

# East St. Olaf Lutheran Church

6200 County Road 3 SW - Byron, MN

Second Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, December 10, 2017

Rev. Chris Miller   Organist: Pat Nelson



## INTRODUCTION

*John called people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing would get in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GATHERING SONG

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry (ELW 249)*

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

In the beginning was the Word,

**and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

In the Word was life,

**and the life was the light of all people.**

The Word became flesh and lived among us,

**and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.**

## SCRIPTURE SONG

*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (WOV 630 - vs. 2)*

*Light two candles to watch for Messiah:*

*Let the light banish darkness.*

*He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,*

*Gently lead them homeward.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 40:1-11

A reading from Isaiah.

*In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. The Lord will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for his sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of the Lord.*

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,

and cry to her

that she has served her term,

that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!"  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

<sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
and blotted out all their sins.**

<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to you.

<sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go before the LORD  
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

### SECOND LESSON: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

A reading from 2 Peter.

*This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.*

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new

earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (WOV p. 48)**

*Word of life, Jesus Christ, all glory to you!*

*Word of life, Jesus Christ, all praise to you!*

*Our hearts burn within us while you open to us the Scriptures.*

*Word of life, Jesus Christ, all glory to you!*

*Word of life, Jesus Christ, all praise to you!*

**GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

*Glory to you, O Lord.*

*The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.*

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’ ”

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, O Christ.*

**SERMON Rev. Chris Miller**

**HYMN *My Lord, What a Morning* (WOV 627)**

**CREED AND CONFESSION**

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

**We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\* On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

*\*Or, He descended to the dead.*

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;  
**pray in the Holy Spirit.**

Keep yourselves in the love of God;  
**look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:  
**Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!**

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.  
Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.  
Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown, things done and left undone.**

**Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Almighty God have mercy on you,  
forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
strengthen you in all goodness,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.  
**Amen**

### **PEACE**

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

### **OFFERING**

#### **OFFERTORY (WOV p. 50)**

*Glory to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
yours is the promise, the blessing, the birth.  
Ours the rejoicing for Word given frame;  
ours the thanksgiving to your holy name.  
Ours be the telling of deeds greatly done;  
yours be the glory, O God, yours alone.*

Let us pray.

Merciful God,  
**in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you embrace our lives with your great love for humanity. With joy and gladness we ask that these gifts may be for many a sign of that love, and that we may continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

### **THE PRAYERS**

Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people.

We long to see your glory. Prepare our hearts for your arrival by healing divisions in your church and blessing those who work for reconciliation within it. Today we pray especially for these synod churches: Faith Lutheran Church, Delavan ~ St. Ansgar Lutheran

Church, Cannon Falls ~ Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Mankato ~ Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Spring Valley ~ Muhintiri Lutheran Church, Tanzania ~ Maiwut Lutheran Parish, South Sudan. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for your creation. Bring renewal to open spaces, parks, forests, mountains, and grasslands. Restore the creatures and lands that are damaged or destroyed. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We long for your peace. Make places of welcome for people fleeing violence. For nations facing conflict or crisis, deliver relief. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We seek healing for all people who long for justice, freedom, and comfort. Sustain them in their time of need. Be with all who wait for you, who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; *especially...*

East Prayers: Duane R., Kelly A, Lauree R., Maryann, Heidi G., Dianne, Sharon, Cecelia, Dale, Vern, Kevin K., Bill, David, Patricia, Sally, Roland, Carol, John, and Harris.

West Prayers: Bill Tietje (*brother of Carma Bjornson*), Loretta H., Boyd P., Francis B., Al E., Joanne L., Joann T., Gene H., Robert, Danny, Veronica, Philip, and Matt Miller. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for those who are ready to help in times of crisis. Give courage to disaster and emergency response teams, police officers, nurses, doctors, surgeons, chaplains, and all who work for the sake of others. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We are your beloved flock and you are our shepherd, O God. Along with the saints already at rest in you, bring us together as your people under your holy rule. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Father,  
 who art in heaven,  
 hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
 thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread;  
 and forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
 forever and ever. Amen.

**BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
 Amen

**SENDING SONG** *There's a Star in the East* (WOV 645)

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
 Thanks be to God.

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**WELCOME TO THOSE VISITING**



If you are visiting today, we're glad you chose to worship with us. Please sign our guestbook in the narthex. Times for early/late services rotate monthly between East & West St. Olaf.

**DECEMBER WORSHIP HOURS**



**WEST:** Has early service at 9:00 am  
**BOTH:** 10:00 am West JAM/East SS & TLC group  
**EAST:** Has late service at 11:00 am

**THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING US**

**EAST ALTAR GUILD:** Anyone interested may join Altar Guild  
 December 10: Maryann Schulz  
 December 17: Amanda Pyfferoen

**TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTED ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**EMERGENCY CONTACTS FOR PASTORAL NEEDS**



Pastor Paul will be on vacation from Wed., Dec. 6 through Tues., Dec. 12... **FOR EMERGENCY PASTORAL NEEDS please call your council members.**

>>>Council contact numbers are listed at end of bulletin under Church Contact Info/Council Members.

**IMPORTANT DEADLINES TO SUBMIT INFORMATION!**

- **By Fri., Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> by 4:00 pm:** If donating a poinsettia plant, we will recognize it in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Please inform one of the people listed below - please specify if given in-memory-of a lost loved one OR in-honor-of someone special. **WEST:** Cindy Senjem (365-8925) / Sheryl Wohlers (365-8816). **EAST or WEST may email GINA at both email addresses:** east.west@kmtel.com **and** certainty@kmtel.com **OR** leave a message for Gina on church office voicemail (365-8222)
- **By Sat., Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at noon: FIRM DEADLINE** to submit all newsletter info for the January issue... please BE SURE to email to both of Gina's email addresses.

**NEXT SUNDAY: East Sunday School Christmas Program!**



The Sunday School kids will be performing "The 12 Symbols of Christmas" during the 11:00 am church service next Sun., Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> with brunch to follow. *Donations from the brunch will go towards the youth mission trip scheduled for July 22-27*

**Next Week's Readings:** NO reader due to Christmas program: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, and John 1:6-8, 19-28

**HAPPENING TODAY & THIS WEEK**

<b>12/10</b>	9:00 am	West worship with Rev. Chris Miller
	10:00	West JAM / East TLC & Sunday school
	11:00 am	East worship with Rev. Chris Miller
<b>Mon.</b>		<b>PASTOR PAUL ON VACATION</b>

JOINT COUNCIL MEETING at EAST:

6:00 pm each council meets

7:00 pm joint meeting begins

**Tue.:** 10:00 am **PASTOR PAUL ON VACATION**  
East quilting/ sack lunch

**Wed.** 10:00-noon Pastor Paul at office  
7:00 pm BOTH Advent service at West church

**Fri.** 10:00-noon Pastor Paul at office  
4:00 pm **FIRM DEADLINE to submit information regarding poinsettia donations (for Christmas Eve bulletins)**

**Sat.** Noon **FIRM DEADLINE to submit info and reports for the January newsletter**

**12/17 Dec. 17 (Sun.): BOTH East & West have Sunday school Christmas programs during church service**

9:00 am West Christmas program ~ breakfast after

11:00 am East Christmas program ~ brunch after  
East WELCA: cookies Season's Hospice

**COMING UP AT EAST & WEST**

**DECEMBER**

**Dec. 19 (Tue.):** 10:00 am East quilting and sack lunch

**Dec. 20 (Wed.):** 7:00 pm BOTH Advent service at West church

**Dec. 21 (Thur.):** **NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEER DAY at office**

**Dec. 24 (Sun.)** **CHRISTMAS EVE:**

- NO morning services at either church
- 4:00 pm – West Candlelight service with communion
- 6:00 pm – East Candlelight service with communion

**Dec. 25 (Mon.):** **OFFICE CLOSED ~ MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**NOTE: Gina is off-work from Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Dec. 26 (Tue.):** **NO** quilting at East

**Dec. 27 (Wed.):** **NO** class for confirmation, due to school break

**Dec. 31 (Sun.):**

- Worship at BOTH with pulpit supply pastor
- NO West JAM/ East Sunday school due to school break
- **NOTE: Pastor Paul will be on vacation Sun., Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>.**

**TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**East Prayers:** Duane Rasmussen (*son-in-law of Rosie Schwanke*), Kelly Anderson (*friend of Peterson's daughter*), Lauree Rupperecht (*sister of Sue Lantz*), Maryann Schultz, Heidi Guenius (*cousin of Becky Brakke*), Dianne Kearns, Sharon Boelter, Cecelia Miller (*cousin of Yvette Dulohery*), Dale Boelter, Vern Exe (*Pete's father*), Kevin Kubly (*friend of Yvette Dulohery*), Bill Fritts, David Distad, Patricia Lee, Sally Iverson, Roland Rivera, Carol Severson, John Heydt (*Pat Nelson's brother*), and Harris Nelson (*Jerry Nelson's cousin*).

**West Prayers:** Bill Tietje (*brother of Carma Bjornson*), Loretta Himle, Boyd Pew, Francis Bungum, Al Eastlee, Joanne Larsen (*mother of Dan Larsen*), Joann Tiegen, Gene Hyland, Robert Beaver, Danny Linbo, Veronica Riniker (*mother of Donna Larsen*), and Philip Senjem. **Long Term Need for Prayers:** Matt Miller (*nephew of Carma Bjornson and Julie Boyum*).

**CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION**

**PASTOR Paul Thompson:** (*Please call before driving to the office.*)

**On vacation evening of Dec. 6 – Dec. 12...**

Please call your council member for emergency pastoral needs.

Council numbers are listed below at end of contact information.

**SECRETARY Gina Moser:** (*Please call before driving to the office.*)

**Office:** 507-365-8222 **Cell:** 507-951-4964

**Emails:** eastwest@kmtel.com AND certainty@kmtel.com

Please send all emails for Gina to both of her email addresses.

**Office Hours:** Tues. & Thursdays 10:00 am-Noon

**OUR WEBSITES:** eaststolaf.org OR weststolaf.org

**OUR JANITORIAL SERVICE:** Becky Wilbourne 507-923-5845

**COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION:**

East St. Olaf

President: Bruce Peterson: 254-1822

Gary Kearns: 365-8487, cell: 254-5285

Bryan DeCook: 208-1590

**VISITS FOR OUR MEMBERS**

If you know of anyone who may like a call or visit from the pastor or another member, please contact an East deacon:

Rhonda Leighty: 365-8047, Sonya Mansfield: 365-8663 or

Amanda Pyfferoen: 208-0852.