

We ask that all members join the Women of ELCA and pray this prayer as you rise in the morning, and as you prepare to retire each evening.

Lord, Jesus Christ, I bring to you:

Jada, Myles, & Conner Garske; Britain Hahn; Amara Brandau; Chase Brandau; Avery Brueggen; Riley, Aria & Hudson Brueggen; Nolan & Logan Buchholz; Thadyn & Ayawyn Conner; Vanessa & Elliott Ornes; Lailah Eckes; Lena Ornes; Porter Sorenson; Josie Ornes; Brooklyn, Madelyn, Kaylin, Emma, Bryce, Marah, Bria, Ava, Katie, & Benjamin Gruen; Braylee Zimmerman; MaKenzie & Cooper Powell; Wesson & Arden Mayne; Vanessa, Mia, & Brek Anderson; Tyler & Jaden Bever; Carlee, Collin, & Camden Neidfeldt; Morgan Speicher; Krista & Sierra Cook; Franklin & Douglas Wildes; Sophia, Derek & Deacon Erdman; Kody Tormoen; Callie Fleming; Miranda, Daphne & Linus Arndt; Emma Elder; Bryson Lamb, Elizabeth Wildes; Alaina & Braxton Holthaus; Jayda Leis; David, Sam & Zachary Ross; Gannon & Ellory Tormoen; Jase & Margo Picha; Watson Sebranek, Violet Ford, Hunter Puhl, Eason Kelbel, Cole, Caleb & Connor Redding; Brooke, Claire, Grace & Bree Olson; Alayna, Alivia & Levi Wyttenbach; children throughout the world.

That your spirit will dwell with them according to your will. That they will grow in the knowledge of you and know that they are dearly loved by you. I pray that you will protect them from deception by the evil one and all his darts that would lead them astray. May they do well in school, learning and discerning what direction you have in mind for them. I also pray for all children every where, that you would keep them in your care. In Jesus name I pray.

Amen



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI

25th Sunday after Pentecost
November 26, 2023

**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ's Family
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

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.

****(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)***

Announcements

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.

Amen.

CALENDAR

| | | |
|-------------------|--|---------------|
| Today | Children Sing Noisy Offering | |
| | Birthday and Anniversary Fellowship | 11:15 AM |
| Wed., Nov. 22 | Thanksgiving Eve Meal | 5:00 PM |
| | Thanksgiving Eve Worship | 6:00 PM |
| Thursday, Nov. 23 | Community Thanksgiving Dinner @ Wilton Legion | 11:AM—No Food |
| Sunday, Nov. 26 | Sunday School | 9:00 AM |
| | Worship | 10:15 AM |
| | Church Council | 11:30 AM |
| Saturday, Dec. 2 | Decorating for Christmas | 9:00 AM |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Please join together for the meal and worship service this Wednesday. Bring a friend. We are collecting food items for the Norwalk Food Pantry. Please bring a canned good or packaged food item and place it at the front of the sanctuary on Wednesday.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Please come and help decorate the sanctuary and basement for the Advent and Christmas seasons, Saturday, December 2, 9:00 AM. Many hands make for a fun morning.

SOULS FOR JESUS

We have another opportunity for you to help spread the Gospel and clean your closets!! Souls for Jesus is an organization located in Milwaukee and since 2010 has sent 774,361 new or gently used shoes to countries in Africa, where 1 in 2 people live in poverty. The shoes have been distributed to the following countries:

Ethiopia, Kenya, Bundi, Tanzania, Mozambique, Lesotho,
Liberia, Zambia, Swaziland, Botswana

We have placed a box, next to the piano, and ask that you consider donating new or gently used shoes to the cause. No heels, please. We will be showing a video in the next couple of services to help you understand the need.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

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.

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

- 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 90:1-8,12

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,
"Turn back, O children 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 them away like a dream,
they 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 are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.
⁸**Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**
¹²**So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*Benediction

*Hymn

"We Praise You, O God"

ELW#870

Dismissal

P: Beloved of God,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People; Pastor: Bill Horn; Organist: Nalani Bever;
Reader: Barb Bever; Altar: Lori Brueggen & Barb Ornes

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty, Robert Cale,
Matthew Dutton

IN OUR PRAYERS

Gloria Meltesen, Darlene Babbitt, Judy Bever, Sally Dana, Linda Switz,
Myrna Ottum, Scott Geier, Alan Sherman, Families of Roger O'Gara,
Dick Schreier, and Robert Keller.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW p. 190

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 190

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.

Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.

"Lamb of God"

ELW p.191

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Lord Jesus,
in this simple meal you have set a banquet.**

**Sustain us on the journey,
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
and give us glad and generous hearts
as we meet you on the way.**

Amen.

Second Reading

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.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation**

"Alleluia. Lord,"

ELW p. 188

GOSPEL READING

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.

The holy gospel according to Matthew 25:14-30

Glory to you, O Lord.

[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

Reverend Bill Horn

***Hymn**

"Lord of Glory, You Have Brought Us"

ELW#707

Apostles' 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** (God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**)

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**God of all goodness, generations have turned to you,
gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings.
Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your
abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings,
we may feast upon your very self
and care for all that you have made,
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.
Amen.**