

January 8, 2023

Vol. XXV No. 2

The First Sunday after Epiphany

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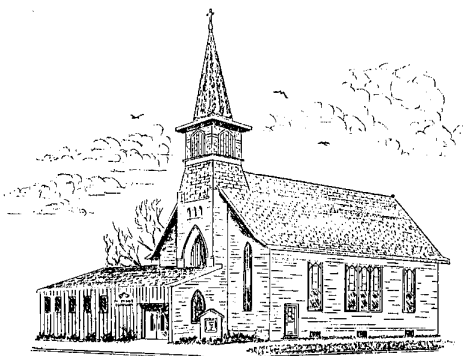
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WELCOME To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of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

Prelude Mrs. Kathy Lueck

Hymn 133 *Within the Father's House*

Order of Service Page 12ff. in the Worship Supplement.

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 42:1-6a. “Here is My servant, whom I uphold, My chosen One in whom I delight; I will put My Spirit on Him, and He will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise His voice in the streets. A bruised reed He will not break, and a smoldering wick He will not snuff out. In faithfulness He will bring forth justice; He will not falter or be discouraged till He establishes justice on earth. In His teaching the islands will put their hope.”

This is what God the Lord says—the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: “I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you...

Gospel Lesson Luke 2:41-52 His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know *it*; ^{but} supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day’s journey, and sought Him among *their* relatives and acquaintances. So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him.

Now so it was *that* after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, “Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously.”

And He said to them, “Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?” But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them. Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Installation of Officers

Hymn 717 *Bright and Glorious Is the Sky*

Sermon Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

You're the Sacrifice... Are You Dead or Alive?

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Hymn 132 *O God of God, O Light of Light*

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

Hymn 129 *Hail, Thou Source of Every Blessing*

INSTALLATION Newly elected officers will be installed as part of the service this morning.

BOOK STUDY The group meets tomorrow evening (in person and online) at 6:30.

DECORATIONS The Christmas decorations will be taken down immediately after today's service. If you are able to assist, your help will be greatly appreciated.

ANNUAL MEETING The annual Voters Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 22. There will be a potluck meal at noon. In addition to the Board Reports, the agenda includes setting our CBP estimate (the amount we plan to send for CLC Missions and ILC), the schedule for Lent and Easter, and the date for the April meeting. Additional agenda items should be given to Chairman Phil Strike as soon as possible.

ANNUAL REPORT If there are address changes for the Annual Report address list, please edit the master copy in the entryway. Also, please double check to make sure that the information we have is up to date.

HOSPITALIZED Roger Wendland is currently a patient in the Sioux Falls Sanford Hospital. Please remember him in your prayers.

THE CHOSEN At the Election meeting in December, the Voters gave their approval to having a fellowship evening that includes watching an episode of The Chosen. This is the historical drama series on the life of Christ. It has been entirely crowd-funded by Christians throughout the world and is available for free. We plan to watch one episode per evening, followed by a discussion of any errors that might appear. A finger-food luncheon would follow. If you are interested, please fill out one of the cards (determining the day, time, and frequency of gatherings) on the entryway table and give it to Jim Kazemba. This would run during the weeks where we are not having midweek services (Lent begins on February 22).

ENVELOPES Offering envelopes for 2023 were placed in the mailboxes. If you did not receive yours, please see Craig Ahrens.

Due to the size of the mailboxes, it is helpful when the envelopes are taken home, vs. being stored at church. It becomes difficult wedging bulletins and other materials in the boxes when the envelopes are stored there. Thank you.

CLC NEWS Pastor Andrew Schaller, Marquette, MI has the call to Fond du Lac.

CHARITY OPPORTUNITY If you are interested in helping the Heron Lake family that lost their home to fire on Dec. 23, you are welcome to leave your gift in the blue box in the entryway (or you may give the money to the Heron Lake Bank marked for the Najera Account). There will be a fundraiser dinner for the community on Jan. 22. All proceeds go to the family.

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USHERS 01/08 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.
01/15 Kendall B., Kraig B., Larry B. Jonathen L.
01/22 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.

CLEANING (Wk. 4) D. Voit, N. Voit
The Ruthenbecks