

Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, November 15, 2026
Esther Lutheran Church, ELCA
Knowing Christ – Making Christ Known Through Faith, Hope and Love

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.

PRELUDE
BELL
WELCOME
BEHOLD WEEKLY CHALLENGE

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

P: Let us stay awake, dear siblings in Christ!
C: For we are children of light.
P: Let us put on the armor of faith and love,
C: The helmet of hope and salvation.
P: Let us stay awake!
C: For we are children of light.

Please stand as you are able

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: We confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

P: Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.

C: Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN: *"Christ, Be Our Light"* (ELW 715)**

1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

2 **Longing for peace, our world is troubled.**
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Refrain
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

3 **Longing for food, many are hungry.**
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Refrain
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

4 **Longing for shelter, many are homeless.**
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Refrain
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come.

Refrain
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
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***GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P: Righteous God,

C: 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.

KYRIE: *Congregation sings response* **(ELW pg. 98)**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE: *"This is the Feast"* (ELW pg. 101)**

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

1
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power and riches, wisdom and strength,
and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

2
Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor, glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

3
For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Please be seated

WORD

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

FIRST READING: ZEPHANIAH 1:7, 12-18

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.

[7]Be 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. [12]At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who settle like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." [13]Their 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. [14]The 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. [15]That 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, [16]a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. [17]I 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. [18]Neither 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 90:1-12

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)

[1]Lord, 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.**

[3]You 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;**

[5]you 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.**

[7]For 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.**

[9]When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

[10]**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**

[11]Who regards the power of your wrath? Who rightly fears your indignation?

[12]**So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

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]Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. [2]For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3]When 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! [4]But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; [5]for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6]So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, [7]for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8]But 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. [9]For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10]who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. [11]Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. The Word of the Lord…**Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *sung* **(ELW pg. 102)**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 25:14-30

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; [15]to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once [16]the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. [17]In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. [18]But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. [19]After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20]Then 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.' [21]His 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.' [22]And 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.’ [23]His 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.’ [24]Then 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, [25]so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ [26]But 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? [27]Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28]So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29]For 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. [30]As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”
The Gospel of the Lord…**Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN’S TIME & SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY:
***“Oh Christ the Same”* (Worship & Rejoice 433)**

1 O Christ the same, through all our story’s pages--
our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;
eternal Lord, the king of all the ages,
unchanging still amid the passing years:
O living Word, the source of all creation,
who spread the skies and set the stars ablaze;
O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation,
we bring our thanks for all our yesterdays.

2 O Christ the same, the friend of sinners, sharing
our inmost thoughts, the secrets none can hide;
still as of old upon your body bearing
the marks of love in triumph glorified.
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heaven--

O Prince of life, in all your saving power;
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are given:
we bring our thanks for this the present hour.

3 O Christ the same, secure within whose keeping
our lives and loves, our days and years remain;
our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping,
our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain:
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows,
for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;
O Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows,
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926
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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:
Prayer Response: *"Hear our Prayer O Lord"*

L: We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

L: You desire us to live lives abundant with joy, not hidden away in fear. Give us courage to share ourselves in brave and generous ways, and prosper our efforts with mercy overflowing. Gracious God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Forgive us for not taking responsible care of your creation, O God. Give us repentant hearts that turn from greed and waste and seek creative ways to preserve what remains. Gracious God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We don't do well to get too comfortable or complacent in this life, lest we miss the point of your kingdom altogether. Keep us awake to the service you intend for us, and give us all we need to meet whatever challenges we may face. Gracious God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Even when we can't see the other side of suffering, you never desert us, O God. Comfort all who need to know the reality of your presence especially Jerry, Bruce, Kristy, Ricky, Larry, Joan, Dennis, Lois, Gary, Shirley, Joyce, Kim, Sara, Marg, Karen, Pete, Lynnsy, Barb, Dirk, Jeramie, David, Denny, Steph, Al, Clayton, and Dianne. Gracious God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: In the darkest times, your saints remained faithful. Inspire us by their example and hold a place for us with them in your eternal kingdom. Gracious God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We know that you hear our prayers even when we do not speak them out loud. Thank you for answering before we ask, for the sake of your son Jesus.



Please stand as you are able

***APOSTLES' CREED: (ELW pg. 105)**

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 power of 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.

***SHARING OF PEACE:**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Please be seated

OFFERING

We thank you for our gifts of time, talent, and treasure that help this congregation, to continue our ministry together, and to make Christ known in our communities and the world.

OFFERING HYMN: *"Praise and Thanksgiving"* vs. 1&2 (ELW 689)

1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.

2 God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbor we may be fed.

Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,
harvesting, milling for daily bread.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt.
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Please stand as you are able

***OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

P: Eternal God,

C: Our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING:** *spoken* **(ELW pg. 144)**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift our hearts to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise!

***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:** *sung "**Remember Now My Children**"*

The night of His betrayal, our Lord took bread.
He broke it and he blessed it, and then he said,
"My body given for you is what this means,
remember now my children what you have seen."

And then He took the chalice, and raised it high.
"My body broken for you, a full supply…
a covenant, a promise, a cleansing stream.
Remember now, my children, what you have seen."
We share this food together, remembering Christ;
we share a common treasure and know the price

we share it without measure, a gift of love;
we share our life forever, with God above.

***LORD'S PRAYER:** *spoken*

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 trespassess,
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:**

P: In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

Please be seated

COMMUNION

The acolytes, ushers, organist and those assisting with communion should come forward at this time and receive around the rail. Following the assistants, we celebrate Holy Communion around the altar. The ushers will direct you. We welcome all to the Lord's Table where we experience the unity that God intends for all people. Gluten-free wafers and apple juice are available.

COMMUNION HYMN: *"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"* (ELW 631)

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,

all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

4 Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

COMMUNION HYMN: *"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"* (ELW 632)

1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,

our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

2 Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

Please stand as you are able

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:**

P: Holy God,

C: We have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to our neighbor in need

***BLESSING:**
May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
May the Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
THREE-FOLD AMEN

***SENDING HYMN: "*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*" (ELW 674)**

1 Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

2 Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express.

Refrain
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere!

Refrain
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929
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***DISMISSAL:**

P: Go in peace. Encourage one another.

C: Thanks be to God.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Jerry Anderson — Kristy Fyhrie
Larry Sather — Joan Burquest
Dennis Rosenquist — Lois Rosenquist
Ricky Hart — Sara Skoglund
Steph Stueve — Clayton Skoglund
Denny Hagen – uncle of Mark Ratajesak
Rev. Bruce Miller- father of Karin Wagner
Marg Peterson -friend of the Thoms
Gary Borst – friend of the Andersons
Shirley Nesges – friend of the Thoms
Joyce Muyres – friend of the Thoms
Bev Guse-Ohlrech – friend of the Pedersons
Kim Casavan – friend of Mandy Arvidson
Karen Schlosser – mother of Justin Schlosser
Pete Baugh – brother-in-law of Pr. Ken Bowman
Barb Hoyhtya – friend of the Thoms
Dirk Bergquist – friend of Esther members
Jeramie Harris – friend of the Townsends
David Meidinger – cousin of Jewel Townsend
Al Ratajesak – uncle of Mark Ratajesak

Dianne Parnow – sister of Brian Arvidson
Family and Friends of: Bruce Carter, Gary Willie, Connie Pesta,
Kathy Wilkins, Jim Schlosser, Leroy Olson, Dale Flemming, Wally Schlosser, Carter Stockert, Woodrow Peery, and Wes Hoyhtya.

THIS WEEK AT ESTHER

Saturday, November 14th
Rethinking Rural Ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church in DL

Sunday, November 15th – *Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*
Sunday Fellowship Before and After Worship
9 am – Sunday School
9:15 am – Behold Connect & Reflect: Coffee & Conversation
10 am – Worship with Holy Communion led by Pastor Dennis Preston
2 pm – Worship at St. William's

Wednesday, November 18th
4:30 pm – 6:30 pm – Community Meal at Miltona Community Center
6pm – Confirmation: Meal: Chase Stueve

Friday, November 20th
5 pm – First Lefse Making Event – Any and all help appreciated!

Saturday, November 21st
8 am – First Lefse Making Event – Any and all help appreciated!

Sunday, November 22nd – *Twenty Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*
Sunday Fellowship Before and After Worship
9 am – Sunday School
9:15 am – Behold Connect & Reflect: Coffee & Conversation
10 am – Worship with Holy Communion led by Pastor Greg Billberg
11 am – Decorate Church for Christmas
2 pm – Worship at St. William's

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Nov. 15- 9 am
Nov. 22 – 9 am – Christmas Program Practice
Nov. 29- NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
Dec. 6 – 9 am – Christmas Program Practice
Dec. 13- 8:30 am - Christmas Program Practice and Program to follow in Worship at 10 am
Dec. 20 – All People Sunday School
Dec. 27- NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

SERVING IN NOVEMBER

Pastor: Nov 15- Pr. Dennis Preston, Nov 22 – Pr. Greg Billberg, Nov 29- Pr. Ken Bowman
Organists: Marcia Guenther
Altar Care: Donna Pederson
Usher: NEED VOLUNTEER
Acolyte: Nov 15-NEED VOLUNTEER, Nov 22- Sawyer Ratajesak, Nov 29- Sawyer Ratajesak
Lay Reader: Chris Carter
Communion Assistant: Chris Carter
Birthday Card Sender: Confirmation Class

NEWS AND NOTES

Check out the Esther Calendar on our website to stay up to date on everything happening! Go to estherlutheran.com and click on "Esther Calendar."

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! OUR LEFSE-MAKING EVENTS ARE COMING UP!

***FIRST EVENT:**
Friday, November 20th - 5 pm AND Saturday, November 21st – 8 am

***SECOND EVENT:**
Friday, December 4th -5 pm AND & Saturday, December 5th -8 am

Any and all help is greatly appreciated! Whether you can help for a little while or the whole time, we'd love to have you join us. Thank you for your time and support!

Youth are selling 2027 calendars! Cost $10. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. **Orders due by November 29th.**

We will be decorating for the Christmas Season following worship on Sunday, November 22nd. Any help is appreciated!

Widows & Singles Share & Care Day will be Friday, November 20th. They will meet at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Parkers Prairie, at 12:30 pm for a potluck dinner. At 1:00 pm Arvig cybersecurity analyst, Amanda Nelson, will speak on how to detect AI scams. RSVP to Joyce at 320-815-4132 by Nov. 13th.

Applications for both campers and camp counselors at Luther Crest is open. Don't forget that financial assistance is available through our Camp Fund to help cover camp costs. We encourage everyone to apply and take advantage of this opportunity! If you need an application, you can find the Esther Lutheran Church Camp and Spiritual Growth Fund Application on our website at estherlutheran.com under "Faith Formation Resources."

Get your lefse ready for the holidays! Each package includes four lefse for $7. Please submit your orders by November 30th. Order forms are available in the Narthex, or you can place your order by calling Lana Doll at 218-280-6326.

December 6th is our Christmas Market! A sign-up sheet for soup & BBQ will be available soon. If you are unable to bring food, but would still like to contribute, monetary donations are also welcome. Please make checks payable to WELCA and give them to either Luella or Lana.

AmeriCorps is currently seeking individuals in the Parkers Prairie area who are interested in making a difference in their community by serving as tutors at local schools as math and reading tutors. These opportunities can be a great fit for retirees, individuals looking to give back to their community, or anyone passionate about helping students succeed. There is a flyer in the Narthex with information.

Simply Flourish in Parkers Prairie is once again sponsoring its "Sponsor a Resident" program. This year, every resident at St. William's Living Center and McCornell Court will receive a 4.5-inch poinsettia and a handwritten holiday card. If you would like to help spread some Christmas cheer, please contact them at 218-338-3800 to sponsor a resident. Thank you for helping make the season brighter for our local seniors!

The Bell Tower is leaking and needs to be repaired. Because of the high reach and difficult area to work with, we do not have an exact idea of cost, but it could surpass $50,000. Please consider helping with this important and much needed repair. Help keep the bell ringing! Please send your donation to the church: 11019 625th Ave Parkers Prairie, MN 56361 or scan the QR code.

Vanco online giving platform is a great way to set up a scheduled giving plan for even when you cannot make it to church. Scan the QR code, go online to estherlutheran.com, go to the tab “Give to Esther Lutheran Church” and click on the link https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZP4R or download the app
Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement. Any questions please ask Mandy Arvidson.

We welcome you to join in the weekly “Behold the New Has Come” devotions available on our website estherlutheran.com on the “Behold” tab. Devotions are posted to the website and emailed out each Monday. If you are not currently on the email list and want to be, please notify Mandy in the office. Each weekly devotion includes a challenge for the week.

This past week’s challenge is:

What does it mean “to become something”? What do we become through our baptism? Both the Word, Jesus incarnate and the Holy Spirit are present at our Baptism. We are called through our baptism to be Jesus in the world, through our relationships and through our encounters with others every day.

Take a moment this week to dwell on the idea of becoming the embodiment of Christ for other people. How can you be like Jesus, the Word incarnate? How can we be lights in our relationship with God and with others in the world?

We hope these devotions and weekly challenges will inspire conversations and stories that we can share with one another as, together, we grow in faith through this initiative.

You belong here. We believe that each person has unique gifts, are created in God's image, and is a beloved child of God. We welcome you to join us each week to share in the community of faith at Esther - "Knowing Christ - making Christ known through faith, hope and love". If you would like to become a member of Esther, please contact Mandy in the church office at 218-338-2171 or secretary@estherlutheran.net or Jewel Townsend at 320-760-2503 or jewellht17@gmail.com.

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