

The Sixteenth 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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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.

Organist Mrs. Lana Strike

Hymn 19:1-5 *All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above*

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 50:4-10

“The Lord God has given Me The tongue of the learned,
That I should know how to speak A word in season to him who is weary.
He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear
To hear as the learned.

The Lord God has opened My ear;
And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn away.
I gave My back to those who struck Me,
And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard;
I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.

“For the Lord God will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced;
Therefore I have set My face like a flint,
And I know that I will not be ashamed.
He is near who justifies Me; Who will contend with Me?
Let us stand together.
Who is My adversary? Let him come near Me.
Surely the Lord God will help Me; Who is he who will condemn Me?
Indeed they will all grow old like a garment; The moth will eat them up.

“Who among you fears the Lord? Who obeys the voice of His Servant?
Who walks in darkness And has no light?
Let him trust in the name of the Lord And rely upon his God.

Epistle Lesson James 3:1-12 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. To be sure, we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a fully mature man, able to bridle his whole body as well. If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they will obey us, we also guide the whole animal. And consider ships: Although they are very big and are driven by fierce winds, yet they are guided by a very small rudder, wherever the pilot wants to go. So also the tongue is a small part of the body, yet it also boasts great things.

Consider how a little flame can set a large forest on fire! And the tongue is a fire. It is set among the parts of our body as a world of unrighteousness that stains the whole body, sets the whole course of life on fire, and is set on fire by hell. Indeed, every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and sea creature is being tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no one is able to tame the human tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we

bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people, who are made in the likeness of God. Blessing and cursing come out of the same mouth. My brothers, these things should not be this way. A spring does not pour out both fresh and bitter water from the same opening, does it? Can a fig tree bear olives, my brothers, or can a grapevine produce figs? A salt spring cannot produce fresh water either.

Hymn 393:1-3, 6 *From God Shall Naught Divide Me*

Sermon Mark 9:14-29 When they returned to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them, and some experts in the law were arguing with them. As soon as all the people in the crowd saw Jesus, they were very excited and ran to greet him. He asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” One man from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who has a spirit that makes him unable to speak. Wherever it seizes him, it throws him down, and¹⁹ he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive it out, but they could not.” “O unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied. “How long will I be with you? How long will I put up with you? Bring him to me.” They brought the boy to Jesus. As soon as the spirit saw him, it threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell on the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has this been happening to him?” “From childhood,” he said. “It has often thrown him into the fire and into the water to kill him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

“If you can?” Jesus said to him. “All things are possible for the one who believes.” The child’s father immediately cried out and said with tears, “I do believe. Help me with my unbelief!” When Jesus saw that a crowd was quickly gathering, he rebuked the unclean spirit. “You mute and deaf spirit,” he said, “I command you to come out of him and never enter him again!” The spirit screamed, shook the boy violently, and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many of them said, “He’s dead!” But Jesus took him by the hand, raised him up, and he stood up.

When Jesus went into a house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why were we not able to drive it out?” He said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out, except by prayer and fasting.”

Spiritual Turf Wars...

The Offering

Hymn 384 *Oh, How Great is Thy Compassion*

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

Hymn *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

HEALTH UPDATE This past Wednesday, Dr. Sumeiy was shown the scans that were taken of his abdomen, liver, spleen, and lungs. The cancer is so extensive and is progressing so rapidly that treatment is not really a viable option. He is at home where he will receive palliative care. His attitude has been remarkable, a testimony to his faith. Pray that the Lord continue to bless him, Deb, and their family during these difficult days.

STEPS A special thanks to those who removed and remade the steps for the rear entryway to school. Be sure to check out their excellent work! The new steps are made from cedar.

TEACHERS CONFERENCE If you are able to provide housing or food for the upcoming Conference, please indicate it on the sheet in the entryway. If you have any questions, please speak with one of our teachers.

CLC NEWS Pastor Zachary Sippert will be installed in Sleepy Eye at 3:30 on September 29. A luncheon will follow. All are invited. Please let the pastor know if you are planning to attend so that those in charge of the meal have an estimate to work with.

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USHERS 09/15 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.
09/22 Kendall B., Larry B.
09/29 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.

CLEANING (Wk. 4) The Ruthenbecks
E. Bass, S. DeWall