

West St. Olaf Lutheran Church

70640 260th Avenue - Hayfield, MN

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, November 19, 2017

Pastor Paul Thompson Organist: Gloria Pew



INTRODUCTION

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope – word, water, bread and wine – eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
(LBW p. 56)

ENTRANCE HYMN *Now Thank We All Our God* (LBW 534)

GREETING (LBW p. 57)

KYRIE (LBW p. 57)

HYMN OF PRAISE (LBW p. 58)

PRAYER OF THE DAY (LBW p. 62)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

The First Lesson is from the 1st chapter of Zephaniah.

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week’s first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
“The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm.”

¹³Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.

Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,

the warrior cries aloud there.
¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.

¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

¹Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

²**Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.**

³You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Go back, O child of earth."

⁴**For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night.**

⁵You sweep us away like a dream;
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

⁶**In the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

⁷For we consume away in your displeasure;
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

⁸**Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

¹²So teach us to number our days,
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SECOND LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

The Second Lesson is from the 1st Thessalonians, the 5th chapter.

*Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return,
we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we
will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters,
you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you
yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like
a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security,"
then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains
come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But
you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like
a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day;
we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall
asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those
who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at
night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on
the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of
salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining
salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that
whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as
indeed you are doing.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

VERSE (LBW p. 62)

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’” The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Sing to the Lord of Harvest (LBW 412)*

CREED (LBW p. 65)

OFFERING (LBW p. 75)

THE PRAYERS

Welcoming God’s reign of righteousness and mercy, let us pray with people of every time and place.

We pray for the church. Enliven its witness in ecumenical ministries, feeding programs, and new ventures. Open our hearts to friendships that share faith, and open our mouths to share your good news. Today we pray especially for these synod churches: Christ Lutheran Church, Byron ~ St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Goodhue ~ Grace Lutheran Church, Waseca ~ St. Paul Lutheran Church, Conger ~ Amani Lutheran Church, Tanzania ~ and Pulguori Lutheran Parish, South Sudan. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for parks and open spaces, for clean air and clear water. Help us protect places where we are reminded of God’s work in creation and find renewal. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have been and are still today enslaved, trafficked, or oppressed. Make clear the needs of those who are silenced by suffering, that we may listen and bring an end to exploitation. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who cry out for healing, hope, or help, and for those for whom we have promised to pray especially...

West Prayers: 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. Bring relief to caregivers and surround those who are lonely with your powerful presence. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for this congregation and the talents and treasures each person brings. Bring new talents to blossom among us, as we encourage and build up one another. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, our dwelling place in all generations, we remember with thanksgiving all who have died in you (*especially*). Teach us to count our days as gifts from you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers and the hopes and concerns of our hearts, O God, as we entrust into your loving care all for whom we pray, 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 (LBW p. 76)

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
Amen

SENDING HYMN *Battle Hymn of the Republic* (LBW 332)

DISMISSAL

Led on by the saints before us,
go in peace to 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.

NOVEMBER WORSHIP HOURS



EAST: Has early service at 9:00 am

EAST: 10:00 am Sunday School & TLC group

WEST: 10:00 am JAM Sunday School

WEST: Has late service at 11:00 am

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING US

WELCA Chairperson(s): Sheryl Wohlers (Nov.)

Altar Guild: Sheryl Wohlers & Jane Estby (Nov.)

Acolytes: Nov. 19 – Nicholas Larsen & Joey Arett

Reader: Sue Hyland (Nov. 19)

Ushers: Steve Arett, Scott Iverson,
Philip Senjem, and Will Laxen (Nov.)

Deacon: Nancy Gulbransen (Nov.)

Stewardship: Dee Rabehl (Nov.)

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDER: Deadline for December Newsletter Info

Just a reminder to submit all info: thank you notes, articles, or reports by NOON on November 22 (*for the December newsletter*).

WELCA Christmas Mission



The Women's Shelter will be our WELCA Christmas mission again this year. Beginning November 26, there will be a tree in the entry of the church with tags listing items needed. Please consider helping those in need by taking a tag, buying the item and place it in the box in the church or chapel. We ask that you bring your gift by December 10. Please do not wrap it. Thank you.

Help Needed to Decorate Our Chapel



We need your help decorating the chapel for Christmas on Friday, Nov. 24 at 9:00 am. Many hands make light work. Please join us!

Save the Date for WELCA Christmas Program & Potluck!

The West WELCA Christmas Program and Potluck Luncheon is December 9 at 10:30 am. Men are welcome too!

Trying Out New Audio/Video System at West



Today we're trying out a new audio/video system at West St. Olaf. Please give us your feedback. We want to make sure people are able to hear and see as well as being able to video tape when needed. Thank you.

West Women: It's Time to Think about Advent by Candlelight



Advent by Candlelight will be December 3rd. Although this seems early, time passes so quickly that we need to be thinking about this upcoming event. There is a sign-up sheet in the church, for those wishing to

attend. Please consider attending this event, as we would love to have you join us on this special evening!

November Food Drive at West St. Olaf



West is having a food shelf drive the month of November. Please bring non-perishable foods and leave them in the container provided in the church. Thank you.

Beautifying Our Sanctuary for Advent & Christmas



Everyone loves to see our church beautified with many Poinsettias during Advent and Christmas! If you'd like to donate a plant, we will recognize it in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Please inform one of the people listed below by Dec. 15 -please specify if given in-memory-of a lost loved one OR in-honor-of someone special in your life: WEST: Cindy Senjem (365-8925) or Sheryl Wohlers (365-8816). EAST or WEST may email GINA at both east.west@kmtel.com and certainty@kmtel.com OR leave a message for Gina on church office voicemail (365-8222)

Last Week's Attendance & Collections

(11/12) Attendance: 89. Current \$1,173 and Benevolence \$30.

Next Week's Readings: For November 26, 2017 ~ Christ the King: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, Psalm 95:1-7a, Ephesians 1:15-23, and Matthew 25:31-46

HAPPENING TODAY & THIS WEEK

11/19	9:00 am	East worship & communion... and WELCA supplies cookies to Season's Hospice
	10:00 am	West JAM/East TLC & Sunday school
	11:00 am	West worship with new audio/video equipment used during worship... please share your feedback with us
Mon.	10:00-Noon	Pastor Paul at office
Tue.	10:00 am	East quilting and sack lunch
Wed.	10:00-Noon	Pastor Paul at office
	Noon	<u>Firm-deadline to submit newsletter info:</u> articles, reports, thank-you notes, etc.
	-----	<u>NO class</u> for Confirmation (<i>school break</i>)
Thur.		<u>OFFICE CLOSED: Happy Thanksgiving!</u>
Fri.	10:00-Noon	Pastor Paul at office
11/26	9:00 am	East worship
	10:00 am	West JAM/East TLC & Sunday school
	10:00 am	WEST WELCA board meeting during coffee hour (to disburse funds)
	11:00 am	West worship and communion

COMING UP AT EAST & WEST

NOVEMBER

Nov. 28 (Tue.):

- 9:00 am-1:00 pm West hosts Synod Zumbro River Pastor's Conference (WELCA serves morning coffee and later serves lunch for this event)
- NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEER DAY at the office (9:10-print, 9:30-fold, 10:00-collate)

Nov. 29 (Wed.):

- BOTH 7:00 pm Confirmation at West chapel

DECEMBER

NOTE: Pastor Paul will be on vacation Dec. 7th - Dec 12th, AND Pastor Paul will be on vacation Sun., Dec. 31st.

NOTE: Gina is off-work from Dec. 25th - Jan. 1st.

Dec. 3 (Sun.):

- 9:00 am West worship & communion – NOTE: there is NO coffee hour at West (due to chapel being all decorated for Advent by Candlelight)
- 10:00 West JAM / East TLC & Sunday school
- 11:00 am East worship & communion
- 1:30 pm West hosts Field Crest worship – WELCA serves 5 dozen cookies after service
- West Advent by Candlelight event

Dec. 9 (Sat.): 10:30 am West WELCA Christmas program and luncheon (men are invited too!)

Dec. 10 (Sun.): Worship with pulpit supply pastor at BOTH

LIST OF LOCAL & SYNOD EVENTS

See bulletin boards for any posters about these events

Dec. 2 (Sat.): 9:00 am – 12:30 pm Field Crest Auxiliary Christmas Bazaar & Baked Goods/Craft Sale at Field Crest chapel.

Dec. 3 (Sun.) Norwegian Lutefisk & Meatball Buffet and Christmas Shoppe at Christ Lutheran Church at Preston, MN. SEE POSTER

TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER

West Prayers: 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*).

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CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday
(10:00 am–Noon... OR by appointment)

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:

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

HEALTH NOTE FOR THIS WEEK

November 13th-19th 23rd is the US Antibiotic Awareness Week, which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) uses to bring awareness of the presence of antibiotic resistant bacteria. At least 2 million Americans die annually due to antibiotic resistant infections. The single most important factor identified in the development of antibiotic resistant bacteria is the inappropriate use of antibiotics, with up to 50% of the antibiotics prescribed either not optimally effective as prescribed or unneeded. **Prevention of bacterial infections is vital, with use of good hand washing, avoiding contaminants (such as covering coughs and sneezes or sharing beverages or food utensils), and good hygiene with protection of the skin which is our body's first line of defense.** So be careful cutting the turkey and have the soap and water (and Band-aids!) ready, just in case! Happy Thanksgiving!