

Mission Festival

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



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 502 *Saints of God, the Dawn is Brightening*

M: In the name of the Father

C: Whose glory is declared by the heavens,

M: and of the Son

C: Who calls us to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth,

M: and of the Holy Spirit

C: Who empowers us to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. Amen.

Confession of Sins Turn to Hymn 764

M: Gracious Lord, You have preserved the Gospel message throughout history, from the first Promise made to Adam and Eve, until now. Its message of Your love to us in Christ, of Your complete pardon for our sins, and of eternal life in heaven are the greatest treasure we could ever have. With this Gift, come the privilege and responsibility to spread its message throughout the world.

Hymn 764, stanza 1

M: Ours is an evil generation, a culture that is filled with spiritual indifference, a society that has lost its moral bearings. We have not been exempt from its influences. We confess that we have been too friendly with the world and have allowed it to dull our sensitivity and misdirect our priorities. Help us to recognize and overcome the enemies of our faith: the Devil, the world, and our own flesh, with Your Word.

Hymn 764, stanza 2

M: So often we have overlooked the needs of those who live near us and have shown so little concern for those who are far away. There is always so much more we could do to bring others the Good News of their Savior, Jesus Christ.

Hymn 764, stanza 3

M: Gracious Lord, we confess that we are in dire need of Your Spirit's help. We need a heart that loves You more, a faith that trusts You more, a life that reflects more clearly the vast riches of Your love.

Hymn 764, stanza 4

M: Today we especially confess our self-centeredness in our Christian faith.

C: We have so often received the precious Gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ, but we have kept it to ourselves. We have failed to share it with those who still live in bondage to sin. We have been too indifferent, too busy, and too intimidated, Lord, when You have brought other people to

us who have spiritual needs: members of our families, our neighbors, our friends, fellow workers and those who live in our communities. Forgive us, Lord, for being unconcerned about those who do not have the assurance of Truth, forgiveness, and eternal life with You. Forgive us for not sharing the abundant resources You have given us to accomplish Your mission to the ends of the earth. Be merciful to us, for we have kept our faith to ourselves. For Jesus' sake, forgive us and restore us to a joyful life of courageous faith and ministry. Through us, speak Your words of comfort and hope and victory into all the corners of this world! Amen.

M: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake, God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit, who gives us a new life and a new mission, along with His own words and His own power, as a testimony to others. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen. (spoken)

Prayer Heavenly Father, You have called us from many races and tongues to be witnesses of the Good News of Your Son to every nation, tribe, language and people. Help us to share Your precious Gospel with all who have not heard of Your great love for them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen. (spoken)

Hymn 496 *Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying*

Sermon Luke 15:1-10

The Evangelism of One...

Hymn 507 *Spread, Oh, Spread Thou Mighty Word*

The Lord's Prayer + The Benediction

Choir and Congregation *Lift High the Cross*

Stanza One: **All Men**

Stanza Two: All Women

Stanza Three and Refrains: All

PRESENTATION Mrs. Beth Sorensen will be giving a slide-show on her Mission Helper Trip to Nepal. This will start immediately after today's service and will be followed with the potluck dinner.

VETERANS DAY Our CDS will be hosting a Veteran's Day program on Friday morning, November 10, at 10:30. There will be songs, readings, and refreshments. All are invited!

TEACHERS CONFERENCE COMMITTEE St. John's will be hosting the 2024 CLC Conference. The Planning Committee meets on November 19.

MISSION HELPER TRIP If you are interested in serving on next summer's trip to East Africa, please see the poster downstairs.

COLLEGE VISITORS DAY ILC will be hosting its annual open house on Friday, November 10. Meals and lodging will be provided. The Fall Musical will be held that evening.

For students who are not interested in the Teaching or Preaching programs, ILC offers a two-year Associate of Arts degree that covers many of the general classes for most other degrees. There is reciprocity with the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire, and most other colleges have accepted many of the credits.

CLC NEWS Pastor David Reim, Vernon, BC has the call to Marquette/Iron River, MI. Pastor Luke Bernthal, Mt. View, CA has the call to Mankato.

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USHERS 11/05 Kendall B., Larry B. Jonathen L.
11/12 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.
11/19 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.

CLEANING (Wk. 3) The Strikes
D. Ling, C. Rovere, S. Sumey