

September 17, 2023

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The Fifteenth 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

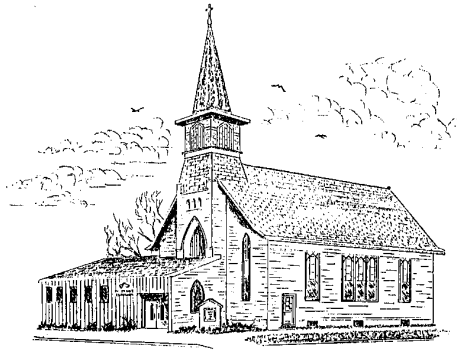
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WELCOME To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of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

Please note that the music for the hymns that are projected on the wall can also be found in either the Red or Tan hymn books in the pew.

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 342:1-3 *Chief of Sinners Though I Be*

Liturgy Page 12ff. in the Worship Supplement

Old Testament Lesson Genesis 50:15-21 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him." So they sent *messengers* to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died he commanded, saying, 'Thus you shall say to Joseph: "I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you." ' Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father.'" And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we *are* your servants."

Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for *am* I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive. Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Gospel Lesson Matthew 18:21-35 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

"But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took *him* by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' So his fellow servant fell down at

his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

"So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

Hymn 652 *I Lay My Sins on Jesus*

Sermon Romans 14:1-12 Receive one who is weak in the faith, *but* not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats *only* vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

One person esteems *one* day above another; another esteems every day *alike*. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes *it* to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe *it*. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written:

"As I live, says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

Things That Don't Matter... Until They Do

The Offertory

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Hymn 763 *At the Name of Jesus*

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

Hymn 342:4-5 *Chief of Sinners Though I Be*

BOOK STUDY The next group meeting will be held on the first Monday in October. There are still copies of the book available. The cost is \$5.00. Please see Jan Voit or Jolene.

SEPTEMBER COMMUNION Lord willing, the pastor will be out of town on September 24. The Elders recommended that our Communion service be moved to October 1. If that causes an inconvenience for you, he will be happy to commune you privately today.

The pastor and Jolene will be leaving for Lynnwood, WA on Wednesday. He will be preaching for their Mission Festival.

CLC NEWS Pastor David Pfeiffer, W. Columbia, SC has returned the call to Messiah in Eau Claire. Pastor Frank Gantt, Atlanta, has the call to Marquette, MI. Professor Mark Kranz will be retiring at the end of this school year, for health reasons.

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USHERS 09/17 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.
09/24 Kendall B., Kraig B., Larry B. Jonathen L.
10/01 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.

CLEANING (Wk. 4) The Ruthenbecks
J. Appel, S. Winters, J. Zuehlke