

October 1, 2023

Vol. XXV No. 40

The Eighteenth 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

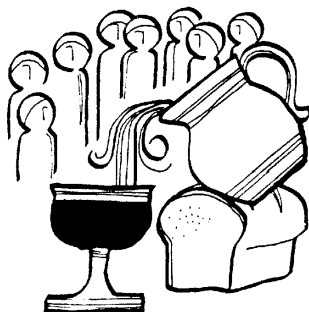
James Albrecht, Pastor – 507-351-8584

Lana Strike, Upper Grades – 507-360-9491

Ruth Eigenberg, Lower Grades – 507-360-7725

Church/School Phone – 507-853-4550

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 Mrs. Kathy Lueck

Hymn 359 *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

Liturgy Page 12ff. in The Worship Supplement

Old Testament Lesson Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 The word of the Lord came to me again, saying, “What do you mean when you use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying: ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? “As I live,” says the Lord God, “you shall no longer use this proverb in Israel. “Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine; the soul who sins shall die.

“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel, is it not My way which is fair, and your ways which are not fair? When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies. Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness which he committed, and does what is lawful and right, he preserves himself alive. Because he considers and turns away from all the transgressions which he committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ O house of Israel, is it not My ways which are fair, and your ways which are not fair?

“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,” says the Lord God. “Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,” says the Lord God. “Therefore turn and live!”

New Testament Lesson Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.

Hymn 294 *O Word of God Incarnate*

Sermon Matthew 21:23-32 Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, “By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?” But Jesus answered and said to them, “I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?” And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘From men,’ we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus and said, “We do not know.” And He said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

“But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’ He answered and said, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said to Him, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him.

The Perfect Son...

The Offertory

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Distribution Hymns 755, 751, 315

Prayer + The Lord’s Prayer

The Benediction

Hymn 361:1, 4-5 *O Jesus, King Most Wonderful*

COMMUNION The Bible tells us to be "*perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*" Communing together is one of the ways we express that unity. If you are not a member of a sister congregation in the Church of the Lutheran Confession, first schedule a meeting with the pastor before coming to Communion.

CALLING ALL SINGERS! St. John's Choir is underway! All high schoolers and adults welcome, no previous choir experience necessary. Rehearsals will be Sunday mornings at 8:30 in the auditorium. Please make plans to join us!

CLC NEWS Teacher Nathan Buck has resigned from his call for personal reasons. Professor Mark Kranz has announced his retirement at the end of this school year, for health reasons. Pastor Neal Radichel, Mankato, has the call to Eau Claire. Pastor Terrel Kesterson, Batavia, IL, has the call to the Calvary congregation in Marquette, MI.

FROM THE CLC PRESIDENT When the convention approved the calling of our third foreign missionary, it determined that the funding of that missionary would come fully from the MDF for the first year. The cost of funding that missionary is about \$80,000. Currently the MDF balance is enough to cover the cost of our third foreign missionary for the rest of this fiscal year and a few other essential projects, but without additional funds, we will not be able to fund other planned projects. The Board of Missions has already put a hold on all other projects including all funding of Bibles and other Christian literature, church building assistance, and many planned outreach projects. We pray that the members of the CLC will remember this work in their prayers and their offerings.

Service text and music reprinted and used by permission under OneLicense #A-7126690 and Concordia Publishing House, license #130002755.

Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version® of the Holy Bible, ©1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

USHERS 10/01 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.
10/08 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.
10/15 Kendall B., Kraig B., Larry B. Jonathen L.

CLEANING (Wk. 2) E. Bass, S. DeWall
J. Kazemba, J. Thaemlitz