

East St. Olaf Lutheran Church

6200 County Road 3 SW – Byron, MN

November 27, 2022: First Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion

Pastor Paul Thompson Organist: Pat Nelson

INTRODUCTION: *The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

As we await the fullness of Christ's coming, let us acknowledge our sins and failures before God.

Silence for personal reflection

Our indifference to your coming,

We confess to you, O Lord.

Our desire to control time and seasons,

We confess to you, O Lord.

Our failure to be alert to signs of your presence in our midst,

We confess to you, O Lord.

Our lack of concern for those who come after us,

We confess to you, O Lord.

Our injustices toward people you came to save,

We confess to you, O Lord.

In the mercy of Almighty God, I declare to you that God has forgiven your sins, and gives you the grace to know joy in the Savior's coming. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *We Praise You, O God* (ELW 870)

GREETING (ELW p. 203)

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.

ADVENT RESPONSORIES

Holy is the Lord, the Almighty!

He was, and He is, and He is to come.

He is worthy of glory and honor and power.

He created all things; by His will they came to be.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,

Worthy to take the scroll and break its seals.

By His blood he purchased for God

People of every race and tongue, of every folk and nation.

Christ made of them a kingdom

And priests to serve our God.

And they shall reign on earth forever.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that counts the Days of preparation for the coming of Christ. As we light the first Candle on this wreath, wake us up, that we may be able to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 205)

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

A reading from Isaiah, chapter 2:

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 122

¹I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

²**Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

⁴**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

⁵For there are the thrones of judgment,

the thrones of the house of David.

6Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

“May they prosper who love you.

7Peace be within your walls

and quietness within your towers.

8For the sake of my kindred and companions,

I pray for your prosperity.

9Because of the house of the LORD our God,

I will seek to do you good.”

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

A reading from Romans, chapter 13:

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 205)

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of

the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers (ELW 244)*

CREED (ELW p. 206)

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.***

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

...God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

OFFERING (ELW p. 206)

OFFERING PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 208)

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 *Now Thank We All Our God (isometric)* (ELW 840)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is Coming!
Thanks be to God.

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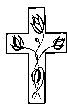
WELCOME! WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE VISITING:



If you're visiting, please sign our guestbook in the narthex.
Worship times rotate monthly between East & West St. Olaf.

Offering: We are again passing our offering plate.

DECEMBER WORSHIP TIMES



EAST 9:00 am worship (coffee always after church)
BOTH 10:00 am West JAM & East Sunday school
WEST 9:00 am worship (coffee before church at 10:00 am)
Christmas Programs on Dec. 18 at both churches, with refreshments after each program.

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING US

Note: Anyone interested may join **Altar Guild**
Altar Guild: Nov. - Darlene Myhre & Sonya Mansfield
Deacon: Nov. - Pat Cahill
Reader: Nov 27 - Rita Distad
East Acolytes: Ushers are covering

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

EAST HOLIDAY QUILTING EXTRAVAGANZA!!!

Join us **Saturday, December 3** from 10am-4pm: Everyone is welcome - there will be goodies, coffee, & cider available too and many, many items for sale!

Gracious Giving for All Things Cozy: There is a need for *women and teen pajamas* at the Women's Shelter in Rochester. As the days become colder and women, along with children, seek a safe place from violence, basic needs of warm sleepwear are needed. Please check the "Giving Tree" in East Narthex, and choose a tag or two to purchase gifts, or select an envelope to donate money. There will be a Mission Moment on Sunday, Dec. 4 from Jeannie T. Come and learn more about one of our missions. Pick up dates for the pajamas and donations will be Dec. 19. *If you have any questions, please contact Rhonda L.*

Beautifying Our Sanctuary for Advent & Christmas



Everyone loves to see our churches beautified with many Poinsettias during this season. *If you'd like to donate a plant, we will recognize it in the Christmas Eve bulletin. **Please inform us by December 13th** (specify who the plant is from, & in-memory of whom).*
EAST or WEST: Email Gina at eastwest@kmtel.com and

at certainly@kmtel.com (if needed, you may call Gina at the church office 507-365-8222).

HAPPENING TODAY & THIS WEEK

Deadline for bulletin information – Wednesdays by 7:30 pm.

Submit any newsletter info by the 20th of each month.

TODAY	9:00 am	West worship/ <u>communion</u>
	10:00 am	NO West JAM TODAY West coffee & <u>West WELCA board meeting</u>
		<u>NO East Sunday school today</u>
	11:00 am	East worship/coffee after church
	NOON	<u>East lunch & East DECORATES, & cleans church a bit for Christmas</u>
Monday	9am-Noon	Pastor at office
Tuesday	10:00 am -----	East quilting/sack lunch <u>NEWSLETTER DAY at office</u> <i>(9:10-print, 9:30-fold, 9:40 collate)</i>
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Confirmation class at West
Thursday	9am-Noon	Pastor at office
Friday	-----	Pastor's day off-work
Saturday	10am-4pm	<u>Quilting Extravaganza at EAST</u> <i>(ALL are welcome – there will be goodies, coffee, & cider available too, and many, many items for sale!)</i>
Sun. 12/04	9:00 am	East worship / <u>Communion</u> , with East coffee always after church
	10:00 am	East Sun. S / West JAM (NO West coffee – chapel is set up for Advent svc.)
	11:00 am	West worship / <u>Communion</u>
		West St. Olaf's ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT
	5:00 pm	Punch/table viewing, then the service at church begins at 6pm

COMING UP AT EAST & WEST

Dec. 5 (Mon.)	9am-Noon	Pastor at office
Dec. 6 (Tue.)	10:00 am	East quilting / sack lunch

Dec. 7 (Wed.)	7:00 pm	BOTH Confirmation at East
Dec. 8 (Thur.)	9am-Noon	Pastor at office – <i>but goes to Kasson Ministerial mtg. at 10:00 am</i>
Dec. 9 (Fri.):	-----	Pastor’s day off-work
Dec. 11 (Sun.)	9:00 am	East worship / with East coffee always after church
	10:00 am	East Sun. S / West JAM
	10:00 am	<u>West coffee to welcome new member Breanna Estby</u>
	11:00 am	<u>West worship / Scott Cocuzzi Baptism & meal afterward for our congregation and family, at chapel</u>
Dec. 12 (Mon.)	9am-Noon	Pastor at office <u>JOINT council meeting at WEST</u> <u>6:00 pm separate meetings</u> <u>7:00 pm joint meeting begins</u>
Dec. 13 (Tue.)	10:00 am	East quilting / sack lunch
Dec. 14 (Wed.)	10:30 am	West WELCA luncheon and Christmas program – West men are welcome too!
	7:00 pm	BOTH Confirmation at East
Dec. 15 (Thur.)	9am-Noon	Pastor at office
Dec. 16 (Fri.):	-----	Pastor’s day off-work
Dec. 18 (Sun.)	<u>BOTH: DAY OF CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS!!</u>	
	9:00 am	EAST Christmas Program (<i>students and teachers be there by 8:15 am</i>), and after program cake will be served
	11:00 am	West Christmas Program, followed by lunch/cake at chapel
Dec. 19 (Mon.)	9am-Noon	Pastor at office
	>>>>>	<u>DEADLINE to submit info for the next newsletter</u>
Dec. 20 (Tue.)	10:00 am	East quilting / sack lunch
Dec. 21 (Wed.)	7:00 pm	BOTH Confirmation at East
Dec. 22 (Thur.)	9am-Noon	Pastor at office
	-----	<u>DAY for PRINTING ALL the holiday church bulletins</u>
Dec. 23 (Fri.):	-----	Pastor’s day off-work

Dec. 24 (Sat.) CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

All are welcome to attend at either church:

4:00 pm Candlelight service at WEST

8:00 pm Candlelight service at EAST

Dec. 25 (Sun.) CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

10:00 am BOTH: ONLY at WEST, but ALL are welcome to attend this service

Dec. 26 (Mon.) 9am-Noon **OFFICE CLOSED** for holiday

Dec. 27 (Tue.) 10:00 am East quilting / sack lunch

Dec. 28 (Wed.) ----- **NO CLASS** for confirmation

Dec. 29 (Thur.) 9am-Noon Pastor at office

----- **NEWSLETTER DAY at office**
(9:10-print, 9:30-fold, 9:40 collate)

Dec. 30 (Fri.): ----- Pastor's day off-work

TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER

East Prayers: David Tvedt, Dalton Mansfield (*currently serving aboard ship*), Dawn Hugeback, Debra Moekel (*daughter of Audrey Carlson*), Keith Roeder (*Paul Jordan was his father-in-law*), John (*cousin of Pat Nelson*), Bill Fritts, Sylvia Torstenson, Heidi Guenius (*cousin of Becky Brakke*), David Distad, and John Heydt (*brother of Pat Nelson*).

West Prayers: Nancy Jensen, Adam Glynn, Ralph Kylo, Loretta Himle, Gloria Brown, Ginny Hyland, Aloma Eastlee, Dawn Hugeback, Martha Beaver, Darlene Hanson, Kelly Keckhafer, Boyd Pew, Cindy Senjem, Philip Senjem, and Matt Miller (*nephew of Carma Bjornson*). **Those serving in our military:** Patrick Reynolds (*grandson of Sue Hyland – deployed overseas*), Erika Smith (*granddaughter of Carma & Ardean Bjornson*), and Tully Hovda (*son of Todd & Cathy Hovda*).

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Cell Phone: 507-273-8504 **Email:** pthomp821@gmail.com

Office hours: Monday and Thursday

9:00 am–Noon... OR by appointment (*Day off-work is Friday*)

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

Office Phone: 507-365-8222 **Cell Phone:** 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:

President: Will Laxen – Cell: 208-5399

Vice President: Hans Estby – House: 365-8600, Cell: 259-8843

Head Deacon: Sheryl Wohlers - House: 365-8816, Cell: 259-5974

Gary Kearns - Home: 206-3158, Cell: 254-5285

Bryan DeCook - Cell: 208-1590 [*President: No candidate this year.*]

EAST: VISITS FOR OUR MEMBERS

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

Jane Williams: 507-271-2272 or Pat Cahill: 507-365-8766.