

The Third Sunday after Easter

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

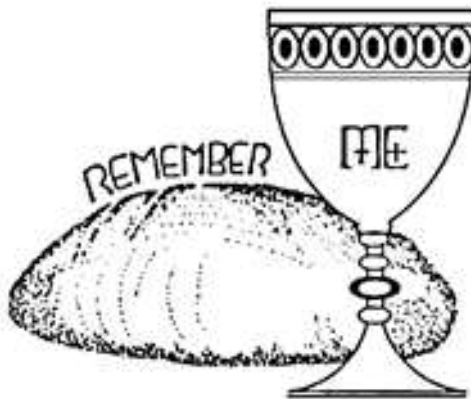
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www.okabenalutheran.org



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. Be sure to join us again.

Prelude Kathy Lueck

Hymn 753 *Let the Children Come to Me*

Ratification The Ratification of Baptism for Logan Allen Rovere

Hymn 752 *Baptized in Water*

Epistle Lesson 1 Peter 2:11-19 Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and *for the* praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.

Honor all *people*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. Servants, *be* submissive to *your* masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. For this *is* commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.

Duet *"The Old Rugged Cross"*

Gospel Lesson John 16:16-23 "A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father." Then *some* of His disciples said among themselves, "What is this that He says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'; and, 'because I go to the Father'?" They said therefore, "What is this that He says, 'A little while'? We do not know what He is saying."

Now Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, and He said to them, "Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'? Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers

the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you. "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.

Hymn 777 *Amazing Grace*

Sermon Matthew 9:14-17 Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?"

And Jesus said to them, "Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast. No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse. Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

Why Some Fast While Others Feast...

Offertory

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Communion Liturgy WS pages 19-21

Distribution 755, 799:1-4, 736, 206

Closing Hymn 799:5 *This is the Feast of Victory*

COMMUNION The Bible tells us to be "*perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*" One way that unity is expressed is by communing together. We therefore ask that anyone who has not established this unity through membership in a CLC congregation first schedule a meeting with the pastor before communing. We hold this position in loving obedience to the Word of God, not in judgment of anyone's Christian faith, sincerity, or standing before God.

BAPTISM Logan Allen Rovere was born to Chase Rovere and Shelby nee Ling on March 15. He was born again of water and the Spirit through Holy Baptism on March 18. The ratification of his Baptism is a public testimony before the congregation of what was done in the presence of his parents and pastor.

May the Lord, Who made Logan His own through the Sacrament of Baptism, graciously preserve him in the Christian faith throughout his life.

BOOK STUDY GROUP The group meets on Monday evening at 6:30. As usual, attendance can be in-person or online.

CLC NEWS Pastor Nathanael Mayhew is considering the call to be the third pastor at Messiah, Eau Claire. Teacher Ross Kok has the call to Clarkston, WA.

WEEKLY SERMON PODCAST This past Advent, Ministry by Mail began offering audio versions of their sermons through weekly Podcast services. You can find these sermons on most major podcast platforms such as Google, Apple Podcasts, and Spotify by searching “*CLC Ministry by Mail.*” Hit “subscribe” or “follow” to receive notifications of weekly uploads.

CLC YOUTH CAMP registration is open until May 31st! Camp takes place from June 11th-17th, 2023 at Camp JIM in Pillager, MN for students 6th-12th grade. <https://youthcampclc.wixsite.com/camp> Email Amber Casto and Sam Rademacher at youthcamp.clc@gmail.com with any questions!

Pacific Coast Women's Retreat “Grow in Grace,” held on October 6-8, 2023 in Cusick, WA (north of Spokane). Questions? Contact Tina Eichstadt, teichstadt@gmail.com or 651-398-2386.

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USHERS 04/30 Kendall B., Kraig B., Larry B. Jonathen L.
05/07 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.
04/23 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.

CLEANING (Wk. 4) S. Aden, B. Dronen, L. Ferguson
The Luecks and The Strikes