

Worship Service for October 11, 2026

The Twentieth Sunday of Pentecost



"The kingdom of heaven is like a king that prepared a wedding dinner for his son."

- Matthew 22:1-4 NLT -

Welcome and Announcements

Let us prepare our hearts for worship.

Confession and Forgiveness

In remembrance of our Holy Baptism, we begin in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Beloved people of God, if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Trusting in God's mercy and grace, let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another.

Brief silence for reflection.

Together we pray: **Heavenly Father, Maker of heaven and earth, we come before you acknowledging our brokenness. We confess that we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have often focused on our own desires instead of your will. We have failed to love you with all our hearts, and we have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves. "In your mercy, create in us clean hearts, and send your Holy Spirit to renew us and lead us in the way of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Beloved people of God, through the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, God forgives all our sins and grants us grace to walk in the way of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Trusting in God's abundant grace, let us go forth to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn**Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table**

1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries
 2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -
 3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand
 4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to



that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;
 ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled
 dif - f'rent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:
 be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,



some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -
 with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -
 they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -
 who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and



vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they
 ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his
 vit - ed north and south and east and west to con - verge a -
 breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!— and then pass - es



all are wel - come. There is room for ev - 'ry - one.
 fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.
 round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.
 wine that wa - kens in your heart the taste of love.

Prayer of the Day

Together we pray: ***Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

Reading of the Word**First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9**

¹ O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. ² For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of foreigners is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt. ³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, ⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶ On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all nations; ⁸ he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. ⁹ It will be said on that day, "See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Word of God, Word of Life. ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm: Psalm 23

¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

² **The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

³ You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**



Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

Word of God, Word of Life. ***Thanks be to God.***

Children's Message**Gospel Acclamation****Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (sing 3X)**

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -

- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -

lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.



Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

Sermon**Share in the Worship Ministries of New Salem!**

YOU are invited to serve as a reader, proclaiming God's Word; as an usher, welcoming all who gather for worship; as a communion assistant, helping share the Lord's Supper with God's people; host the post-worship fellowship hour; or join the choir and lift your voice in praise. These ministries are an important part of our worship life and a wonderful way to serve God and one another. Please consider sharing your gifts! Please watch your email in the coming weeks for an invitation - or you can sign up using the sheets available on the rear table in the narthex! (Choir rehearsals are 5 p.m. on Wednesdays - no need to sign up, just join us!)



Hymn of the Day**As We Gather at Your Table**

- 1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um-phantly Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Prayers of the People

Hear us, O God. ***Your mercy is great.***

Sharing the Peace**Tithes and Offerings**

Offertory HymnIn the Singing

1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,
 2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,



in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,
 in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

Offering Prayer

Together we pray: ***Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with your blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, fill us with grateful and generous hearts, that we may praise you through our words and actions and respond with love to those in need; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

Words of InstitutionLord's Prayer

Together we pray: ***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.***

Sharing Christ's Meal

Communion Hymn #1**God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending**

- 1 God, whose giv-ing knows no end-ing, from your rich and end-less store:
- 2 Skills and time are ours for press-ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
- 3 Trea-sure, too, you have en-trust-ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con-ferred;



na-ture's won-der, Je-sus' wis-dom, cost-ly cross, grave's shat-tered door,
all at peace in health and free-dom, rac-es joined, the church made one.
ours to use for home and kin-dred, and to spread the gos-pel word.



gift-ed by you, we turn to you, of-f'ring up our-selves in praise;
Now di-rect our dai-ly la-bor, lest we strive for self a-lone;
O-pen wide our hands in shar-ing, as we heed Christ's age-less call,



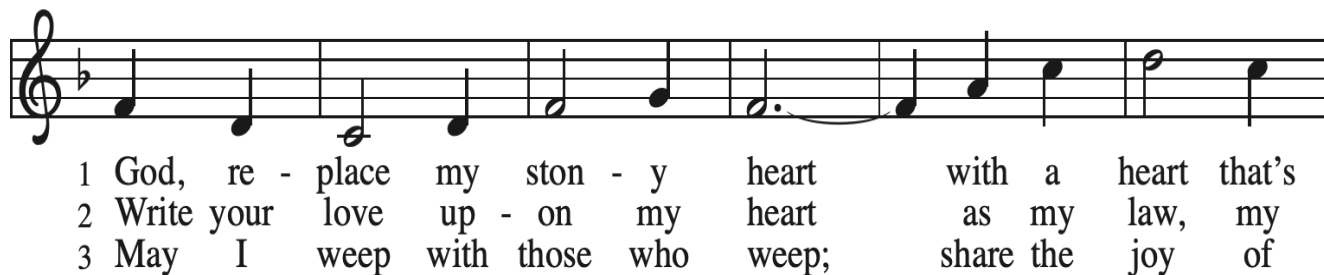
thank-ful song shall rise for-ev-er, gra-cious do-nor of our days.
born with tal-ents, make us ser-vants fit to an-swer at your throne.
heal-ing, teach-ing, and re-claim-ing, serv-ing you by lov-ing all.

Communion Hymn #2**Spirit, Open My Heart (continues next page)***Refrain*

Spir-it, o-pen my heart to the joy and pain of



liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re-ceiv-ing

*Refrain*

Welcome to New Salem - we are blessed to have you worship with us today!



If you are looking for a church home, please contact Traci Schanke in the church office at 218-586-2262 or via email at newsalem@paulbunyan.net. If you are a visitor, please sign our guest book outside the church office.

Website: newsalemlutheran.org

YouTube Channel: New Salem Lutheran Church, Turtle River, MN

Boo! A signup sheet for Trunk or Treat 2026 is available on the rear table in the Fellowship Hall. Sign up to host a "trunk," donate treats or assist at the event. Missing this event would be a **GRAVE** mistake!



Communion Hymn #3**Here Would I Feast**

1 Here would I feast up - on the bread of God,
 2 Mine is the sin, but thine the righ - teous - ness;



here drink with thee the roy - al wine of heav'n;
 mine is the guilt, but thine the cleans - ing blood;



here would I lay a - side each earth - ly load,
 here is my robe, my ref - uge, and my peace:



here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - giv'n.
 thy blood, thy righ - teous - ness, O Lord my God.



3 Nos le - van - ta - mos de la ce - na_a - quí;
 3 Too soon we rise, the ves - sels dis - ap - pear;



la fies - ta pa - sa, mas no_a - sí_el a - mor.
 the feast, though not the love, is past and gone.



To - do se va, mas tú te que - das, sí,
 The bread and wine re - move, but thou art here,



cer - ca, muy cer - ca_a - ma - do Sal - va - dor.
 near - er than ev - er, still my shield and sun.

Communion Blessing**Post Communion Prayer**

Together we pray: ***Life-giving God, you nourish us with your Word and strengthen us with your grace. By the power of your Holy Spirit, deepen our faith and guide us in the way of Jesus. Send us forth to love our neighbors, serve those in need, and share your grace through our words and actions; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

Benediction**Sending Hymn**

Arise, My Soul, Arise! (next page)

Announcements for the Week of October 11, 2026

Traci's Office Hours This Week: Tuesday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. The church and office will be closed on Monday, October 12 for Indigenous Peoples' Day. (The regular 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Monday – Friday schedule will resume on Monday, October 19.)

October's Mission Partner: This month New Salem is lifting up the work of **The Nameless Coalition for the Homeless**, and urges you to consider the various ways you might support this valuable area ministry. You can send your check to New Salem and indicate it is for **The Nameless Coalition**, or send your gift to Nameless Coalition, P.O. Box 353, Bemidji, MN 56619. See page 14 of the Worship Guide for more information.

NEW Evening Bible Study, Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.: The group will study the Scripture readings for the coming Sunday in a friendly and fun atmosphere. No need to prepare in advance (unless you want to!) and all are welcome to participate!

Food Shelf Dates in October: New Salem volunteers assist clients on Monday, October 12, 9 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. and 12 – 3:30 p.m. For more information/sign up as a volunteer, contact Karin Snortland at ksnortland5@gmail.com or 612-940-7312.

Fall Bazaar – Saturday, November 14! Mark your calendars for New Salem's Fall Bazaar on Saturday, November 14 and start working on your wonderful crafts for New Salem's table! Signup sheets for helping with the event are on the rear table in the Fellowship Hall.

Offering Reminder: Please remember to indicate on your check/offering envelope how you wish your gift to be credited. Unmarked offerings/those marked "general" go toward New Salem's annual operating expenses; gifts marked for other entities are credited as such in your giving record and sent to those organizations. Thank you for supporting the missions and good works of New Salem!

Need Medical Equipment?/Have Medical Equipment?. If you are in need of medical equipment, call and/or come to the Bemidji Senior Center (216 3rd St NW, 218-751-8836, in downtown Bemidji) Mon – Fri 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. to see what is available through the HELP program (Home Equipment Loan Program). The item(s) can be checked out and used as long as needed. The Senior Center also accepts used-clean-workable equipment. The Disabled American Veterans (15th Street NW, 218-556-4592, in Bemidji) also has equipment to loan. The DAV has electric hospital beds/etc.; the Senior Center **does not** have any electrical equipment to loan out. You do not have to be a veteran borrow the DAV equipment.

The live-streaming of New Salem's worship services is made possible by a generous memorial gift from the family of Margaret Carlson.

Arise, My Soul, Arise!



Nyt y - lös, sie - lu - ni, nous' y - lös mul - last' täs - tä!
 1 A - rise, my soul, a - rise! Stretch forth to things e - ter - nal
 2 Now hear the harps of heav'n! Oh, hear the song vic - to - rious,



Käy jal - kain juu - reen Ju - ma - lan ja Ka - rit - san.
 and has - ten to the feet of your re - deem - er God,
 the nev - er - end - ing an - them sound - ing through the sky!



Ja vaikk' ei sil - mä - ni va - lo - a Her - ran kes - tä,
 who, hid from mor - tal eyes, yet dwells in light su - per - nal;
 To mor - tals is not giv'n to join in strains so glo - rious;



niin kui - ten - kin sä rie - mui - ten käy lau - la - maan.
 so wor - ship God in hum - ble - ness, your sov - 'reign Lord.
 yet here on earth we too can sing our prais - es high!



I - äi - seen i - loon ja juh - laan ja - loon
 The ban - quet of love a - waits you a - bove;
 Christ bought with his blood the ran - somed of God;



oot Ka - rit - san sä suu - riin häi - hin kut - sut - tu.
 yet here you have a fore - taste of the feast to come!
 to him be ev - er - last - ing pow'r and vic - to - ry.



Tai - va - han kun - ni - a on Her - ran ar - mos - ta
 Re - joice, my soul, re - joice, to heav'n lift up your voice:
 And let the great a - men re - sound through heav'n a - gain.



sun o - sa - si, sun pe - rin - tös ja ta - va - ras.
 *Siis rie - muit - se ja a - jat - te - le au - tuut - tas.
 1, 2 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Today's Worship Leaders/Assistants**Presiding Clergy: Pastor Terry R. Hagensen****Ushers: Nora & Jerry Illies****Reader:****Communion Assistant:****Fellowship Host: Linda Hendrikson****Social Media Coordinator: Nora Illies****Setting the Lord's Table: Sonya & Paul Kraft****Pianist: Cheryl Durant****Cantor/Choir Director****AV Services: Traci Schanke****New Salem Lutheran Church - Terry R. Hagensen, Pastor****7491 Island View Drive NE, Turtle River, MN 56601****Office Tel: 218-586-2262/Office Email (Traci Schanke): newsalem@paulbunyan.net****Website: newsalemlutheran.org****YouTube Channel: New Salem Lutheran Church, Turtle River, MN****September vs Expenses (PRELIMINARY)****Total General Fund Income: \$12,214****(DEFICIT) for September: (-\$5,051)****Total Expenses: \$17,265****10.4.26 General Fund Offering: \$3,787****Attendance/Social Media Engagement (as of 10.8.26)****Sunday, October 4 (in person/online): 74/26****YouTube Views: 1,531****Facebook reach: 90,715****YouTube Subscribers: 143****Music Rights/Permissions for October 11**

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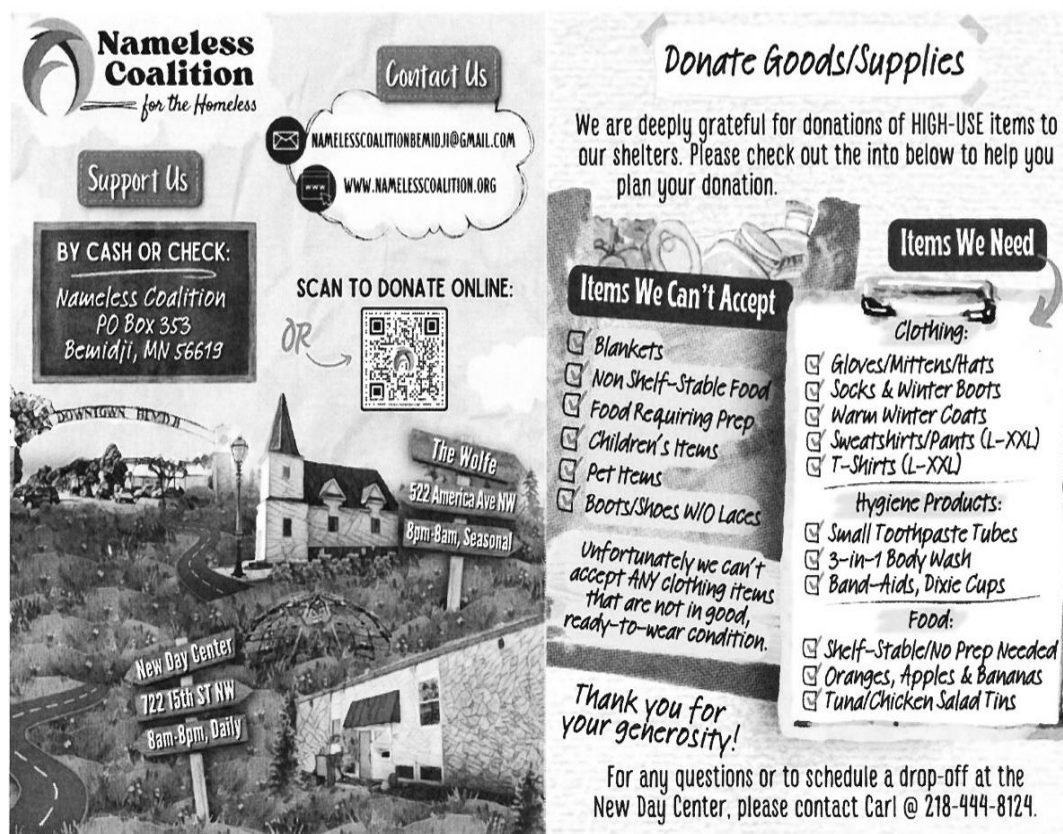
Spirit, Open My Heart – Text: Ruth Duck (b. 1947); © 1996 Pilgrim Press
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Here Would I Feast – Text: Horatius Bonar (1808-1889) tr. T.W. Speaks
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Arise, My Soul, Arise! – Text: Johan Kahl (1721-1746); Finnish tr. *Halullisten Sjelujen Hengelliset Laulut*, 1790; English Tr. Ernest E. Ryden (1886-1981), alt./Music: Finnish folk tune
 Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Upcoming @ New Salem

Mon, Oct 12	Church & Office Closed for Indigenous Peoples' Day	
	New Salem Volunteers @ Food Shelf	9 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. and 12 noon – 3:30 p.m.
Wed, Oct 14	Choir Rehearsal	5 p.m.
	Evening Bible Study	6:30 p.m.
Thurs, Oct 15	Morning Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
	Confirmation Class	5 p.m.
Mon-Wed, Oct 19-21	Pastor Terry Out of the Office for Continuing Education	
Tues, Oct 20	Team/Council Meeting Night	6 p.m./7 p.m.
Wed, Oct 21	Choir Rehearsal	5 p.m.
	Evening Bible Study	6:30 p.m.
Thurs, Oct 22	Morning Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
	Confirmation Class	5 p.m.

October Mission Partner – Nameless Coalition for the Homeless


Nameless Coalition
for the Homeless

Contact Us
NAMELESSCOALITIONBEMIDJI@gmail.com
WWW.NAMELESSCOALITION.ORG

Support Us
BY CASH OR CHECK:
Nameless Coalition
PO Box 353
Bemidji, MN 56619

SCAN TO DONATE ONLINE:
OR

Donate Goods/Supplies
We are deeply grateful for donations of HIGH-USE items to our shelters. Please check out the into below to help you plan your donation.

Items We Can't Accept

- ☐ Blankets
- ☐ Non Shelf-Stable Food
- ☐ Food Requiring Prep
- ☐ Children's Items
- ☐ Pet Items
- ☐ Boots/Shoes w/o Laces

Unfortunately we can't accept ANY clothing items that are not in good, ready-to-wear condition.

Items We Need

Clothing:

- ☐ Gloves/Mittens/Hats
- ☐ Socks & Winter Boots
- ☐ Warm Winter Coats
- ☐ Sweatshirts/Pants (L-XXL)
- ☐ T-Shirts (L-XXL)

Hygiene Products:

- ☐ Small Toothpaste Tubes
- ☐ 3-in-1 Body Wash
- ☐ Band-Aids, Dixie Cups

Food:

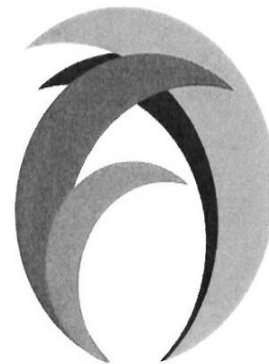
- ☐ Shelf-Stable/No Prep Needed
- ☐ Oranges, Apples & Bananas
- ☐ Tuna/Chicken Salad Tins

The Wolfe
522 America Ave NW
8pm-8am, Seasonal

New Day Center
722 15th ST NW
8am-8pm, Daily

Thank you for your generosity!

For any questions or to schedule a drop-off at the New Day Center, please contact Carl @ 218-444-8124.

***God's Work, Our Treasure—OCTOBER 2026***

This month New Salem is lifting up the work of a mission partner, **the Nameless Coalition for the Homeless**, and urges you to consider the various ways you might support this valuable ministry.

You can send your check to New Salem and indicate it is for the Nameless Coalition.

Please prayerfully consider how you might support the work of this important ministry.

<https://www.facebook.com/namelesscoalition>

The Readings on This Day – Sunday, October 11, 2026

Matthew 22:1-14

God calls us to life together, described here as a wedding banquet for the prince. Christians have likened the love of Christ for the church as a marriage and holy communion as the banquet that God provides: recall the wedding imagery in the hymn “Soul, adorn yourself with gladness.” Some interpreters have likened the “wedding robe” to a white garment of baptism, and some Christians have literalized the eschatological metaphors and specify heaven as an everlasting joyous banquet and hell as perpetual weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Isaiah 25:1-9

This stunning eschatological poem invokes the images of city, ruins, palace, shelter, cloud, mountain, feast, wine, shroud, tears. God is described as swallowing up death, consuming its danger so that we remain alive and safe. The poem is chosen as a parallel to Matthew’s picture of the king providing a banquet for a surprising group of guests. For Christians, the tomb of Christ has swallowed death. Be sure that a masterful reader proclaims this amazing ancient poem.

Philippians 4:1-9

Paul once again provides a balance for Matthew: even though there is controversy within the Philippian community, Paul still praises it as his joy and his crown. “The Lord is near”: the church recognizes the risen Lord here, in word, sacrament, and assembly.

Images in the Readings

Here is a listing of only some of this Sunday’s images. Matthew’s parable merges several biblical images that describe our life with God. The wedding suggests life-long love, commitment to the other, and communal joy in the union as a description of God’s choosing and caring for us. Especially in a culture in which food was not plentiful and cheap, the feast connotes communal participation and extraordinary fullness. God is likened to a king, to whom is due honor and service. We are guests: that is, the meal is God’s, not ours. The wedding robe suggests the white garment of baptism. Since the Bible often describes God as light, outer darkness suggests life totally distant and apart from God. Paul calls the somewhat problematic Philippian assembly his crown. Another ten images fill the poem from Isaiah. God not only throws out the unprepared guest: God also shelters us from storm, removes the shroud that finally covers all humans, like some kind of monster eats up death, and like a lover or a parent wipes away our tears.



Sermon Notes/Weekly Assignment