

## EVERYTHING CHRISTMAS

The basement was packed on Friday morning and by the end of the sale on Saturday, only 4 totes of items remained!! The sale raised **\$962.27** to be designated toward the cost of a new sign when our step replacement project is completed. The bake sale brought in **\$626.23** for the Safety Patrol fund at Brookwood Elementary. The “chance” basket winners were Nancy Haney, Deb Paeth, Jamie Jarom, Coleen Helmkamp, Juanita Heilman, and Grace Gaethke.

A special thank you to Lori Brueggen for spearheading the project.

**Suggestion:** When you are decorating for Christmas this year, set the items you no longer use aside, box ‘em up, and bring them to the church office. We want to start collecting items for the sale next year.

## Building Peace & Justice in Palestine/Israel

A conversation on collective Palestinian and Israeli activists,  
Osama Iiwat & Rotem Levin:

November 17, Viterbo University, 7:00 PM, School of Nursing  
Building, Room, 19

November 18, UW-La Crosse 2:15-3:10 pm, 3130 Student Union

November 19, Bethany Lutheran Church in New Lisbon,  
10:00—11:00 AM. **This conversation is open to anyone  
interested in learning more about the situation in Palestine  
and Israel.**



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Wilton, WI

25th Sunday after Pentecost  
November 10, 2024

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

Widows are visible everywhere in today's readings. Jesus denounces those scribes who pray impressive prayers but devour widows' houses. He commends the poor widow who in his view gave far more than the major donors. Jesus doesn't see her simply as an object of compassion or charity. She, like the widow of Zarephath who shares her last bit of food with Elijah, does something of great importance.

***\*(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,  
our refuge,  
our delight,  
our beginning and our end.  
**Amen.**

Let us come in truth before the one who loves us  
and has freed us from our sin.



### THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People; Minister: Karen Sparling; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Miranda Arndt; Altar: Barb Bever & Karla Richie; Communion Server: Kirstin Arndt

### IN OUR PRAYERS

Gloria Meltesen, Darlene Babbitt, Laurie Switz Johnson, Heidi Stenerson, Dan Paulson, Richie Vlasak, Kristy Gwin Solovey, Bud Speicher, Kathy Von Ruden, Lyle Schindler, Florence Dougherty, Connie Summerfield, Gordy O'Rourke, Marilyn O'Rourke, David Forbes, Mary Ann Arndt, Cole Brandau, Jeremy Munson.

### IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty, Allen Roscovious, Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton.

### CALENDAR

Today	Council	11:30 AM
Today	Friends of the Community Thanksgiving Dinner	4:00 PM—6:00 PM
Nov. 11	Veteran's Day	
Nov. 13	Confirmation	5:00 PM
Nov. 17	Sunday School Worship	9:00 AM 10:15 AM

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will not be choir practice today.

Nalani will be in Montana from November 12 through November 20. You may still free to call her at 608-387-2311. Karen will be in the Office generally Monday-Thursday. You may give her a call at 608-387-2458.

### **\*Prayer of the Day**

O God, you show forth your almighty power chiefly by reaching out to us in mercy. Grant us the fullness of your grace, strengthen our trust in your promises, and bring all the world to share in the treasures that come through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Word**

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

### **First Reading**

*This chapter begins the story of Elijah. God sends a drought on Israel because of the sins of King Ahab. This passage depicts God's saving acts not only on behalf of Elijah, but also on behalf of those who are associated with the prophet, even a foreigner, the widow of Zarephath.*

### **A reading from 1 Kings 17:8-16**

<sup>8</sup> The word of the LORD came to [Elijah,] saying, <sup>9</sup> "Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you." <sup>10</sup> So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink." <sup>11</sup> As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." <sup>12</sup> But she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now

gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.”<sup>13</sup> Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son.”<sup>14</sup> For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth.”<sup>15</sup> She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days.<sup>16</sup> The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.  
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

#### Psalm 146

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup> **I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

<sup>3</sup> Put not your trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup> **When they breathe their last, they return to earth,**

**and in that day their thoughts perish.**

<sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,

whose hope is in the LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup> **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;**

**who keeps promises forever;**

<sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free.

“Lamb of God”

ELW p.191

Distribution

#### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God,

you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink in the body and blood of your Son.

Now send us out to labor with you,

in service to the world you have made,

and among the people you have made your home,

in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

#### Sending

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

#### Blessing

The Ancient One, enthroned,

the Crucified One, now risen,

the Indwelling One, poured out,

✠ bless you now and forever.

\*Hymn

“Soon and Very Soon”

ELW#439

#### Dismissal

Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 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

Words of Institution

### \*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.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold, God is making all things new.

Take your place in the new creation.

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

**<sup>8</sup> The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup> The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

**<sup>10</sup> The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

### Second Reading

*The letter to the Hebrews describes Christ as a high priest who offers himself as a sacrifice for our sin. Christ does not die again and again each year. He died once, is alive with God, and will reveal himself on the last day.*

#### **A reading from Hebrews 9:24-28**

<sup>24</sup> Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. <sup>25</sup> Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; <sup>26</sup> for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup> And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, <sup>28</sup> so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

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

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

**“Alleluia”**

**ELW p. 188**

**GOSPEL READING**

*After engaging in a series of public arguments with religious leaders in the temple, Jesus contrasts the proud and oppressive ways of those leaders with the sacrificial humility and poverty of the widow.*

**The Holy Gospel according to Mark 12:38-44**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>38</sup> As [Jesus] taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, <sup>39</sup> and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! <sup>40</sup> They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

<sup>41</sup> He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup> A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. <sup>43</sup> Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. <sup>44</sup> For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Reverend Karen Sparling  
Synod Authorized Minister

**Hymn**

**“Day by Day”**

**ELW#790**

**\*Apostles’ Creed**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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,**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (God of grace, hear our prayer.)**

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**Offering Hymn**

**“We Are an Offering”**

**ELW #692**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup,  
you offered yourself in love for the world,  
and in this meal you nourish us with your life.  
Fill us with your abundance,  
that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger,  
trusting in your name.

**Amen.**