christian setting! Visitors will be our guests for lunch and supper in the cafeteria, and in the evening are invited to join us for ILC's fall theatrical production, *Is There a Doctor in the House?* Speak with your pastor if you're interested in attending. For questions, contact Academic Dean Paul Naumann. Office: 715-836-6636, cell: 253-228-8736, e-mail: [paul.naumann@ilc.edu](mailto:paul.naumann@ilc.edu)

**WHAT MAKES A LUTHERAN LUTHERAN?** If you asked the average person what it means to be Lutheran, almost invariably you will get the response, "*A Lutheran is someone who follows Martin Luther.*" It makes sense that a group with that name would be following its namesake. But it's not.

Luther was abhorred that anyone should be called by his name. Those who were called "Lutherans" were given that title out of mockery. But the name stuck, even though we don't agree with everything Luther wrote or proclaimed. We are called Lutherans because we believe that Scripture,

(not individuals or church councils) is the first and final authority in all matters of faith and life.

Luther was taught that he needed to make things right with God by the way he lived. He did all the works that were prescribed but never found peace of mind. It wasn't until God opened his eyes through the study of Scripture that Luther understood that salvation is God's work, not ours.

Today, there are plenty of different ideas of how a person is saved. Maybe the most common idea in our post-modern world is that, no matter what you believe or what religion you are a part of, there are many roads leading to the same place. Even many Lutherans have bought into that false idea, thinking that different people are saved in different ways. But that simply is not possible.

The Bible says, "*By grace you are saved.*" Grace is God's rejection of every human effort to earn his own way. It isn't "By grace you will be saved," or, "If you believe with all your heart you will be saved," but "You ARE Saved!" Behind this statement stand the pain and agony, the birth, life, death and resurrection of God's own Son. Salvation is always God's work and not ours. We do not make a decision about salvation or plug our good works into the equation. What we bring to salvation is our sin and unbelief. Through faith, we receive God's gracious proclamation that our every sin has been paid for and forgiven. We do not arrive at that on the basis of our human reason. That is what Scripture teaches and true Lutherans believe.

There are other key differences between the Lutheran Church and other Christian churches today. If you'd like to learn more, please speak with the pastor.

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**USHERS** 10/30 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F.  
11/06 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.  
11/13 Kendall B., Kraig B., Larry B. Jonathen L.

**CLEANING** (Wk. 2) The Ruthenbecks  
J. Appel, E. Bass, S. Winters, J. Zuehlke