

West St. Olaf Lutheran Church

70640 260th Avenue – Hayfield, MN

November 27, 2022: First Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion

Pastor Paul Thompson Organist: Pat Nelson

INTRODUCTION: *The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

As we await the fullness of Christ's coming, let us acknowledge our sins and failures before God.

Silence for personal reflection

Our indifference to your coming,

We confess to you, O Lord.

Our desire to control time and seasons,

We confess to you, O Lord.

Our failure to be alert to signs of your presence in our midst,

We confess to you, O Lord.

Our lack of concern for those who come after us,

We confess to you, O Lord.

Our injustices toward people you came to save,

We confess to you, O Lord.

In the mercy of Almighty God, I declare to you that God has forgiven your sins, and gives you the grace to know joy in the Savior's coming. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

We Praise You, O God (LBW 241)

*[1] We praise you, O God,
Our redeemer, creator;
In grateful devotion
Our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you;
We kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name;
Glad praises we sing.*

*[2] We worship you, God of
Our fathers, we bless you;
Through trial and tempest
Our guide you have been
When perils o'er-take us,
You will not forsake us.
And with your help, O lord,
Our struggles we win.*

*[3] With voices united
Our praises we offer
And gladly our songs
Of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us,
Your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great redeemer,
Forever be praise!*

GREETING (LBW p. 57)

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.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Holy is the Lord, the Almighty!

He was, and He is, and He is to come.

He is worthy of glory and honor and power.

He created all things; by His will they came to be.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,

Worthy to take the scroll and break its seals.

By His blood he purchased for God

People of every race and tongue, of every folk and nation.

Christ made of them a kingdom

And priests to serve our God.

And they shall reign on earth forever.

Amen. Come Lord Jesus

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that counts the Days of preparation for the coming of Christ. As we light the first Candle on this wreath, wake us up, that we may be able to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (LBW p. 62)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from Isaiah, chapter 2:

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;

that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 122

¹I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

²**Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

⁴**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

⁵For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:**
“May they prosper who love you.

⁷Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

⁸**For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good.”

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

A reading from Romans, chapter 13:

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

VERSE (LBW p. 62)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 24th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers (LBW 25)

*1) Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing,
And darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
And soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
At midnight comes the cry.*

*2) The watchers on the mountain
Proclaim the bridegroom near;
Go forth as he approaches
With alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
The gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
The bridegroom is at hand.*

*3) The saints, who here in patience
Their cross and sufferings bore,
Shall live and reign forever
When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
The Lamb they shall behold;
In triumph cast before him
Their diadems of gold.*

*4) Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, O Sun so longed for,
O'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
We plead, O Lord, to see*

*The day of earth's redemption
That sets your people free!*

CREED (LBW p. 64)

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

THE PRAYERS

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for
a world that yearns for new hope.

...God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit,
gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your
children. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

DIALOGUE (LBW p. 68)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PREFACE

SANCTUS (LBW p. 69)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING

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.

COMMUNION HYMN (LBW p. 72)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us.

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me (LBW 327)

*[1] Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure:
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.*

*[2] Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and thou alone.*

*[3] Nothing in my hand I bring;
Simply to thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to thee for dress;
Helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.*

*[4] While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee.*

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE (LBW p. 72)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done.

*Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BLESSING (LBW p. 74)

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God (LBW 534)

[1] *Now thank we all our God
With hearts and hands and voices
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom his world rejoices:
Who, from our mothers' arms,
Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love,*

[2] *Oh, may this bounteous god
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful ears
And blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us in his grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all harm
In this world and the next.*

[3] *All praise and thanks to God,
The Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns,
With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.*

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 in the offering plate as you leave (*offering plates are not passed, due to Covid*).

DECEMBER WORSHIP TIMES



EAST 9:00 am worship (coffee always after church)
BOTH 10:00 am West JAM & East Sunday school
WEST 9:00 am worship (coffee before church at 10:00 am)
Christmas Programs on Dec. 18 at both churches, with refreshments after each program.

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING US

WELCA Chairperson(s):

Nov. – Marilyn Skov, Nancy Gulbransen

Altar Guild: Nov. - Cindy Senjem, Donna Larsen

Acolytes: Nov. 27 – Cooper Beyer & Ella Bamlet

Reader: Nov. 27 - Mary Brandt

Ushers: Pete Danielson organizes

Deacon: November - Mary Brandt

Stewardship: November - Jane Estby, Marilyn Skov

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S READINGS for Nov. 27:

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5 *The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"*

PSALM: Psalm 122

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14 *Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.*

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44 *Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.*

Instructions for Communion Elements

Each person please pick-up your own cup of communion wine or juice. Gluten-free bread will be given to everyone.

Coffee to Welcome New Member – Dec. 11:

At 10:00 am on Sun., December 11th we will have a Welcome Coffee at the chapel for new member Breanna Estby. Everyone is invited.

West Christmas Program & Lunch: Students will practice for our Christmas program each Sunday during the JAM class time (EXCEPT for today, Nov. 27th). We hope all students can attend each week for these important practice sessions. *Our program will be on December 18th at 11:00 am during church... and followed by a lunch of Sloppy Joes, chips, beverages, and JESUS BIRTHDAY CAKE at the chapel! Everyone is invited to this lunch.*

Two West Christmas Missions:

We are planning a Christmas mission to the Women Shelter (these gifts should not be wrapped), and our second mission is a family from Stewartville (these gifts should be wrapped). It is always time for sharing, so we continue looking for those who need assistance. Look for the tree at church with ornaments listing items to purchase, these items need to be back by Sun., Dec. 18th either to the church or chapel. *If you prefer to donate money, we can do the shopping for you.* Thank you for your help with this mission project. We look forward to our 2023 WELCA year.

West St. Olaf ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT



We are excited to bring back Advent by Candlelight, in its true form, after a couple of years of COVID changes. **This event will be held in the evening Sunday, December 4. 5:00 pm** View tables and enjoy punch.

6:00 pm service at church followed by fellowship, food, and coffee at the chapel. *Offering goes to the Hayfield Backpack program.*

SIGNUP SHEETS AT CHURCH: *Please direct any questions to Donna Larsen or Heather Bamlet.*

Beautifying Our Sanctuary for Advent & Christmas



Everyone loves to see our churches beautified with many Poinsettias during this season. *If you'd like to donate a plant, we will recognize it in the Christmas Eve bulletin.*

Please inform us by December 13th *(specify who the plant is from, & the person/persons it is in memory-of).*

WEST: *Sheryl Wohlers (365-8816 or 259-5974)*

EAST or WEST: *Email Gina at eastwest@kmtel.com and at certainty@kmtel.com (if needed, you may call Gina at the church office 507-365-8222).*

HAPPENING TODAY & THIS WEEK

TODAY	9:00 am	West worship/ <u>communion</u>
	10:00 am	<u>NO West JAM TODAY</u> West coffee & <u>West WELCA board meeting</u>
		NO East Sunday school today
	11:00 am	East worship/coffee after church
	Noon	East lunch & East DECORATES and cleans church a bit for Christmas
Monday	9am-Noon	Pastor at office
Tuesday	10:00 am	East quilting/sack lunch
	-----	<u>NEWSLETTER DAY at office</u> <i>(9:10-print, 9:30-fold, 9:40 collate)</i>

Wednesday	7:00 pm	Confirmation class at West
Thursday	9am-Noon	Pastor at office
Friday	-----	Pastor's day off-work
Saturday	10am-4pm	<u>Quilting Extravaganza at EAST</u> <i>(<u>ALL are welcome - there will be goodies, coffee, & cider available too, and many, many items for sale!</u>)</i>
Sun. 12/04	9:00 am	East worship / <u>Communion</u> , with East coffee always after church
	10:00 am	East Sun. S / West JAM (<u>NO West coffee - chapel is set up for Advent svc.</u>)
	11:00 am	West worship / <u>Communion</u>
		<u>West St. Olaf's ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT</u>
	<u>5:00 pm</u>	View tables & enjoy punch
	<u>6:00 pm</u>	Service at the church - followed by fellowship, food, & coffee at chapel <i>(the offering will go to the Hayfield Backpack program)</i>

COMING UP AT EAST & WEST

Dec. 5 (Mon.)	9am-Noon	Pastor at office
Dec. 6 (Tue.)	10:00 am	East quilting / sack lunch
Dec. 7 (Wed.)	7:00 pm	BOTH Confirmation at East
Dec. 8 (Thur.)	9am-Noon	Pastor at office - <i>but goes to Kasson Ministerial mtg. at 10:00 am</i>
Dec. 9 (Fri.):	-----	Pastor's day off-work
Dec. 11 (Sun.)	9:00 am	East worship / with East coffee always after church
	10:00 am	East Sun. S / West JAM
	10:00 am	<u>West coffee to welcome new member Breanna Estby</u>
	11:00 am	West worship / <u>Scott Cocuzzi Baptism & meal afterward for our congregation and family, at chapel</u>
Dec. 12 (Mon.)	9am-Noon	Pastor at office
		<u>JOINT council meeting at WEST</u>
		<u>6:00 pm separate meetings</u>
		<u>7:00 pm joint meeting begins</u>

- Dec. 13 (Tue.) 10:00 am East quilting / sack lunch
 Dec. 14 (Wed.) 10:30 am West WELCA luncheon and Christmas program – West men are welcome too!
 7:00 pm BOTH Confirmation at East
 Dec. 15 (Thur.) 9am-Noon Pastor at office
 Dec. 16 (Fri.): ----- Pastor’s day off-work
 Dec. 18 (Sun.) **BOTH: DAY OF CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS!!**
 9:00 am EAST Christmas Program (*students and teachers be there by 8:15 am*), and after program cake will be served
 11:00 am West Christmas Program, followed by Sloppy Joes, chips and Jesus’s BIRTHDAY CAKE! All welcome!
 Dec. 19 (Mon.) 9am-Noon Pastor at office
 >>>>> DEADLINE to submit info for the next newsletter
 Dec. 20 (Tue.) 10:00 am East quilting / sack lunch
 Dec. 21 (Wed.) 7:00 pm BOTH Confirmation at East
 Dec. 22 (Thur.) 9am-Noon Pastor at office
 ----- DAY for PRINTING ALL the holiday church bulletins
 Dec. 23 (Fri.): ----- Pastor’s day off-work
 Dec. 24 (Sat.) **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES**
 All are welcome to attend at either church:
 4:00 pm Candlelight service at WEST
 8:00 pm Candlelight service at EAST
 Dec. 25 (Sun.) **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE**
 10:00 am BOTH: ONLY at WEST, but ALL are welcome to attend this service
 Dec. 26 (Mon.) 9am-Noon OFFICE CLOSED for holiday
 Dec. 27 (Tue.) 10:00 am East quilting / sack lunch
 Dec. 28 (Wed.) ----- NO CLASS for confirmation
 Dec. 29 (Thur.) 9am-Noon Pastor at office
 ----- **NEWSLETTER DAY at office**
 (9:10-print, 9:30-fold, 9:40 collate)
 Dec. 30 (Fri.): ----- Pastor’s day off-work
JANUARY (hours remain the same as in Dec., at both churches)

TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER

West Prayers: Nancy Jensen, Adam Glynn, Ralph Kylo, Loretta Himle, Gloria Brown, Ginny Hyland, Aloma Eastlee, Dawn Hugeback, Martha Beaver, Darlene Hanson, Kelly Keckhafer, Boyd Pew, Cindy Senjem, Philip Senjem, and Matt Miller (*nephew of Carma Bjornson*). Those serving in our military: Patrick Reynolds (*grandson of Sue Hyland – deployed overseas*), Erika Smith (*granddaughter of Carma & Ardean Bjornson*), and Tully Hovda (*son of Todd & Cathy Hovda*).

East Prayers: David Tvedt, Dalton Mansfield (*currently serving aboard ship*), Dawn Hugeback, Debra Moekel (*daughter of Audrey Carlson*), Keith Roeder (*Paul Jordan was his father-in-law*), John (*cousin of Pat Nelson*), Bill Fritts, Sylvia Torstenson, Heidi Guenius (*cousin of Becky Brakke*), David Distad, 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: Will Laxen – Cell: 208-5399

Vice President: Hans Estby – House: 365-8600, Cell: 259-8843

Head Deacon: Sheryl Wohlers - House: 365-8816, Cell: 259-5974