



JANUARY 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 JANUARY ***

EAST is early at 9:00 am... WEST is late at 11:00 am

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

ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK DATES:

WEST - January 20 (if bad weather - backup date is Feb. 3)

EAST - January 27 (if bad weather - backup date is Feb. 10)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,



Morey, a physically active college senior, had known for 10 years that when he graduated, he must have surgery on a malformed spine to avoid a crushed heart. There was a 50 percent chance for paralysis after surgery, plus he'd have to wear a body brace for nine months. This prospect took away all of the hope and anticipation his classmates felt as their college days came to a close.

As the fears and anxieties he had squashed down for a decade grew worse, his emotions threatened to explode. After much talking with caring friends and a counselor, he realized that he held within himself a tool to deal with his feelings. He didn't avoid or disregard his fears, but acknowledged them. He started to give his feelings expression. He chose times to worry- worked it into a schedule. He also chose times to set aside concern and focus his mind on other aspects of his life. On difficult days, he set a timer for 10 minutes each hour to think only about his troubles. Afterwards, he gently but purposely focused his mind happier things for the next hour.

In this way, despite almost overwhelming vulnerability, he began to gain control and a sense of power. He chose to consider the positive elements of his situation at least half the time, Morey surprised himself. He started to see the operation also as an opportunity -- 50 percent. Time, which for him seemed always to end at the point of the surgery, moved beyond the operation. He began to see his life as a project and the challenge of rehabilitation as possibly an adventure in self-discovery.

We can choose what we pay attention to in our lives. We can choose to pay attention to negativity, to fear, anger and doubt. We can also choose to pay attention to positivity, to joy, to blessings, and to all that is right with the world. The first choice leads to despair, grumpiness, and unhappiness. The second choice leads to peace, joy, and happiness. The second choice is hope. We, through a God of love, are people of hope. We can watch the news, and all its negativity, and do what we can in our lives to combat it. But we are called to speak God's grace to the world, to see life and opportunity.

Three Wise Men sought out Jesus because they saw his star, a star of hope. May our lives be sources of hope for all.

With hope in Christ,
Pastor Paul Thompson



Membership Updates, WELCA News & Serving Schedules

MEMBERHIP INFORMATION

BAPTISM

Leonardo Odin Bellrichard was baptized on November 25, 2018 at East St. Olaf. His parents are Holly & Mitchell Bellrichard. Sponsors: Brian Bellrichard, Heather Baxter. Officiated by Rev. Paul Thompson

EAST WELCA DATES

Jan 1 (Tue.)

NO quilting – New Year's Day

Jan 6 (Sun.) after church:

East WELCA meeting

Jan 8 (Tue.)

10:00 am Quilting & sack lunch

Jan 15 (Tue.)

10:00 am East Circle 4 meeting & Bible study, quilt/sack lunch

Jan 22 (Tue.)

10:00 am Quilting & sack lunch

Jan 29 (Tue.)

10:00 am Quilting & sack lunch

WEST WELCA NEWS

We hope you all had a very blessed Advent and Christmas season. The 11th annual Advent by Candlelight was such an inspiring event to get us thinking about the real reason for the season. Thank you to the many people who made this event possible.

West St. Olaf certainly knows how to "Live Generously"! The response to the mission to adopt two families for Christmas from Crisis Nursery was amazing. We completely filled a van with gifts for these families. The staff at Crisis Nursery said, "You've certainly made Christmas very merry for two families." Thank you to all of you who donated and to Thrivent Action Team for their \$250. startup money.

Thank you, Carma and Aloma for the wonderful program and for

organizing the potluck dinner for our WELCA Christmas party. Also thank you to all who participated in the program.

Thank you to all the women who have served in various capacities this year to make our WELCA organization an active one. We are so grateful for all the mission work that we were able to accomplish.

Please take note of the January WELCA calendar as our yearly calendar is not complete yet. Also read about our different Bible study (in this newsletter issue), that we will start at our January 9 WELCA meeting. It's always interesting to try something different. No advance preparation, no study book! Gloria Brown will be the moderator to lead us in discussion after watching the DVD. Please join us.

January West WELCA Calendar:

Chairpersons:

Nancy Gulbransen, Sandy Iverson

Altar Guild:

Jane Estby, Sheryl Wohlers

6 July-Dec. Erdman tapes due

8 9:00 am - Quilting/sack lunch

9 9:00 am - Quilting/sack lunch

1:00 pm - WELCA meeting

Hostess:

Jan Nordland

Bible Study: "Eve"

Moderator:

Gloria Brown

20 Annual meeting & potluck dinner
(if bad weather - it will be Feb. 3)

22 9:00 am - Quilting/sack lunch

23 9:00 am - Quilting/sack lunch

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Sharon and Nancy



SERVING SCHEDULES

JANUARY at WEST

Acolytes:

Ushers until schedule made

Ushers: Steve Arett, Scott Iverson, Philip Senjem, & Will Laxen

Deacon: Sheryl Wohlers

Stewardship: to be determined



JANUARY at EAST

Altar Guild: Dawn Evjen & Amy Jorgenson

Acolytes:

To be determined

COFFEE SERVERS at EAST

Serving Coffee Hours Each Month:

1st Sunday Sarah Circle

2nd Sunday Quilters Group

3rd Sunday College Fund

4th Sunday Circle 4

5th Sunday ___? Open week



Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 OFFICE CLOSED Happy New Year NO quilting at East due to holiday	2 NO class for Confirmation... School break	3 9:00 am-Noon Pastor at office <u>NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEER DAY for JAN issue</u> 9:10-printing 9:30-folding 10:00-collate/tape	4 Pastor Paul's Day Off-Work	5
6 9:00 am East Worship & Comm... Then East WELCA meeting afterward 10:00 am BOTH All restart: JAM / SS & TLC 11:00 am West Worship & First Holy Communion West Erdman's tapes due: July-Dec ***** 2 - 5:00 pm OPEN HOUSE @ Pastor Paul & Jana's home	7 9:00 am-Noon Pastor at office	8 9:00 am West Quilt/sack lunch 10:00 am East Quilt/sack lunch 6:00 pm East Council meeting	9 9:00 am West Quilt/sack lunch 1:00 pm West WELCA meeting Host- Jan N. 7:00 pm BOTH Confirmation at EAST church	10 9:00 am-Noon Pastor at office 6:00-8:00 pm West women's craft night- bring a snack	11 Pastor Paul's Day Off-Work	12 DEADLINE TO SUMIT WEST reports/articles for WEST Annual Report.
13 9:00 am East Worship, Baptism of Lacy Wiebusch 10:00 am BOTH JAM / SS & TLC 11:00 am West Worship	14 9:00 am-Noon Pastor at office 7:00 pm West Council meeting	15 10:00 am East Circle 4 meeting, quilting/sack lunch	16 7:00 pm BOTH Confirmation at EAST church	17 9:00 am-Noon Pastor at office >>> Gina will print WEST Annual Reports	18 Pastor Paul's Day Off-Work	19 DEADLINE TO SUMIT EAST reports/articles for EAST Annual Report.
20 9:00 am East Worship & Comm 9:00 am West Worship, then Annual Meeting & Potluck Dinner 10:00 am BOTH JAM / SS & TLC	21 9:00 am-Noon Pastor at office	22 9:00 West Quilt/sack lunch 10:00 am East Quilt/sack lunch	23 9:00 West Quilt/sack lunch 7:00 pm BOTH Confirmation at EAST church	24 <u>DEADLINE- Noon to submit info for FEB newsletter</u> >>> Gina will print EAST Annual Reports	25 Pastor Paul's Day Off-Work	26
27 9:00 am East Worship, then Annual Meeting & Potluck Dinner 9:00 am West Worship, Comm 10:00 am BOTH JAM / SS & TLC	28 9:00 am-Noon Pastor at office	29 10:00 am East Quilt/sack lunch	30 7:00 pm BOTH Confirmation at EAST church	31 9:00 am-Noon Pastor at office <u>NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEER DAY for FEB issue</u> 9:10-printing 9:30-folding 10:00-collate/tape		



OPEN HOUSE INVITATION to Pastor Paul & Jana's Home

*You're
Invited!*

Everyone is invited to Pastor Paul & Jana's for an Open House **Sun., January 6 from 2-5 pm**. We will be showing pictures from our European trip. Stop by at whatever time works for you and enjoy snacks and good conversation. We'd love to have you can join us!

NOTE: If bad weather, then it will be held on Jan. 13 from 2 -5:00 pm instead.



WEST St. Olaf Annual Meeting & Potluck Dinner

Sunday, January 20

backup date is Sun., February 3

We hope everyone can join us for this important meeting & time of fellowship!



EAST St. Olaf Annual Meeting & Potluck Dinner

Sunday, January 27

backup date is Sun., February 10

We hope everyone can join us for this important meeting & time of fellowship!

ATTENTION, WEST WOMEN: NEW YEAR... DIFFERENT STYLE OF BIBLE STUDY!



In January, we will begin a totally different way to study the Bible at our monthly WELCA meetings. There is no advance preparation, no study book so just come with an open mind and invite a friend too! It is called "Twelve Women of the Bible". We will look at the spiritual lessons learned from twelve biblical women and what they mean for your life today. Our January lesson is "Eve: Finding Lasting Contentment in the Truth". We will first watch the DVD, then Gloria Brown will be the moderator for our discussion.

West Women's Monthly Craft Night Details



Where: West St. Olaf Chapel

What supplies to bring: Noted below for each project

Please remember that we will only have the craft night if four or more women will be in attendance and if anyone wants to bring a friend, that would be fine as the more the merrier. Please respond either the West St. Olaf Ladies Craft Night page on Facebook or to our personal e-mail addresses so we know how many will be attending. Donna - dmlarsen73@yahoo.com or Laura - laret78@gmail.com
Thanks ladies; here's to another fun year of projects! Please bring some assorted snacks to share.

JANUARY 10: Cindy Senjem will lead the craft for that night with hand made jewelry - we will pay her for the supplies we use. This was a big hit last year- so come, join the fun and create a one-of-a-kind piece!



Thank You West St. Olaf

Dear Friends at West St. Olaf Lutheran,

Thank you for your gift of \$400 and for being a part of the village that nurtures the Christian leadership of all those that we serve. As we head into 2019 - our 50th year of ministry - it cannot be overstated that you are an important part of the sustaining force of Good Earth Village. Together we invest in young and older lives to provide experiential faith formation to equip followers of Jesus with the skills to live into the values of His example to make this a better world for all.

Your gift is an impactful investment in our kids.
Thank you!

In Christ's care and love,
Dianna Parks
Executive Director, Good Earth Village



West St. Olaf: Thank You for Your Generous Hearts!

... to Crisis Nursery Families

Thank you, thank you, thank you, West St. Olaf, for your generosity for the two families we adopted for Christmas from Crisis Nursery. We filled a van with your gifts and the workers at Crisis Nursery were amazed at the amount of gifts. More than once they said, "You have made two families have a very merry Christmas."

... to Dodge County Food Shelf

Thank you to all who contributed to the Food Shelf Drive. 273 pounds of food/supplies, \$40.00 cash, 3 quilts and 2 fleece blankets were delivered this past week. With much gratitude this was received at the Dodge County Food Shelf. Blessings to you for making this part of your giving for those in need.

Jan. Birthdays East

- 2 Carol Severson
- 4 Dorothy Hesse
- 6 Grant Larson
- 7 Keaton DeCook
- 11 Justin Mansfield
- 12 Brian Pyfferoen
- 14 Becky Brakke
- 15 Benjamin Petersen
- 17 Duaine Molde
- 17 Gary Rud
- 20 Mark Evjen
- 22 Wendy Moore
- 22 Elanor Pyfferoen

Happy Birthday!



- 26 Kaysie Peterson
- 28 Alexis Olson
- 28 Maddi Pyfferoen

Jan. Birthdays West

- 3 Aleisha Lechnir
- 5 Eugene Trygstad
- 5 Kristie Larson
- 5 Nicholas Olson
- 9 Cynthia Orning
- 9 Mary Brandt
- 9 Karla Daleske
- 10 Craig Hanson
- 11 James Senjem, Jr.
- 11 Daniel Larsen
- 16 David Peterson
- 16 Neil Rabehl
- 19 Susan Thoe
- 19 Coty Stoppel
- 20 Gloria Pew
- 21 Benjamin Horejsi
- 22 Delano Senjem
- 22 Neven Horejsi
- 23 Gregory Brandt
- 24 Pete Danielson
- 25 Ella Rudlong
- 25 Jamie Smith
- 26 Travis Johnson
- 28 Kendyl Beyer
- 31 Wilma Kylo
- 31 Ricky Johnson
- 31 Austin Dahle

Wishing everyone a blessed New Year!



East St. Olaf Church Updated 2018 Financial Status thru 12/09/18

Stained Glass Restoration Project Summary

1) Work was completed October 25. Total cost was \$43,568.

2) Summary of funds received for payment as follows:

- Designated & undesignated memorial funds			\$17,321
- Stained glass contributions			17,717
	2017	6,864	
	2018	<u>10,853</u>	
- Savings			4,622
- Loan			<u>3,908</u>
	TOTAL COST		43,568

Overall Contributions Status 12/9/18

1) 2018 contributions for stained glass restoration (10,853 - see above) impacted 2018 Current giving significantly. For comparison see below:

2017 Total current thru 12/9 was 71,594

2018 Total current thru 12/9 was 58,355

The difference is 13,239 less than 2017.

2) Between February, when down payment was made on the window project, and October final payments, The window fund \$ was helping pay monthly operation costs.

To complete payment for window restoration and cover the gap created by reduced current giving, the council authorized a \$15,000 loan at Citizens State Bank with interest @ 5%.

The next action step is the congregation's focus on increased contributions to get current operation funding caught up and increase giving to the window fund so savings can be replenished and the loan paid off.

Submitted by Gary Kearns, Treasurer

East St. Olaf Church Minutes ~ Dec. 4, 2018

Call to Order: Mike Senjem at 6 pm. **Members Present:** Pastor Paul Thompson, Mike Senjem, Rhonda Leighty, Gary Kearns, Steve Senjem, Deb DeCook, Bryan DeCook, and Danny Zieman,

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

Secretary's Report: Reviewed and approved.

Financial Secretary's Report: Reviewed & approved.

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed and approved.

Deacon's Report: A total of 112 lbs. has been given to the Dodge County Food Shelf from October through December. Also have had some generous donations for the Rochester Women's Shelter.

Trustee's Report: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business: 2019 Election Ballot reviewed. Bryan made motion to approve; Gary seconded; approved.

Meeting adjourned to attend joint Council meeting with West at 7 p.m.

NEXT MEETING for East Council: Tues., January 8 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Deb DeCook



West St. Olaf Church Council Minutes ~ Dec. 4, 2018

Meeting called to order by Deb Schuck

Devotions: Given at joint council meeting

Attendance: Pastor Paul, Deb Schuck, Cindy Orning, Missy Olson, Dave Peterson, Carma Bjornson, Nancy Gulbransen, Sandy Iverson, Sheryl Wohlers, Greg Brandt, Ken Wohlers, Del Senjem, Mary Brandt

Secretary's Report: Report from last meeting was reviewed. Motion to approve: 1st Nancy Gulbransen; 2nd Del Senjem. Approved.

Financial Report: Report for last month was reviewed. Motion to approve: 1st Sandy Iverson; 2nd Carma Bjornson. Approved

Treasurer's Report: Report for last month was reviewed. Motion to approve: 1st Ken Wohlers; 2nd Sandy Iverson. Approved.

Board of Education Report: No report. JAM Christmas program will be December 16 at 11:00.

Luther League: No report

Pastor's Report: Given at joint council meeting

Deacon's Report: Offering from Advent by Candlelight was \$1398. Food shelf donation was \$273. WELCA event for 12/8/18 will go to Crisis Nursery. Confirmation missing pictures were found. Cradle Roll costs were discussed.

Trustee's Report: Jim Kylo has decided not to rent the land adjacent to the chapel. Elevator inspection in Chapel was done. Fire extinguishers were checked – some will need to be replaced next year. Fuel costs were more this year than last; discussion followed on ways to help this.

Old Business: Nominating committee from Council – Cindy Orning and Sandy Iverson. AV update – Greg will get numbers to Dave by Christmas.

New Business: 1st communion rescheduled to the first Sunday in January.

Motion to Adjourn: 1st Dave Peterson; 2nd Carma Bjornson

Next meeting: Monday January 14, 2019

Submitted by Mary Brandt, West St. Olaf Secretary



JOINT COUNCIL Minutes ~ Dec. 4 2018

Meeting called to order by Mike Senjem

Devotions: Pastor Paul

Members Present: Pastor Paul Thompson, Mike Senjem, Rhonda Leighty, Gary Kearns, Steve Senjem, Deb DeCook, Bryan DeCook, Danny Zieman, Deb Schuck, Cindy Orning, Missy Olson, Dave Peterson, Mary Brandt, Carma Bjornson, Nancy Gulbransen, Sandy Iverson, Sheryl Wohlers, Greg Brandt, Ken Wohlers, Del Senjem

Guest: Mel Schultz (Parsonage Committee)

Secretary's Report: Report from 9/10/18 joint meeting was reviewed. Motion to approve: Deb Schuck; seconded by Sandy Iverson; approved.

Pastor's Report: 10 shut-in visits, 1 hospital visit, 7 Sunday worship, 1 midweek worship, 1 baptism, 3 Confirmation classes, mileage was 652 miles, 9 meetings, 3 events, 6 upcoming events, upcoming vacation day Sunday, December 30th (lay person from each congregation will lead the service).

Parsonage Report: Given by Mel Schultz. Large tree that fell during storm was cut up. School kids from Hayfield helped with spring yard work and kids from Kasson helped with fall yard work. Bryan DeCook mowed 28 acres of CRP behind parsonage. Woodchuck and red squirrel issue has been taken care of for now. Some jobs for the spring include pressure washing north side of parsonage and front porch railing needs repair/replacing & paint.

Old Business:

- 1) Discussion held regarding Parish Secretary/office equipment. Pastor Paul, Deb Schuck and Mike Senjem met with Gina in November to review her work load - things are going well. Folding machine is on hold as Gina hasn't checked on this any further.
- 2) Church cancellation posting discussed. Decision was made to continue with putting cancellation on KTTC as well as on the parsonage answering machine. Pastor Paul will talk to Gina as to which one of them will take care of the answering machine message.

New Business:

- 1) CRP contract expires September 2019. Both congregations should be receiving letter in 2019 of what new farm program will be. ASCS office prefers a member from each congregation come to the office together or at least the same day to sign paperwork. Last check will be received in October 2019. Motion made by Gary Kearns to keep 2018 CRP check in church treasury; seconded by Sheryl Wohlers; approved.
- 2) 2019 Worship Schedule: No change with each church keeping their same worship time for January as they have for December.
- 3) Lent and Easter Schedule: Maundy Thursday at East, Good Friday at West, Easter Sunrise Service 7 a.m. at East and 9:30 service at West.
- 4) 2019 Joint Meeting Schedule: Discussion held to still continue doing quarterly meetings but have the December joint meeting alternated yearly between East and West. East will host March & September 2019 meetings and West will host June & December 2019 meetings.
- 5) Pastor Compensation: Compensation and benefit package for Pastor Paul was approved keeping with Synod guidelines for 29 years of service. Motion to approve: Greg Brandt; seconded by Missy Olson; approved.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

Submitted by Deb DeCook, East St. Olaf Secretary

East & West St. Olaf Lutheran



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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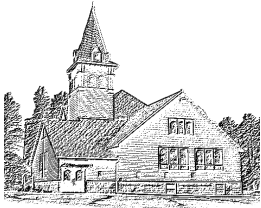
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PERMIT NO. 5



HAPPENINGS

January 2019



Living in God's amazing grace since 1856