

East St. Olaf Lutheran Church

6200 County Road 3 SW – Byron, MN

September 26, 2021: 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Baptism

Pastor Paul Thompson Organist: Pat Nelson

INTRODUCTION: *Someone who isn't part of Jesus' own circle is casting out demons in Jesus' name, and the disciples want him stopped. They appeal to Jesus, as Joshua did to Moses about the elders who prophesied without official authorization. Like Moses, Jesus refuses to see this as a threat. Jesus welcomes good being done in his name, even when it is not under his control. The circle we form around Jesus' word must be able to value good being done in ways we wouldn't do it, by people we can't keep tabs on.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG *You Servants of God* (ELW 825)

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.

KYRIE (ELW p. 184)

*Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.*

*For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord*

***Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.***

*That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and
the poor;*

*that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord*

***Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.***

*For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord*

***Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.***

*For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and
the Word;*

*that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord*

***Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.***

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 185)

*Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.*

*Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,*

we worship you,

we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

*Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.*

Lord Jesus Christ,

only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

*Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.*

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

*Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.*

*Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SEMICONTINUOUS FIRST READING:

ESTHER 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

This book tells the story of Queen Esther, who saves her people, the Jews, from the murderous schemes of Haman, advisor to the Persian king, her husband. Haman is hanged on the gallows he constructed for Esther's cousin Mordecai, and the Jews celebrate the feast of Purim to commemorate this victory over their enemies.

A reading from Esther 7:

¹[King Ahasuerus] and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther.²On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." ³Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me – that is my petition – and the lives of my people – that is my request. ⁴For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." ⁵Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" ⁶Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. ⁹Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." ¹⁰So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

^{9:20}Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, ²¹enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, ²²as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor. The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEMICONTINUOUS PSALM: PSALM 124

¹If the LORD had not been on our side,
let Israel now say;

²**if the LORD had not been on our side,
when enemies rose up against us,**

³then would they have swallowed us up alive
in their fierce anger toward us;

⁴**then would the waters have overwhelmed us
and the torrent gone over us;**

⁵then would the raging waters
have gone right over us.

⁶**Blessed be the LORD who has not
given us over to be a prey for their teeth.**

⁷We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler;
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

⁸**Our help is in the name of the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

SECOND READING: JAMES 5:13-20

Marks of the Christian community include praying for those who are sick and in need, celebrating with those in good health, restoring those who have strayed, confessing sins to one another, and offering forgiveness to each other.

A reading from James 5:

¹³Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

¹⁹My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, ²⁰you should know that

whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 188)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: Mark 9:38-50

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁸John said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." ³⁹But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

⁴²"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

⁴⁹"For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life (ELW 719)

PRESENTATION (ELW p. 227)

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Aubrey Nicole Swanson baptized into Christ?

Response: I do.

As you bring Aubrey to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with *her* among God's faithful people,
bring *her* to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach *her* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten
Commandments,
place in *her* hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture *her* in faith and prayer,
so that *she* may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help *her* grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture *her* in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Aubrey, and pray for *her* in *her* new life in Christ?

We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH (ELW p. 229)

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT (ELW p. 230)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, holy God. You are the creator of the waters of the earth. You are the fire of rebirth. You poured out your Spirit on your people Israel. You breathe life into our dry bones. Your Son Jesus promised to send the Spirit to us that the world may know your peace and truth.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and breathe new life into those who are here baptized. By your Spirit adopt us all as your children,

through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BAPTISM (ELW p. 230)

Aubrey, I baptize you in the name of the Father,*
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

**You belong to Christ,
in whom you have been baptized.**

Alleluia.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain *her* with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Aubrey, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

WELCOME (ELW p. 231)

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me
will have the light of life.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission
we share:**

**join us in giving thanks and praise to God
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

We pray for the church and its ministry. Bless the newly baptized... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing (ELW 545)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS019935.

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: You may place your offering into the offering plate as you leave (*no offering plates are passed, due to Covid*).

OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE



WEST 9:00 am Worship (*coffee after church*)

BOTH 10:00 am West Jam, East SS, and coffee hours

EAST 11:00am Worship (*coffee before church*)

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING US

EAST Note: Anyone interested may join Altar Guild

Altar Guild: September – Deanna Bakken

Deacon: September - Pat Cahill
East Acolytes: Ushers are covering

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deadline for bulletin information – Wednesdays by 7:30 pm.
Submit any newsletter info by about the 20th of each month.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism Today



Aubrey Nicole Swanson will receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism today, September 26, 2021, at East St. Olaf. Her parents are Nick & Kelsey Swanson. Her sponsors are Ryan Severson, Phil & Sheri Prisby. *God bless Aubrey.*

Parents of Fall Confirmands: Important Information

- 1.) Email Gina at the office by October 15, with the birth date and baptism date of your student being confirmed (so she can verify our records), for making certificates
- 2.) Photo session for fall confirmands will be on Wednesday, October 27th, starting at West church at 7:00 pm
- 3.) Check with your council president to see who is organizing the gown-sizing for fall confirmands

NO Lutefisk Supper at East St. Olaf

Please help spread that word that there will NOT be a Lutefisk Supper at East St. Olaf this fall. Tell folks to check back in 2022!

Caregiver's Support Group

Dodge Center United Methodist Church is holding support group meetings – offering a safe place for caregivers to meet and develop a mutual support system. Phone: 507-374-6885
Address: 20 First Street NE Dodge Center, MN

Birthday Party ~ You're Invited!

On Saturday, October 16th, from 1-3:00 pm, everyone is invited to celebrate Dale Boelter's 80th birthday at East St. Olaf Church. *His children are hosting this celebration.*

HAPPENING TODAY & THIS WEEK

09/26	9:00 am	East worship and Holy baptism of Aubrey Swanson
	9-11:00 am	West Remodel Sale in Chapel
	10:00 am	Coffee at BOTH/West Jam/ East SS
	11:00 am	West Worship/comm.
	<u>EAST RESERVED</u> from Noon to 4:00 pm today for	
	1:00 pm	<u>Funeral of Clarence Holt</u>
Mon.	9-Noon	Pastor at office
Tue.	-----	<u>NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEER DAY</u> (9:10-print, 9:30-fold, 9:45-collate)
	10:00 am	East quilting/ sack lunch
Wed.	7:00 pm	BOTH: Confirmation at WEST
Thur.	9-Noon	Pastor at office
Fri.	-----	Pastor's day off-work
10/03	9:00 am	West worship/communion
	10:00 am	BOTH West JAM & East SS, and coffee at both churches
	11:00 am	East worship/communion

COMING UP AT EAST & WEST

Oct. 4 (Mon.)	9-Noon	Pastor at office
Oct. 5 (Tue.)	9:00 am	<u>West LEFSE MAKING for the Marketplace Day (sack lunch)</u>
	10:00 am	East quilting/ sack lunch
	6:00 pm	<u>East church council meeting</u>
Oct. 6 (Wed.)	-----	<u>NO</u> quilting today at West
	7:00 pm	BOTH: Confirmation at WEST
Oct. 7 (Thur.)	9:00 am	<u>West LEFSE MAKING for the Marketplace Day (sack lunch)</u>
	9-noon	Pastor at office
Oct. 8 (Fri.)	-----	Pastor's day off-work
Oct. 10 (Sun.)	9:00 am	East worship
	10:00 am	West JAM
	10:00 am	East S.S. has Tie-Dye T-Shirt Day; and coffee at both churches
	11:00 am	West worship with Holy Baptism of Owen Estby

TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER

East Prayers: Leola Rud, John (*cousin of Pat Nelson*), Peggy Andreason, Bill Fritts, Maryann Schultz, Sylvia Torstenson, Viola Olson, Steve Jensen, Julie Andreason, Heidi Guenius (*cousin of Becky Brakke*), Dale Boelter, David Distad, Sally Iverson, Carol Severson, and John Heydt (*brother of Pat Nelson*).

West Prayers: Martha Beaver, Mike Peterson, David Beaver, Ron Dolezan (*Heather Bamlet's dad*), Marian Larson, Diane Himle, Scott Larsen (*friend of Tina Baudoin*), Darlene Hanson, Kelly Keckhafer, Boyd Pew, Joann Tiegen, Cindy Senjem, Philip Senjem, and Matt Miller (*nephew of Carma Bjornson*). Those serving in our military: Erika Smith - (*granddaughter of Carma & Ardean Bjornson*), and Tully Hovda (*son of Todd & Cathy Hodva*).

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: Brian Mueller 252-8078

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

Bryan DeCook - Cell: 208-1590

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:

Glenda Mueller: 696-5753, Pat Cahill: 507-365-8766, or Jane

Williams: 507-271-2272.