

## The First Sunday in Advent

# 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.

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. Lana Strike

**Hymn** 95:1-5 *Savior of the Nations, Come*

**Liturgy** page 12 ff. in the Worship Supplement

**Old Testament Lesson** Isaiah 64:1-9

Oh, that You would rip open the heavens and come down.  
Mountains then would quake because of Your presence.  
As fire ignites stubble and as fire makes water boil,  
make Your name known to your adversaries.  
Then nations would quake in Your presence.  
You did amazing things that we did not expect.  
You came down. Mountains quaked because of Your presence.  
From ancient times no one has heard.  
No ear has understood.  
No eye has seen any god except You,  
who goes into action for the one who waits for Him.  
You meet anyone who joyfully practices righteousness,  
who remembers You by walking in Your ways!  
But You were angry because we sinned.  
We have remained in our sins for a long time.

Can we still be saved?  
All of us have become like something unclean,  
and all our righteous acts are like a filthy cloth.  
All of us have withered like a leaf,  
and our guilt carries us away like the wind.  
There is no one who calls on Your name,  
who rouses himself to take hold of You.  
So You hid Your face from us.  
You made us melt by the power of our guilt.  
But now, Lord, You are our Father.  
We are the clay, and You are our potter.  
All of us are the work of Your hand.  
Do not be angry, Lord, without limit.  
Do not remember our guilt forever.  
Please look closely.  
All of us are Your people. [EHV]

**Gospel Lesson** Mark 13:24-37 “But after that distress in those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light. The stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then you will see the Son of Man coming on clouds with great power and glory. At that time He will send out His angels and gather His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of the sky.

“Learn from this illustration of the fig tree: Whenever its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. So also when you see these things happening, you will know that He is near—at the doors! Amen I tell you: This generation will certainly not pass away until all these things happen. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.

“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Watch! Be alert and pray, because you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going away on a journey. When he left his home, he put his servants in charge and assigned what each one was to do. He also commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch. Therefore keep watch, because you do not know when the owner of the house is coming: whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or early in the morning. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: Keep watch!” [EHV]

**Hymn** 73 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

**Sermon** Mark 13:24-37

## Advent Alert...

**The Offertory**

**Hymn** *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*

**Prayer + The Lord’s Prayer**

**The Benediction**

**Hymn** 70 *Hosanna to the Living Lord*

**ELECTION MEETING** All voters of St. John’s are encouraged to attend our annual Election Meeting after today’s service.

**MISSION SOCIETY** The Mission Society met after Church 11/26. We would like to have a Holiday collection for the Helping Hands Pregnancy Center in Worthington. Mary Albrecht will contact them to pinpoint what their needs are and a basket will be placed for donations. The Crisis Center in Worthington was also discussed as a worthy cause. We would like to col-

lect for our Christian Day School via a Giving Tree that Mary Durst will arrange. We would like to clear out the Anniversary Christmas ornaments and travel mugs by giving them away. If you wish you can place a free will offering in the collection plate. A one-day Holiday VBS was discussed for consideration next year. The CLC Mission Board's "Acts of Evangelism" seminar was discussed and endorsed, perhaps as a Mission Sunday offering. The Elders will bring this to the Voters.

**ADVENT** The first of three midweek services will be held on Wednesday evening at 7. A finger-food lunch will follow.

**DECORATING** If you are able to help with decorating the church after the service, your work will be much appreciated. A special thanks to those who came last week to get a head start on the process.

**SURGERY** Leonard Eigenberg's surgery has been postponed. He appreciates the prayers you offered in his behalf.

**BARB FLEISCHER** A few months ago, it was announced that Barb Fleischer, wife of retired pastor Dan Fleischer, has ALS. Last week she had some further, extensive tests done by her neuromuscular neurologist because he was not completely satisfied with the previous data. Although her symptoms seem to be those of ALS, he now believes this may not be ALS. Further tests are scheduled to determine the cause of her continuing muscle weakness which are causing ambulation and other issues. Since Barb realizes many of her fellow Christians are praying for her - which she greatly appreciates - she wanted to share this news.

**CLC NEWS** Pastor Michael Wilke, Saginaw, MI has the call to Marquette/Iron River, MI. Pastor David Pfeiffer, W. Columbia, SC has the call to Mankato.

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**USHERS** 11/03 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.  
12/10 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.  
12/17 Kendall B., Larry B. Jonathen L.

**CLEANING** (Wk. 3) C. Ahrens, The Fogelmans  
The Voits