

East St. Olaf Lutheran Church

6200 County Road 3 SW – Byron, MN

November 28, 2021: First Sunday of Advent

Pastor Paul Thompson Organist: Pat Nelson

INTRODUCTION: *Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning.

As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.

O house of Jacob, come,

let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

Light one candle to watch for Messiah:

Let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel,

God fulfills the promise.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

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

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our 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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* (ELW 244)

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. 203)

Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.

We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.

Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name – "The LORD is our righteousness" – proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

A reading from Jeremiah 33:

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10

¹To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;

in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love

and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

**⁸You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

**¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

SECOND LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

A reading from 1st Thessalonians, 3:

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Word of God, word of life.

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: Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Holy Child within the Manger* (WOV 638)

CREED

**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

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace † bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (ELW 257)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is coming.

Thanks be to God.

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*).

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE:



WEST 9:00 am Worship service

BOTH 10:00 am West Jam, East SS, (*BOTH-coffee hours*)

EAST 11:00am Worship service

BOTH churches will have Christmas programs on December 19 – and East will serve a brunch after their program.

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING US

Anyone interested may join Altar Guild

Altar Guild: Nov. – Marylin Carlson & Audrey Carlson

Deacon: Nov. – Glenda Mueller

Reader: Nov. 28 – Randy Robinson

East Acolytes: Ushers are covering

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

East St Olaf WELCA is selling lefsa from Countryside Lefsa Makers, just before the holiday season. This is the same lefsa that is served at the Lutefisk Supper. Hand rolled and delicious! You can order a small amount, or a case to share with your entire family. This lefsa can be kept in the refrigerator till Christmas Dinner and it freezes well for future snack times!

Cash or Check on Pick Up Day:

Call Diane to order 507-273-9854 >>> DEADLINE is Dec. 3

Pick Up Date: December 19, 12:00-3:00PM at East St Olaf Church

Individual Packs can be purchased Pick Up Day, while they last.

Individual Packets (One large 20" Lefsa, cut in 6 pieces)	\$ 5.00
Quarter Case: (Six large 20" Lefsa, cut in 36 pieces)	\$ 25.00
Half a Case: (12 large 20" Lefsa, cut in 72 pieces)	\$ 45.00
Full Case: (24 large 20" Lefsa, cut in 144 pieces)	\$ 75.00

EAST: ON-GOING EAST LOCAL MISSIONS

>> Food Shelf Donations in Kasson >> The Women's Shelter
Talk to Rhonda Leighty with any questions.

Contributions

(11/07/) Current \$720, and Sunday School \$28.

(11/14) Current \$1,451.

HAPPENING TODAY & THIS WEEK

NOTE: Dec. communion dates for BOTH: only Dec. 5 & Dec. 24

TODAY	9:00 am	East worship
	10:00 am	East SS, West JAM Coffee hour at both
	11:00 am	West worship/Communion
Monday	9:00-Noon	Pastor at office
Tuesday	_____	<u>NEWSLETTER Volunteer Day</u> (9:10-print, 9:30-fold, 9:45-collate)
	10:00 am	East quilting/ sack lunch
Wednesday	7:00 pm	BOTH-Confirmation class at WEST
	7:30 pm	Deadline for bulletin info
Thursday	9:00-noon	Pastor at office
Friday	-----	<u>East deadline to order Lefse</u>
	-----	Pastor's day-off
Saturday	8:00am-Noon	<u>Christmas Bazaar by Field Crest</u> <u>Auxiliary</u> (at Senior Center on Main Street of Hayfield)
Dec. 5 (Sun.):	9:00 am	West worship & communion
	10:00 am	West JAM / East SS (practice prog.) East coffee hour
	11:00 am	East worship & communion, also <u>East prize-drawing day</u>
	5:00 pm	<u>West Advent by Candlelight</u> with coffee/dessert after the service

COMING UP AT EAST & WEST

DECEMBER:

Dec. 6 (Mon.): 9:00-noon Pastor at office

Dec. 7 (Tue.):	10:00 am	East quilting/sack lunch
	-----	<u>JOINT Council meeting at EAST</u>
		6:00 pm Separate council meetings
		7:00 Joint meeting begins
Dec. 8 (Wed.):	7:00 pm	BOTH-Confirmation class at WEST
Dec. 9 (Thur.):	9:00-noon	Pastor at office
Dec. 10 (Fri.):	-----	Pastor's day-off
Dec. 12 (Sun.):	9:00 am	West Worship
	10:00 am	West JAM / East SS (practice prog.)
		BOTH coffee hour
	11:00 am	East worship
Dec. 13 (Mon.):	9:00-noon	Pastor at office
Dec. 14 (Tue.):	10:00 am	East quilting/sack lunch
	7:00 pm	<u>Early deadline - Jan. newsletter info</u>
Dec. 15 (Wed.):	7:00 pm	BOTH-Confirmation class at WEST
Dec. 16 (Thur.):	9:00-noon	Pastor at office
Dec. 17 (Fri.):	-----	Pastor's day-off
Dec. 19 (Sun.):		BOTH Have Christmas Programs
	9:00 am	<u>West JAM Christmas Program</u>
	10:00 am	West JAM / East SS (practice prog.)
		BOTH coffee hour
	11:00 am	<u>East SS Christmas program - with</u>
		<u>Brunch served after program</u> (by the
		College Fund group)
	Noon-3:00pm	<u>PICK UP LEFESE ORDERS @ EAST</u>
Dec. 21 (Tue.):	10:00 am	East quilting/sack lunch
	<u>Also 10:00 am</u>	<u>Firm deadline - for bulletin info for</u>
		<u>the dates of Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 (as</u>
		<u>Gina will be off-work 12/26 to 01/04)</u>
Dec. 22 (Wed.):	-----	<u>NO class for Confirmation</u>
Dec. 23 (Thur.):	9:00-noon	Pastor at office
	-----	<u>NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEER DAY</u>
		<u>(9:10-print, 9:30-fold, 9:45-collate)</u>
Dec. 24 (Fri.):	-----	<u>CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT</u>
		<u>SERVICES</u> - All are welcome to
		attend at either church:
	4:00 pm	Candlelight service at EAST-Comm
	6:00 pm	Candlelight service at WEST-Comm
Dec. 25 (Sat.)	-----	Have a blessed Christmas! No

services at either church

DEC. 26 thru DEC. 29: Pastor Paul is on vacation – so please call your council members with any pastoral emergencies.

Secretary, Gina will be off-work from Dec. 25 thru Jan. 3

Dec. 26 (Sun.): 9:00 am	West lay-led Hymn Sing service
-----	<u>No</u> West JAM / <u>No</u> East SS
11:00 am	East lay-led Hymn Sing service
Dec. 28 (Tue.): 10:00 am	East quilting/sack lunch
Dec. 29 (Wed.): -----	<u>NO class for Confirmation</u>
Dec. 30 (Thur.): 9:00-noon	Pastor at office
Dec. 31 (Fri.) -----	Pastor's day-off (Happy New Year)

TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER

West Prayers: Martha Beaver, Mike Peterson, 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 Hovda*).

East Prayers: Debra Moekel (*daughter of Audrey Carlson*), Keith Roeder (*Paul Jordan was his father-in-law*), Tom Gard (*relative of Becky Brakke*) Jill Winkels, John (*cousin of Pat Nelson*), Bill Fritts, Peggy Andreason, 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*).

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.