

East St. Olaf Lutheran Church

6200 County Road 3 SW – Byron, MN

December 8, 2024: Second Sunday of Advent

Rev. Paul Thompson – Organist: Pat Nelson

WELCOME! WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE VISITING:



If you're visiting, please sign our guestbook (in narthex).
Worship times rotate monthly between East & West St. Olaf.

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE



EAST 9:00 am worship with coffee after church

JAM Christmas programs today and next Sun.

WEST 11:00 am worship (coffee before church 10 am)

TODAY: East Christmas program & Jesus' birthday cake after

Dec. 15: West Christmas program & Jesus' birthday cake after

Dec. 24: CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES:

All are welcome to attend at either church

4:00 pm at West St. Olaf and 6:00 pm at East St. Olaf

Dec. 29: JOINT HYMN-SING SERVICE AT EAST ST. OLAF

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING US

Note: Anyone interested may join Altar Guild

Altar Guild: Dec. - Darlene Myhre & Sonya Mansfield

Deacon: Dec. - Jane Williams

Reader/Helper: Dec. 8 – Christmas Program

Acolytes: If none listed, then ushers are covering

EAST COFFEE SERVERS: 2nd Sunday – *Quilting Sisters*

READINGS FOR: Sun., Dec. 8 -- Second Sunday of Advent

INTRODUCTION: *Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the*

gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4: *God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.*

PSALM: Luke 1:68-79

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11: *The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.*

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6: *John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.*

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS:



"Journey to the Christ Child"

EAST program is today, at 9am – after the program all are invited to enjoy Jesus' birthday cake & coffee!

***WEST program is next Sunday, Dec. 15, at 11am** - after the program all are invited to enjoy Jesus' birthday cake & coffee!*

A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY IN DECEMBER:

December 18th will be Mervis Keckhafer's 100th birthday!

This is a special birthday for a special lady from West St. Olaf!

MERVIS' FAMILY IS HAVING A BIRTHDAY OPEN

HOUSE FOR HER, this Saturday, Dec. 14 from 1-4:00 pm at the Midtown Manor Community room. *All are welcome to drop by and wish her a happy birthday!*

EAST MISSION: Giving Tree in East Narthex for the



Women's Shelter: All Things Cozy will be the theme for our Giving Tree this year, and presents donated will be sent to the Women's Shelter in Rochester, MN.

All are invited to donate. *This safe house serves Rochester and local areas. Many women arrive here with just the clothes on their backs, seeking refuge from abuse and looking to start a new and better life. Your donations will support women, children, and young adults needing help.*

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH - HOSTED BY EAST WELCA



Next Sunday, December 15, is the WELCA Christmas Brunch and all of East church is invited! And WELCA will also have a brief meeting after the brunch (for their December meeting).

Beautifying Our Sanctuary for Advent & Christmas!



*If you'd like to donate a poinsettia, we will recognize it in the Christmas Eve bulletin. **Please inform one of the following people by Mon., Dec. 16 (please specify who the plant is from and whom it's in memory-of).** **EAST or WEST;** Email Gina at eastwest@kmtel.com*

and certainity@kmtel.com . You may also call the office (365-8222).

EAST WELCA & OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

DECEMBER Worship 9:00

- 8 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM at East & Jesus birthday cake
- 10 Take Down Quilting Sale Items
- 15 EAST CHRISTMAS BRUNCH by the East WELCA:
ALL EAST MEMBERS INVITED... *AND after
brunch, East WELCA has their December meeting.*
**Sunday School Christmas program at West*
- 24 6:00 PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE at EAST ST. OLAF
- 25 Christmas Day: *NO service-Merry Christmas! Office closed.*
- 29 10 AM Joint Christmas Hymn Service at EAST

**EARLY CHRISTMAS SERVICE at ZWINGLI CHURCH
4:00 pm, Sat. Dec 21 at 23148 Co. Hwy 24, West Concord.**

Service is at Zwingli United Church of Christ at Berne, with support from St. John's Lutheran of Kasson and the Pine Haven Community of Pine Island. All are welcome and sweet treats will be served afterward. This service is especially for those grieving the loss of a loved one and finding it hard to get into the Christmas spirit. Join us for scripture, song and candlelight as we reflect on God's hope and presence.

EAST WELCA PLANNING MEETING FOR 2025:

Our WELCA planning meeting for 2025 will be Saturday, January 11 at 10:00AM in the East Basement. All women of East are invited to attend.

EAST MEMBERS: If you know of anyone who would like a get a card from East St. Olaf, please contact Jane Williams (507) 271-2272 (Talk or Text). *Help us share a blessing!*

EAST CONTRIBUTIONS:

(11/24/2024) Current \$2,372. Benevolence \$75 and in-memory of Bill Fritts \$500 Undesignated.

HAPPENING TODAY & THIS WEEK

Deadline for bulletin information - Wednesdays by 7:30 pm.

TODAY	9:00 am	<u>East CHRISTMAS PROGRAM... & Jesus Birthday Cake afterward</u>
	>>>>	<u>NO coffee at West today</u>
	11:00 am	West worship
	5:00 pm	ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT
	6:00 pm	Punch & Table Viewing @ West
Dec. 9 (Mon.)	9am-Noon	Advent by Candlelight Service
	>>>>	Pastor at office
		<u>JOINT council meeting at WEST</u>
		<i>6:00 pm- individual meetings</i>
		<i>7:00 pm- joint meeting begins</i>

- Dec. 10 (Tue.) 9:30 am **ELCA Pastor's Conference at EAST, for Zumbro River Conference - refreshments served**
 10:00 am East take down quilting items
- Dec. 11 (Wed.) 10:30 am WEST WELCA CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & LUNCHEON...
 West men invited too
 7:00 pm BOTH - Confirmation at West
- Dec. 12 (Thur.) 9am-Noon Pastor at office (*10am Kasson mtg.*)
- Dec. 13 (Fri.) 9am-Noon Pastor's day off-work
 1-4:00 pm **OPEN HOUSE at Midtown Manor Community Room for the 100th Birthday of Mervis Keckhafer**
All are welcome to drop by!
- Dec. 15 (Sun.) 9:00 am East worship
 10:00 am **EAST CHRISTMAS BRUNCH by East WELCA - ALL East members are invited! (AND after the brunch, WELCA will have their meeting).**
 10:00 am West coffee
 11:00 am WEST CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, followed by breakfast and Jesus' Birthday Cake!

COMING UP AT EAST & WEST

- Dec. 16 (Mon.) 9am-Noon Pastor at office
- Dec. 17 (Tue.) 10:00 am East quilting/sack lunch
 5:00 pm **DEADLINE to submit info for next newsletter**
- Dec. 18 (Wed.) 7:00 pm BOTH - Confirmation at West
- Dec. 19 (Thur.) 9am-Noon Pastor at office
- Dec. 20 (Fri.) 9am-Noon Pastor's day off-work
- Dec. 22 (Sun.) 9:00 am East worship, Communion
 10:00 am West coffee / NO classes for JAM
 11:00 am West worship, Communion
- Dec. 23 (Mon.) 9am-Noon Pastor at office

Dec. 24 (Tue.) **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLIGHT SERVICES**
with Communion at both churches.

4:00 pm at WEST 6:00 pm at EAST

Dec. 25 (Wed.) MERRY CHRISTMAS – NO church services and
NO class for confirmation, office closed

NOTE: >>> Gina on vacation: Dec. 25 thru Jan. 1

Dec. 26 (Thur.) 9am-Noon Pastor at office

Dec. 27 (Fri.) 9am-Noon Pastor's day off-work

Dec. 29 (Sun.) *Pastor Paul vacation day*

10:00 am **JOINT Hymn-Sing at EAST**

Dec. 30 (Mon.) 9am-Noon Pastor at office

NEWSLETTER DAY AT OFFICE,

Gina will come in, though she is on
vacation Dec. 25 – Jan. 1

Dec. 31 (Tue.) 10:00 am East quilting/sack lunch

TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER

East Prayers: Todd Pyfferoen, Kathy B., Orillie Iverson, Mary Madson, Jerry Nelson, Kaysie Peterson, Scott Kittleson (*son-in-law of Paul Jordan*), Dawn Hugeback, Debra Moekel (*daughter of Audrey Carlson*), Keith Roeder (*son-in-law of Paul Jordan*), Dalton Mansfield (*in military*), John (*cousin of Pat Nelson*), Sylvia Torstenson, and John Heydt (*brother of Pat Nelson*).

West Prayers: Amber Haley (*Todd and Denice Beaver's daughter*) Russ Skov, Carma Bjornson, Joy Beaver, Kathy B., Jerry Nelson, Sandy Miller (*sister of Carma B.*), Bill Tietje (*brother of Carma B.*), Loretta Himle, Gloria Brown, Aloma Eastlee, Dawn Hugeback, Darlene Hanson, Kelly Keckhafer, Gloria Pew, Boyd Pew, Cindy Senjem, Philip Senjem, and Matt Miller (*nephew of Carma Bjornson*). **Those serving in our military:** Jack Kenyon (*nephew of Will & Gail Laxen*), Patrick Reynolds (*grandson of Sue Hyland*), Erika Smith (*granddaughter of Carma & Ardean Bjornson*).

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

PASTOR Paul Thompson: *(Please call before driving to 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 office)*

Office Phone: 507-365-8222 **Cell Phone:** 507-951-4964

Emails: eastwest@kmtel.com AND certainty@kmtel.com

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

JANITORIAL SERVICE: Becky Wilbourne 507-923-5845

COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION:

President, Bruce Peterson: 507-254-1822

Gary Kearns: 507-206-3158 or 507- 254-5285

Bryan DeCook: 507-208-1590

EAST: VISITS FOR OUR MEMBERS

If you know of anyone who may like a call or visit from Pastor Paul or from another member, please contact East deacon, Jane Williams: 507-271-2272.