



## APRIL 2019 HAPPENINGS

**Pastor Paul Thompson** Cell: 507-273-8504 Email: pthomp821@gmail.com

**Office Hours:** 9:00 am–Noon (Monday & Thursday... or by appointment) **Websites:** eaststolaf.org ...OR... weststolaf.org

**Gina Moser, Secretary:** Office: 365-8222 and eastwest@kmtel.com

### \*\*\* WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR APRIL \*\*\*

**WEST is early at 9:00 am... EAST is late at 11:00 am (see times for Easter services below)**

**BOTH at 10:00 am: JAM at West / Sunday School & TLC at EAST**

### Lenten, Holy Week & Easter Schedule



**04/03** Lenten Service at East 6:00 pm supper & 7:00 pm service

**04/10** Lenten Service at West 6:00 pm supper (*BOE serving*) & 7:00 pm service

**04/14** Palm Sunday services at regular times (*West has Easter egg hunt by LL*)

**04/18** Maundy Thursday service at East at 7:00 pm

**04/19** Good Friday service at West at 7:00 pm



**Easter Sunrise** at East 7:00 am (*no breakfast*)

**Easter Service** at West at 9:00 am

## Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Winter is so cold, so dead. While many of you told me in the last few weeks, “This is the way winter always used to be”, that still didn’t make me feel any better about the last couple of months. By the time February rolls around, I’m always sick of winter, yet this year, winter was just gearing up in February. It interrupted our ministry here, it caused many difficulties, it fueled a worse than average flu season, and just generally made life miserable.

But now the season has changed. The days are finally longer than the nights, and snow and ice are releasing their grip on our fields and forests. I was struck, a few days ago, by the sound of songbirds, returned from their winter hiatus. While it still looked like winter, it sounded like spring. Where once we looked around and saw death, now we see life. The songs of the birds came back before the warmth, and sang in the season of new life which we now enjoy.

The prophets and apostles sang in more than a season thousands of years ago, they sang in a new age, an age of life, an age of hope, an age of renewal. They sang to tell us that God would pour new life into this world in the resurrection of his Son, Jesus, our Savior and Lord. They sang so we could sing. They sang even as they struggled with bringing God’s message to an unhearing world. They sang songs of hope and joy, even as their world crashed in all around themselves. They sang because God showed them how evil, sin, and death would not then, and would not ever win.

While we walk the journey of Lent for a few weeks more, we know Easter is coming. We sing in Lent, amid our tears, so that we may sing on Easter amid our smiles. Spring always comes back. The sun always comes back. Our God always brings us back from whatever terrors our world throws at us. Even when we mourn the deaths of those we love, even though our hearts break, and our grief sits like a stone in the pit of our stomachs, God gives us life again, God gives us hope again, God gives us joy again.

Join us to celebrate the new life of God on Easter Sunday, April 21. Gather with us at Easter Sunrise at East at 7:00 am, or at West service at 9:00 am. Let us sing together with joy.

In God’s peace,  
Pastor Paul Thompson



## Membership Updates, WELCA News & Serving Schedules

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Any updates will be in May issue.

### EAST WELCA DATES

#### **Apr 2 (Tue.)**

10:00 quilting/sack lunch

#### **Apr 9 (Tue.)**

10:00 quilting/sack lunch

#### **Apr 16 (Tue.)**

10:00 quilting/sack lunch

#### **Apr 23 (Tue.)**

10:00 am Circle 4 Bible study  
12:00 pm Circle 4 meeting, then quilting

#### **Apr 25 (Thur.)**

Women's Zumbro River Spring Conference at 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran in Blooming Prairie

#### **Apr 28 (Sun.)**

SPRING DINNER by Circle 4 after church service—all welcome

#### **Apr 30 (Tue.)**

10:00 quilting/sack lunch

### WEST WELCA NEWS

Easter is a time of hope and a renewal of our faith. We thank God for our many blessings and pray for those who are struggling with grief, homelessness, lack of food, illness and weather related disasters. Spring also is a time of renewal and we hope to enjoy this season soon after a long difficult winter.

One of the big events in April for West St. Olaf is "Holy Hotdish". We encourage everyone to get involved in this event. The fellowship shared on this day is very special. Look for the detailed announcement in this newsletter. April 7 is the big day! A portion of our proceeds will be given to Dodge County Food Shelf.

Our WELCA calendar for 2019 is available in the chapel. Please pick up your copy so you know what activities are going on each month. Thank you to Jan Nordland for printing these for us in Gina's absence. Our new Bible study of Women of the Bible has been well received by all the women. Come join us as Gloria Brown facilitates the interesting study.

Thank you to Sheryl Wohlers for being chairperson in March and organizing the coffee to honor our graduates. Congratulations and best wishes to our four graduates; Nikolas Aasen, Camyrn Dahle, Toni Fjerstad, and Alexis Glynn. Thank you to Mary B. and Sandy I. for serving on altar guild in March.

The women's Zumbro River Spring Conference will be held on Thursday, April 25 at First Lutheran in Blooming Prairie. Please let Sharon or Nancy P. know if you'd like to attend. Cost is \$15. which includes registration and supper. We need to know before April 15. It would be nice to have a good representation from West for this enjoyable evening.

### April Calendar

Chairperson: Deb Schuck  
Altar Guild: Jane Estby and Sheryl Wohlers

**April 7:** Holy Hotdish

**April 10:** 1:00 PM WELCA Meeting  
Bible Study: "Hannah"  
Hostess: Katie Masching

**April 14:** Palm Sunday

**April 18:** 1:30 PM Field Crest  
Birthday Party

**April 21:** Easter

Blessings to you and your family at Easter!  
Sharon and Nancy



**West St. Olaf**  
Palm Sunday  
Easter Egg Hunt  
April 14

Put on by West Luther League for West JAM children. Bring a basket or bag to collect your eggs.



### SERVING SCHEDULES

#### APRIL at WEST

##### **Acolytes:**

Ushers until schedule made

**Ushers:** Don Alrcik, Greg Brandt, Neil Rabehl and Craig Steinfadt

**Deacon:** Nancy Gulbransen

**Stewardship:** Jan Nordland

#### APRIL at EAST

**Altar Guild:** Darlene Myhre & Sonya Mansfield

##### **Acolytes:**

To be determined

### COFFEE SERVERS at EAST

**Serving Coffee Hours Each Month:**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Sarah Circle  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Quilters Group  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday College Fund  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Circle 4  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday \_\_\_? Open week



# HOLY HOTDISH TIME!

**APRIL 7, 2019 at West St. Olaf**

**Everyone from our community and local churches welcomed!**



## ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND: RESERVATIONS NEEDED

**MEAL TICKETS:** The first seating for Holy Hotdish is at 11 AM and the second seating is at 12:30 PM. **CALL CINDY@ 365- 8090 FOR RESERVATIONS AND LET HER KNOW THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN YOUR PARTY. Please let your friends know they need to call for reservations.** Each seating is limited to 92 people. **For West members: Call for reservations as soon as possible if you want to eat at the 11 AM seating.** Everyone will pick up your tickets and give your donation at the church the day of the event. *Suggested donation is \$10 per person and \$20 per family.* A portion of the proceeds will be given to the Dodge County Food Shelf.

**CHANCE TO WIN A QUILT:** The quilting ladies have put together an old fashioned quilt made from flour sacks. If you make an additional donation to the food shelf, you can sign up for a chance to win it. It will be on display in the church.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## NOTES to West Members about Holy Hotdish:

It's time for our fun annual church-wide event, HOLY HOTDISH! Get out those overalls, dresses and hats for another fun time with Ole, Bertina and Company for the Farm and Barn Companion program and lots of good food to eat! We need ALL OF YOU to help make this another successful event at West St. Olaf.

**April 7- West church services** will be at 9AM. All Sunday School students should report to the chapel at 10AM to practice their songs they will sing in the church to the people who are waiting for the first seating. They will sing in the church about 10:25.

**HELP NEEDED:** The sign-up sheets are in the chapel for food and workers. West St. Olaf Ladies: Please sign-up to sing the "Holy Hotdish song. **WE WILL SETUP for Holy Hotdish on Thursday, April 4 at 9AM-noon:** We need men to help with the heavy lifting that morning. If needed, on April 5, we will finish setting up at 9AM. **Sat., April 6 at 9:00 am:** We will cut pickles and cut and butter buns.

**HOLY HOTDISH OUTFITS:** The clothing and hat shops are set up in the chapel so you can choose your fine apparel for the big day. Please remember to return all borrowed items. If you chose not to dress up, please take a new gray Thrivent T-shirt to wear. **Any and all help is needed and greatly appreciated. Thank you!**



## Parsonage Farmland - Sealed Bids Being Accepted



**Sealed bids** are now being accepted for the East-West St. Olaf Parsonage farm (12.9 acres). This would be for a 3-year contract.

**Requirements for placing a bid:**

A sealed bid must be sent through the mail so each letter is postmarked.  
**Bids are due by Friday, April 5, 2019.**

**Mail bids to:** East St. Olaf Church  
ATTN: Farm Bid  
6200 County Road 3 SW  
Byron, MN 55920

## West Women's Monthly Craft Night - April 11



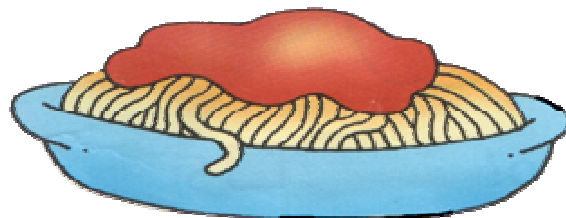
***APRIL 11: Pottery lessons at Larsen's Looks Within Studio. Sign-up required.***

The charge will be \$10 per person for those who create a piece of pottery. Some beverages will be available as well as snacks, but bring something to share. We will require sign-up; you can email Laura or Donna. *Pottery will be thrown on the wheels, slab roller and by mold.*

## Spring Dinner: Spaghetti

**APRIL 28, 2019 at East St. Olaf**  
**right after church - about noon**

**Everyone is welcome!**















**East Circle 4 is Putting on a Spring Dinner and You're Invited!**

Meal served by Circle 4. Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, green salad, garlic bread and bars.

Cost: \$9-adults, \$4 kids years to 10 years old, and free for kids under 4 years old. Hope you can join us!



Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
<p><b>No East WELCA meeting in April</b></p>	<p><b>1</b> 9:00 am-Noon Pastor at office</p>	<p><b>2</b> 10:00 am East Quilt/sack lunch  6:00 pm East Council meeting</p>	<p><b>3</b> 6:00 pm BOTH at EAST-Soup supper 7:00 pm BOTH at EAST— Lenten service... <i>all confirmation students attend</i></p>	<p><b>4</b> 9:00 am-Noon Pastor at office 9:00 am - Noon West sets up for Holy Hotdish... <u>Men needed.</u></p>	<p><b>5</b> Pastor Paul's <u>Day Off-Work</u> 9:00 am <u>IF needed...</u> West will finish setup for Holy Hotdish</p>	<p><b>6</b> 9:00 am West will cut pickles and butter bread for Holy Hotdish</p>
<p><b>7</b>   9:00 am West Worship &amp; <u>Comm</u> and <u>HOLY</u> <u>HOTDISH at West!</u> 10:00 am BOTH JAM / SS &amp; TLC 11:00 am East Worship &amp; <u>Comm</u> 11:00 am 1<sup>st</sup> seating Holy Hotdish at West 12:30 pm—2<sup>nd</sup> seating Holy Hotdish at West</p>	<p><b>8</b> 9:00 am-Noon Pastor at office 3:00 pm <u>Deadline to sub-</u> <u>mit lily donations</u> <u>to be listed in the</u> <u>Easter bulletin</u>  7:00 pm West Council meeting</p>	<p><b>9</b> 10:00 am East Quilt/sack lunch</p>	<p><b>10</b> 1:00 pm West WELCA meeting Host- Katie M. Study: "Leah" 6:00 pm BOTH at WEST Soup BOE serving supper 7:00 pm BOTH at WEST  Lenten service... <i>all confirmation students attend</i></p>	<p><b>11</b> 9:00 am-Noon Pastor at office  6:00-8:00 pm West women's craft night at Larsen's pottery studio. Cost \$10. Bring a snack.</p>	<p><b>12</b> Pastor Paul's <u>Day Off-Work</u></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>
<p><b>14</b>   <u>PALM SUNDAY</u> 9:00 am West Worship-<u>No comm</u> 10:00 am West has Easter Egg Hunt by LL East SS &amp; TLC 11:00 am East Worship-<u>No comm</u></p>	<p><b>15</b> 9:00 am-Noon Pastor at office</p>	<p><b>16</b> 10:00 am East Quilt/sack lunch</p>	<p><b>17</b> <u>No class for</u> <u>Confirmation</u></p>	<p><b>18</b> 9:00 am-Noon Pastor at office 1:30 pm West WELCA hosts Field Crest Birthday Party 7:00 pm BOTH at EAST  Maundy Thursday Svc.</p>	<p><b>19</b> Pastor Paul's <u>Day Off-Work</u>  7:00 pm BOTH at WEST Good Friday Svc.</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>
<p><b>21</b>   <u>EASTER DAY!</u> 7:00 am EAST Sunrise service &amp; <u>Comm</u> <u>No JAM / SS / TLC</u> 9:00 am WEST Easter service &amp; <u>Comm</u></p>	<p><b>22</b> 9:00 am-Noon Pastor at office</p>	<p><b>23</b> 10:00 am East Circle 4 Bible study—then... Noon meeting, sack lunch, and quilting</p>	<p><b>24</b> 7:00 pm BOTH Confirmation at EAST church</p>	<p><b>25</b> BOTH: Women's Zumbro Spring Conference at 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Blooming Prairie</p>	<p><b>26</b> Pastor Paul's <u>Day Off-Work</u></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>
<p><b>28</b>  9:00 am West Worship-<u>No comm</u> 10:00 am BOTH JAM / SS &amp; TLC 11:00 am East Worship... and after church <u>EAST</u> <u>SPRING DINNER!</u></p>	<p><b>29</b> 9:00 am-Noon Pastor at office</p>	<p><b>30</b> 10:00 am East Quilt/sack lunch <u>NEWSLETTER</u> <u>VOLUNTEER</u> <u>DAY for FEB</u> <u>issue</u> 9:10-printing 9:30-folding 10:00-collate/tape</p>				





## Thank You East St. Olaf

### **Pastor Paul,**

Thank you very much for the wonderful church service for Brody's baptism. It meant a lot to me to have him baptized in the same church as his sister, as well as me back in 1985. It brought big smiles to our faces when you walked Brody around and introduced him to the congregation.

### **East Quilting Sisters,**

Thank you so much for the beautiful handmade quilt for Brody. It's a very special keepsake!

~ Trisha & Ricky Smith, Aubrey and Brody ~



## Thank You to Everyone!

**Thank you East & West** for the cards and emails with prayers and well-wishes when I broke my arm. I very much appreciated it and it really lifted my spirits.

**West quilters,** thank you so much for the beautiful quilt you gave me when I broke my arm. It's really lovely and I like the colors. I covered up with it every day when first recuperating in my recliner - as I had to sleep in the recliner for over a month (*not fun*). Now the quilt graces the bed in our spare room.

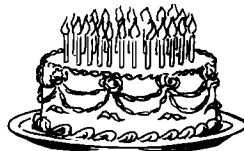
**Thank you, Sheryl Wohlers,** for the delicious meals you brought to us. Dan and I both really appreciated it deeply. You saved that poor man from cooking after working 10-hour shifts at work... and you saved me from feeling bad if he would have had to cook each night. ~ Gina Moser~

# Jesus Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

### **April Birthdays East**

4 Steve Jensen  
7 Tanner Boelter  
10 Larry Severson  
11 Roberta Skow  
12 Elsa Lantz  
16 Lowell Gilbertson  
18 Tara Finseth  
24 Lisa Yngsdal  
25 Randy Lantz  
25 Sue Lantz  
25 Kayla Jorgenson  
27 Julie Schiesser  
27 Haley Baier  
27 Dan Zieman  
28 Sharon Tix

## Happy Birthday!



### **April Birthdays West**

2 Grant Palmersheim  
4 David Thoe  
10 Sandra Iverson  
10 Jessie Twaddle  
10 David Palmersheim  
13 Darlene Hanson  
18 Will Laxen  
18 Landon Steinfadt  
20 Steven Fjerstad  
20 Jim Ahrens  
20 Tad Kaehler  
21 Ronald Martin  
22 Isabelle Connelly  
26 Samuel Iverson  
27 Nancy Gulbransen  
29 Walter Borland  
29 Jeffery Mittelstadt  
30 Boyd Pew



## Free Directory Photos - Still Some to Pickup at East St. Olaf

Please check the table in the narthex to see if you have a free photo to pick up from when photos were taken for the church directory.

## JOINT East & West St. Olaf Council Minutes ~ March 5, 2018

Meeting called to order by Mike Senjem

**Devotions:** Pastor Paul Thompson

**Members Present:** Pastor Paul Thompson, Mike Senjem, Gary Kearns, Steve Senjem, Deb DeCook, Glenda Mueller, Brian Mueller, Chris Yennie, Pat Cahill, Sonya Mansfield, Deb Schuck, Missy Olson, Dave Peterson, Mary Brandt, Cindy Orning, Carma Bjornson, Nancy Gulbransen, Sheryl Wohlers, Ken Wohlers, Del Senjem, Chad Thompson, Greg Brandt

**Secretary's Report:** Report from 12/4/18 joint meeting was reviewed. Motion to approve: Carma Bjornson; seconded by Sonya Mansfield; approved.

**Pastor's Report:** 6 shut-in visits, 2 hospital visits, 1 member visit, 6 Sunday worships, 1 funeral, 1 baptism, 2 Confirmation classes, mileage was 232 miles, 7 meetings, 4 events, 3 upcoming events, 4 upcoming vacation days – Pastor Ann Siverling has agreed to cover these Sundays for Pastor Paul with the exception of December 29<sup>th</sup> as each congregation prefers to have a lay service. Due to cancellations because of the weather, makeup dates for Confirmation will be before Lenten Services March 13<sup>th</sup> & March 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Parsonage Report:** None.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

- 1) Office help has been great with Gina being out on medical leave. A special thank you to Jan Nordland for all of her help with the church bulletins, newsletter, etc. Thanks so much, Jan – you're doing a great job! Tentative date for Gina's return is mid to late March.
- 2) Summer worship schedule discussed. It was decided to continue with the 8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. times. Joint church service discussed - tabled until joint June meeting.
- 3) Advent worship services were discussed. With the poor attendance, Pastor Paul inquired as to whether he should have Confirmation classes instead of Advent services. It was decided to try having Confirmation classes and no Advent services in 2019.
- 4) Parsonage land contract is up for renewal. Announcement will be placed in bulletins for the rest of March and April newsletter.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

Submitted by Deb DeCook, East St. Olaf Secretary



## East St. Olaf Church Council Minutes ~ February 10, 2019

Brief meeting held after church as regular Council meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

**Call to Order:** Mike Senjem

**Members Present:** Pastor Paul Thompson, Mike Senjem, Chris Yennie, Pat Cahill, Glenda Mueller, Brian Mueller, Deb DeCook, Bryan DeCook

**New Business:** New members to Council were welcomed. Installation of new Council members will be Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Please let Mike know if you have something to add to the agenda for the joint meeting in March.

Good Earth Village special offering date will be March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Motion made by Bryan DeCook to put loose change from regular offering toward GEV, seconded by Pat Cahill.

Ad will be put in March newsletter that sealed bids are being accepting thru March 30, 2019, for lawn mowing of the church grounds-this does not include the parsonage or cemeteries.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Council meeting Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> East St. Olaf at 6 p.m. for each Council with the joint meeting at 7 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Deb DeCook

## East St. Olaf Church Council Minutes ~ March 5, 2019

**Call to Order:** Mike Senjem at 6 p.m.

**Members Present:** Pastor Paul Thompson, Gary Kearns, Mike Senjem, Glenda Mueller, Brian Mueller, Steve Senjem, Deb DeCook, Sonya Mansfield, Pat Cahill, Chris Yennie

**Pastor's Report:** Deferred to joint meeting with West.

**Secretary's Report:** Reviewed and approved.

**Financial Secretary's Report:** None.

**Treasurer's Report:** February and March reports reviewed and approved.

**Deacon's Report:** 15.6 pounds of food was delivered to Kasson Food Shelf in February.

**Trustee's Report:** Mailbox needs to be shoveled out from the excess of snow.

**Old Business:** Special offering date for Good Earth Village will now be March 31<sup>st</sup>. Original date was March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**New Business:** Gary increased the mission support target to \$2,900 for 2019 – this was \$2,600 in 2018.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned to attend joint meeting with West.

Respectfully Submitted, Deb DeCook





## West St. Olaf Church Council Minutes ~ March 5, 2018

Meeting called to order by Deb Schuck

**Devotions:** Devotions given by Pastor Paul at joint meeting

**Attendance:** Pastor Paul, Deb Schuck, Missy Olson, Dave Peterson, Mary Brandt, Carma Bjornson, Nancy Gulbranson, Sheryl Wohlers, Cindy Orning, Greg Brandt, Ken Wohlers, Del Senjem, Chad Thompson

**Secretary's Report:** Report from February 11, 2019 meeting was reviewed. Motion to approve: Sheryl Wohlers; Second: Nancy Gullbranson. Approved.

**Financial Report:** Report for January 16-February 15, 2019 was reviewed. Motion to approve: Del Senjem; Second: Carma Bjornson. Approved

**Treasurer's Report:** Report for January 16-February 15, 2019 was reviewed. Motion to approve: Del Senjem; Second: Carma Bjornson. Approved.

**Board of Education Report:** March 20 will be BOE Lenten supper. JAM will go to Fieldcrest on March 24 which is also senior appreciation day. May 5 will be the end of JAM for the year and the seniors will receive their bibles that day.

**Luther League:** Luther League will do the March 27 Lenten supper.

**Pastor's Report:** Joint meeting report: 9 visits; 6 Sunday worships; 1 funeral; 1 baptism; 2 confirmation classes; 232 mileage; 7 meetings; 4 events; 3 upcoming events; upcoming vacation: 6/9, 7/21, 10/6, 12/29.

**Deacon's Report:** Sheryl will order bibles for the seniors (to be given 5/5).

**Trustee's Report:** Ken is waiting on bid for insurance. The de-humidifier issue is pending. Trustees will check on furnace exhaust vents to make sure they aren't plugged.

**Old Business:** None. Insurance issue covered under Trustees' report.

**New Business:** None.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Dave Peterson

**Second:** Carma Bjornson

Submitted by Mary Brandt, West St. Olaf Secretary

**Next meeting April 8, 2019 at 7:00 pm**

East & West St. Olaf Lutheran



6200 County Road 3 SW

Byron, MN 55920

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Pastor Paul Thompson

Cell: 507-273-8504 Email: pthomp821@gmail.com

Office Hours: 9:00 am – Noon (Mon. and Fri.)

Office: 507-365-8222 Secretary: eastwest@kmtel.com

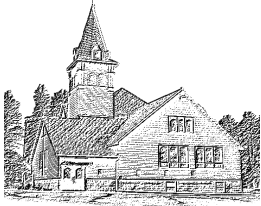
Websites: eaststolaf.org OR weststolaf.org

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

NON-PROFIT ORG.

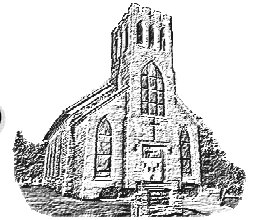
BYRON, MN 55902

PERMIT NO. 5



# HAPPENINGS

April 2019



Living in God's amazing grace since 1856