

West St. Olaf Lutheran Church

70640 260th Avenue - Hayfield, MN

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 10, 2017

Rev. Chris Miller Accompanist: Jan Nordland



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 Banks the Baptist's Cry (LBW 36)

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.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak 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.

³A voice cries out:

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

⁴Every 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.

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

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

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

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

⁹Get 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!"

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

¹¹He 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

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

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

⁸I 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.

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

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

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

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**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.

⁸Do 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. ⁹The 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. ¹⁰But 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.

¹¹Since 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, ¹²waiting 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? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

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

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (WOV p. 48)

GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 1st 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.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

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

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

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

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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. ⁸I 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 (WOV p. 49)

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...*

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.

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. 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 (WOV p. 52)

BLESSING (WOV p. 53)

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

WELCA Chairperson(s): Carma Bjornson & Aloma Eastlee (Dec.)

Altar Guild: Wilma Kyllö & Cindy Senjem (Dec.)

Acolytes: Dec. 10 – Anna Bamlet & Nora Bamlet

Reader: Gail Laxen (Dec. 10)

Ushers: Don Alrick, Greg Brandt, Neil Rabehl, and Craig Steinfeldt (Dec)

Deacon: Will Laxen (Dec.)

Stewardship: Wilma Kyllö (Dec.)

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.

WELCA Christmas Mission (Gifts Due TODAY, Dec. 10)



The Women's Shelter will be our WELCA Christmas mission again this year. Just a reminder to leave your gift at church TODAY. Please do not wrap it. Thank you.

NEXT SUNDAY: West JAM Christmas Program!



Our JAM students will perform "*The Friendly Beasts*" Christmas program during the 9:00 am next Sun., Dec. 17, with a light breakfast to follow (*loose offering during the service will benefit the Dodge County Food Shelf*). Please join us immediately following the program, in the Chapel for a light breakfast of biscuits & gravy, fruit, juice, coffee and Jesus' Birthday cake!

Reminder: **NO** Craft Night in December

NO West craft night in December. See you in January!

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Advent by Candlelight evening. Pastor Karna Hagen Moskalik from Gloria Dei Lutheran in Rochester gave a wonderful message at our

service and the fellowship at the chapel made the evening special. It was everyone's willingness to help that made this event happen. Thank you to all!

Update & Thank You from St. Olaf Heritage Association

Our goal to preserve the history of the St Olaf Parish is on going. The cabin itself must be maintained, plus plans to bring history alive with the school room upstairs. We have the annual Ice Cream Social with the program telling its history and the 2nd edition of "The Early History of St Olaf Parish and the Tverberg Log House" has been made available to inform you. Watch for news of the coming library at the parsonage! This has been aided by your financial gifts through the year and the Heritage Day offering. We appreciate your donations and thank you all very much. ~ St. Olaf Heritage Association ~

IMPORTANT DEADLINES TO SUBMIT INFORMATION!

- **By Fri., Dec. 15th 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). OR you 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. 16th 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.

Erdman's Tapes Can Be Turned-In Any Time

Just a reminder that folks should turn in their Erdman's tapes throughout December as they all have to be in by mid-January.

Last Week's Attendance & Collections

(12/03) Attendance: 78. Current \$2,188 and Benevolence \$60.

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

12/10	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
Mon.		PASTOR PAUL ON VACATION <u>JOINT COUNCIL MEETING at EAST:</u> 6:00 pm each council meets 7:00 pm joint meeting begins
Tue.:	10:00 am	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.):	<u>BOTH East & West have Sunday school Christmas programs during church service</u>
	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. 22 (Fri.):** West church RESERVED for wedding rehearsal
- Dec. 23 (Sat.):** West church/chapel RESERVED all day for Bamlet wedding
- 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. 25th - Jan. 1st.

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. 31st.**

TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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*).

East Prayers: Duane Rasmussen (*son-in-law of Rosie Schwanke*), Kelly Anderson (*friend of Peterson's daughter*), Lauree Rupprecht (*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*).

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

PASTOR Paul Thompson:

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

Continued on back...

OUR WEBSITES: eaststolaf.org OR weststolaf.org

OUR JANITORIAL SERVICE: Becky Willbourne 507-923-5845

COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION:

West St. Olaf

President: Carma Bjornson: 365-8660, cell: 272-7627

Vice President: Sue Hyland: 365-8930, cell: 259-3890

Head Deacon: Sheryl Wohlers: 365-8816, cell: 259-5974