

West St. Olaf Lutheran Church

70640 260th Avenue - Hayfield, MN

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion
Sunday, September 17, 2017
Pastor Paul Thompson



INTRODUCTION

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

GATHERING HYMN

All Creatures of Our God and King (LBW 527)

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...

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 50:15-21

The First Lesson is from the 50th chapter of Genesis.

After Jacob's death, the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

⁸LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;
⁹**you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.**
¹⁰You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.
¹¹**For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.**
¹²As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.
¹³**As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.**

SECOND LESSON: Romans 14:1-12

The Second Lesson is from the 14th chapter of Romans.

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord

of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

VERSE (LBW p. 62)

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to

him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *I Lay My Sins on Jesus (LBW 305)*

CREED (LBW p. 65)

OFFERING (LBW p. 75)

THE PRAYERS

Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

Good and gracious God, we pray for the church. Bless the ministries of congregations in our community. Today we pray especially for these synod churches: Garness Trinity Lutheran Church, Mabel ~ Central Lutheran Church, Winona ~ Redeemer Lutheran Church, Good Thunder ~ Neema Mpipiti Lutheran Church, Tanzania ~ Mwanga Lutheran Church, Tanzania ~ and Gach Jal Lutheran Parish, South Sudan. Unite us in the proclamation of your life-giving gospel. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, you spoke light into being, you separated the waters, you formed the dry land. Protect and enliven the creation you so love, and make us willing partners in its care. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, you love all tribes, peoples, and languages. We pray for all who govern. Give them wise and generous hearts for those they serve. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Divine Healer, calm the anxiety of those who are wrongly accused, who suffer under crushing debt, or who are in prison.

Reassure those who are lonely, impatient, brokenhearted, homebound, hospitalized, or ill, *especially...* West Prayers: Boyd P., Loretta H., Francis B., Al E., Joanne L., Joann T., Gene H., Robert, Inez, Danny, Veronica, Philip, and Matt Miller. East Prayers: Rhonda, Heidi G., Dianne, Sharon, Cecelia, Dale, Vern, Kevin, Bill, David, Patricia, Sally, Roland, Carol, John, and Harris. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly; for our guests and visitors, for newcomers to this community, for those who are certain and those who doubt, and for all who seek you in this place. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We remember and give thanks for the faithful of every age who did not live to themselves but lived to you. Raise us with them on the last day. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit. **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

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing (LBW 259)

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.



SEPTEMBER WORSHIP HOURS

EAST: Early service at 9:00 am
BOTH: Sunday school/JAM at 10:00 am
WEST: Late service at 11:00 am

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING US

WELCA Chair(s): Margaret Senjem, Roxanne Weinmann (Sept.)

Altar Guild: Wilma Kyllö, Cindy Senjem (Sept.)

Acolytes: Ushers will fill-in until fall schedule is set

Reader: Cindy Senjem (Sept. 17)

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

Deacon: Sheryl Wohlers (Sept.)

Stewardship: Nancy Danielson (Sept.)

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTN: Parents of 5th Graders AND Parents of 7th -9th Graders

- **BOTH: First Communion classes** for those in 5th grade will be held TODAY AND Sept. 24th at 1:00 pm at West (students need to attend both classes). *This class is also for any students 5th grade or older who've never attended these classes.* **NOTE:** Parents are encouraged, but not required, to attend classes with your child. First Holy Communion will be Sunday, October 1st at both churches. Talk to Pastor Paul if questions.
- **Confirmation class** for 7th-9th grades has resumed meeting at 7:00 pm Wednesdays and all will meet at West chapel for September.

Thrivent "Diaper Drive"

Thrivent Community is having a Diaper Drive to benefit Crisis Nursery in Rochester. If you wish to donate diapers (any size) please drop off at the chapel or church by Sunday, October 1st.

WEST ST. OLAF FALL BAZAAR & LUNCHEON



Saturday, September 30th from 9:00 am-Noon!

Everyone is invited to attend... we hope you can join us! **NOTE TO MEMBERS:** *The chapel will be open Friday evening Sept. 29th from 6-7:00 pm and at 8:00 am Saturday, Sept. 30th to receive your donated items.*

For sale at bazaar: Baked goods, quilts, crafts & boxed cards.

Menu: Chicken Delight Salad on Lettuce Leaf, Croissants, Pickles, Pumpkin Dessert, Lemonade and Coffee.

Doors open: 9:00 am... Serving lunch beginning at 9:30 am.

Cost: Adult \$7.00 -- School Age Children \$2.50 -- 5 & under Free

Save the Date! EAST ST. OLAF LUTEFISK LUNCH/SUPPER



Everyone is invited to come enjoy a wonderful meal and a great time of fellowship Friday, November 3, 2017 at East St. Olaf! Watch for advertising posters soon!

Healing Ministry for the Widowed, Divorced, or Separated

Beginning Experience invites you to a weekend retreat to help with the process of grieving the loss of a love relationship. A grief resolution process for adults, who have suffered a loss through death, divorce or separation, is being offered **at Assisi Heights in Rochester, Minnesota October 6-8, 2017**. Participants step into an opportunity to love themselves, others, and God in a renewed way. For more information about this weekend contact Beginning Experience Rochester at beminnnesota@gmail.com or leave a message at 507-261- 8248. Visit our website www.beminnnesota.org Registrations will be accepted until September 27, 2017.

Watch the "List of Local & Synod Events" in the Bulletin!

A reminder to keep an eye on the bulletin section "List of Local & Synod Events" for upcoming events that you may like to attend. Lots of church meals/events happening this time of year!

Last Week's Attendance & Collections

(09/10) Attendance: 50. Current \$1,285 and Benevolence \$26.

Next Week's Readings: Jonah 3:10--4:11, Psalm 145:1-8, Philippians 1:21-30, and Matthew 20:1-16.

HAPPENING TODAY & THIS WEEK

9/17	9:00 am	East worship & communion... <u>and after service, ALL invited to join us for "Birthday Tables Sunday Brunch"</u> <i>TODAY is also the day to leave your cookies at church for Season's Hospice</i>
	10:00 am	West JAM / East Sunday school
	11:00 am	West worship
	1:00 pm	<u>BOTH First Communion class - all at West</u>
Mon.	10:00-noon	Pastor Paul at office
Tues.	10:00 am	East Circle 4 meeting, then quilt/sack lunch
Wed.	10:00-noon	Pastor Paul at office
	• Noon	Deadline to submit info for next newsletter
	• 7:00 pm	BOTH Confirmation class at West
Thur.	-----	Pastor Paul's day off-work
	1:30 pm	<u>West WELCA hosts Field Crest birthday party</u>
Fri.	10:00-noon	Pastor Paul at office
9/24	9:00 am	East worship... <u>then East WELCA meeting for all women - right after church service</u>
	10:00 am	West JAM / East Sunday school
	11:00 am	West worship and communion
	1:00 pm	<u>BOTH First Communion class - all at West</u>

COMING UP AT EAST & WEST

THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER...

Sept. 26 (Tues.):

- 9:00 am West quilting & potluck lunch

Sept. 27 (Wed.):

- 9:00 am West quilting & potluck dinner
- 7:00 pm BOTH Confirmation class at West

Sept. 28 (Thurs.): NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEER DAY

9:10-printing, 9:30 folding, and 10:00 collating/taping

Sept. 30 (Sat.): WEST ST. OLAF BAZAAR AND LUNCHEON

- The public is invited to this event!
- 9:00 am West chapel doors open for bazaar
- 9:30 am - Noon: West luncheon is served

LIST OF LOCAL & SYNOD EVENTS

****See bulletin boards for any posters about these events****

TODAY, Sept. 17 (Sun.): Men's Ham Dinner at Presbyterian Church in Hayfield. 11:00 am-1:00 pm. Take-out & delivery available. *See poster.*

Sept. 24 (Sun.): St. John Baptist Church's 25th Annual Turkey Dinner in Dodge Center. Serving 11:00 am-1:00 pm. *See poster.*

Sept. 27 (Wed.): Hegre Lutheran Church's Annual Fall Swedish Meatball Supper at Kenyon. Serving from 4-7:00 pm. *See poster.*

Sept. 30 (Sat.):

- 36th Annual Bazaar at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hayfield. From 9-11:00 am. Brunch, crafts, baked goods and raffle. *See poster.*
- Hosanna Singers and Luncheon at Zion United Methodist Church in Sargeant. Lunch at 11:00, entertainment at 12:30 pm. *See poster.*

TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER

West Prayers: Boyd Pew, Loretta Himle, Francis Bungum, Al Eastlee, Joanne Larsen (*mother of Dan Larsen*), Joann Tiegen, Gene Hyland, Robert Beaver, Inez Hauglum, 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: Rhonda Leighty, 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: *(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

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

September 18th – 24th is National Farm Safety & Health Week, with a focus of “Putting Farm Safety Into Practice.” *The most recent statistics from the US Department of Labor continue to identify the agricultural sector as the most dangerous with 570 fatalities which was 22.8 deaths per 100,000 workers.* It is everyone’s responsibility to promote safety on the farm and rural roadways. **Harvest is peak accident-time for children.** Children are eager to help, and are often added riders on tractors, combines, and grain trucks, while older children frequently assist by driving tractors or all-terrain-vehicles (ATVs). The most common youth and childhood farm accidents involve tractors and ATVs. The University of Missouri has several recommendations to promote childhood safety, including: not allowing children to ride as extra passengers, having tractors fitted with rollover protection structure, always using seat belts on vehicles with ROPS (but **not** on tractors without ROPS!), wearing helmets and eye protection on ATVs, and teaching and modeling safe practices! See <http://extension.missouri.edu/n/2627>

Review power take-off (PTO) safety; pull up long hair and braids; avoid loose clothing, frayed edges, and drawstrings in

sweatpants or hooded sweatshirts; keep safety shields in place; stop the PTO when getting off of a tractor; stay clear of moving parts and walk around the tractor-NEVER step over an operating PTO or auger; keep children away from operating machinery. See <http://extension.missouri.edu/n/2329>.

Use masks to avoid getting grain dust, dirt, and mold into your lungs which causes chronic lung problems
<http://extension.missouri.edu/n/2628>.

Never allow children to “play” in grain spills and never use grain in sand boxes or playgrounds. Discuss the dangers of the “quicksand of the Midwest” or grain engulfment with workers and family. Grain workers should wear a harness and a lifeline! See Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FhIq87HPkT0>. **It only takes 4 seconds for an adult to sink knee-deep into the suction of flowing grain. All children should be kept away from grain bins, wagons, and grain trucks. And please remember rural roadways and cell phones are especially dangerous during harvest! Together we can put Safety into Practice**