

East St. Olaf Lutheran Church

6200 County Road 3 SW – Byron, MN

December 22, 2024: Fourth 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



Dec. 24: CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT

SERVICES: All are welcome to attend at either church
4:00 pm at West St. Olaf -- 6:00 pm at East St. Olaf

Dec. 29: 10:00 am JOINT HYMN-SING SERVICE at EAST

Jan. 5: 11:00 am WEST CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & cake after

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. 22 – Mike Senjem

Acolytes: If none listed, then ushers are covering

EAST COFFEE SERVERS: 4th Sunday – Circle 4

READINGS FOR: December 22, 2024: 4th Sunday of Advent

INTRODUCTION: *Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion – with high delight – "we proclaim the Lord's death."*

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a: *The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem.*

(Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10: *The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.*

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]: *Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.*

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 (NEW due date is Jan. 12).**

This safe house serves Rochester and local areas. Many women arrive here with just the clothes on their backs, seeking refuge from abuse.

EAST WELCA & OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

24 6:00 pm CANDLELIGHT SERVICE at EAST ST. OLAF
(Candlelight service at West will be at 4:00 PM)

25 Christmas Day: NO service—Merry Christmas! Office closed.

29 10 am JOINT HYMN-SING Service at EAST, so
NO classes for JAM until Jan. 5

JANUARY

7 10 am Quilting/sack lunch

11 10 am East WELCA meeting (church basement)

14 10 am Quilting/sack lunch

21 10 am Quilting/sack lunch

28 10 am Quilting/sack lunch

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. *We hope you can join us; we’d love to have your input.*

EAST CONTRIBUTIONS:

(12/01 & 12/08 2024) Current \$4,821, WELCA \$86, and Sunday School \$86.

HAPPENING TODAY & THIS WEEK

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

TODAY	9:00 am	East worship, <u>Communion</u>
	10:00 am	West coffee / <u>NO classes</u> for JAM
	11:00 am	West worship, <u>Communion</u>

Monday 9am-Noon Pastor at office

Tuesday CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLIGHT SERVICES
with Communion at both churches.
4:00 pm at WEST 6:00 pm at EAST

Wednesday MERRY CHRISTMAS – NO church services
NO class for confirmation, office closed

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

Thursday 9am-Noon Pastor at office

Friday 9am-Noon Pastor’s day off-work

Sun. 12/29 >>> **Pastor Paul vacation day**
10:00 am JOINT Hymn-Sing at EAST, so
NO classes for JAM

COMING UP AT EAST & WEST

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

JANUARY (hours remain same as Dec. was, each year)

EAST 9:00 am worship with coffee after church
10:00 am JAM at West (for both), West coffee
WEST 11:00 am worship (coffee before church)

- Jan. 1 (Wed.)** ----- NO class for confirmation
OFFICE CLOSED: New Year's Day
- Jan. 2 (Thu.)** 9am-Noon Pastor at office
- Jan. 3 (Fri.)** ----- Pastor's day off-work
- Jan. 5 (Sun.)** 9:00 am East worship, Communion ... with
East coffee always after church
10:00 am JAM at West (for both), West coffee
11:00 am WEST CHRISTMAS PROGRAM,
with Comm during the program,
(cake/coffee served afterward)
- Jan. 6 (Mon.)** 9am-Noon Pastor at office
9:00 am West undecorates the chapel
- Jan. 7 (Tue.)** 9:00 am West quilting / sack lunch
10:00 am East quilting/sack lunch
6:00 pm East church council meeting
- Jan. 8 (Wed.)** 9:00 am West quilting / sack lunch
1:00 pm West WELCA meeting
Host-Billie Jean, Study-Pastor Paul
7:00 pm Confirmation class at West
- Jan. 9 (Thur.)** ----- *Pastor has 10am Kasson minister mtg*
- Jan. 10 (Fri.)** ----- Pastor's day off-work
- Jan. 11 (Sat.)** 10:00 am East WELCA meeting at church
- Jan. 12 (Sun.)** >>> NEWEAST due date for donated gifts
for the Women's Shelter.
9:00 am East worship, coffee after church
10:00 am JAM at West (for both), West coffee
11:00 am West worship
- Jan. 13 (Mon.)** 9am-Noon Pastor at office
7:00 pm West church council meeting
- Jan. 14 (Tue.)** 10:00 am East quilting/sack lunch
- Jan. 15 (Wed.)** 7:00 pm Confirmation class at West
- Jan. 16 (Thur.)** 9-Noon Pastor at office
- Jan. 17 (Fri.)** ----- Pastor's day off-work

Jan. 19 (Sun.)	9:00 am	East worship, coffee after church
	10:00 am	JAM at West (for both), West coffee
	11:00 am	West worship AT CHAPEL
Jan. 20 (Mon.)	9am-Noon	Pastor at office
	NOON	<u>Deadline to submit newsletter info</u>
Jan. 21 (Tue.)	9:00 am	West quilting / sack lunch
	10:00 am	East quilting/sack lunch
Jan. 22 (Wed.)	9:00 am	West quilting / sack lunch
	7:00 pm	Confirmation class at West
Jan. 23 (Thur.)	9-Noon	Pastor at office
Jan. 24 (Fri.)	-----	Pastor's day off-work
Jan. 26 (Sun.)	<u>DAY OF EAST'S ANNUAL MEETING!!</u>	
	9:00 am	East worship/ <u>comm.</u> <u>Then after church EAST HAS ANNUAL MEETING, POTLUCK DINNER</u>
	10:00 am	JAM at West (for both), West coffee
	11:00 am	West worship, Comm at CHAPEL

TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER

East Prayers: Pat Raasch (*friend of Becky Brakke*), 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: Lauren Otto (*granddaughter of Ralph & Wilma Kyllo, daughter of Randy & Kathy Demmer*), 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 Jane Williams: 507-271-2272.