



MAY 2025 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 Cell: 507-951-4964 Emails: eastwest@kmtel.com AND certainty@kmtel.com



May Worship Schedule

EAST has 9:00 am worship (*coffee always after church*)

BOTH have JAM classes 10:00 am at West church (*May 4 is last day of class, then at 12:30 pm at Mony's: Bowling for year-end celebration!!*)

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

>>> SEE Summertime schedule on page 3 <<<

OFFERINGS: Our congregational councils ask you to prayerfully continue your financial support for your church. Please be sure to make your check out to "West St. Olaf Lutheran Church" or "East St. Olaf Lutheran Church" and mail to...

West members mail to: Dave Peterson 25378 720th St., Hayfield, MN 55940

East members mail to: Bryan DeCook at 7583 80th Ave. SW, Stewartville, MN 55976

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,



The twelve seem poor choices to build a worldwide movement: the "first" apostle Peter will deny the Lord three times and the last apostle Judas will betray him to death, while two apostles in between held opposite positions on the Roman occupation (tax collector Matthew worked for them, while Simon the Cananaean or "zealot" worked against them). Nathanel was an intellectual and a bigot. Thomas was 2-faced, ready to die for Jesus when Jesus went to Bethany where his friend Lazarus was dying, but refuse to believe Jesus had returned from death to life. Yet these same blundering fools were entrusted with the work of building the church.

As we sit here in 2025, that Church remains. It is found on every continent, in almost every nation. The Church was even on the Moon when Buzz Aldrin took Communion shortly after his landing from a set prepared for him by his priest before his launch. Christ was taken to the Moon!

We who belong to that church are not done building. The poor are still hungry, the sick are still suffering, and the homeless are still wandering. The work of discipleship does not stop at sundown Sunday night. It doesn't stay safely inside our church's walls.

The message of life for all does not end Easter Day. It does not end at the end of the Easter season, June 8. It never ends! And neither does our charge to tell the world, everyone in it, that Christ is Risen.

With lasting joy, Pastor Paul Thompson

Membership Updates, WELCA News, Serving Schedules

MEMBERSHIP INFO

No updates at this time.

EAST WELCA & EVENTS

- 6 Tu** 10:00 Quilting/Sack Lunch
6:00PM Council Meeting East
- 10 Sa** 10:00 E-WELCA Meeting
- 11 Su** Mother's Day Brunch (Men's Group Serves)
- 13 Tu** 10:00 Quilting/Sack Lunch
- 18 Su** 10:00 Graduate Recognition
- 20 Tu** 10:00 Quilting/Sack Lunch
- 27 Tu** 10:00 Quilting/Sack Lunch

WEST WELCA NEWS

We welcome the coming season of planting, gardening and graduations. It's a time of renewal of nature and our faith. We congratulate Nora Bamlet on her successful high school graduation and wish her well in all her future endeavors.

Sharon Gulbransen & Cindy Senjem are our chairpersons for May and will organize the coffee for Memorial Day on May 26. Coffee and food will be served by WELCA from 9am-Noon. The Hayfield Legion will be at West for their service at 10:25am.

Thank you to Margaret Senjem who was our chairperson for April. Our two altar guild women, Sandy and Mary had a lot of work to do during the Lent & Easter season. Thank you so much for your service. Donna Larsen and Cindy Senjem will serve on altar guild in May. We appreciate all our volunteers!

We appreciate all the work Sheryl Wohlers did to organize the Lenten soup supper. We also thank all the willing workers who prepared the soup and served that evening. It was a Thrivent Action Team project and \$265 was given to the Hayfield Food Pantry. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause.

Sharon, Sandy and Nancy attended the Zumbro River Spring Conference in Stewartville. The theme was "Growing in God's Love" and our guest speaker was Pastor Emily Carson. In her message, she shared

her love of gardening and how we prepare ourselves to serve and grow in God's love. It was a very rewarding day.

May 14 at 1 PM is our next WELCA meeting at the chapel. Pastor Paul will lead us in Bible study and Denise Kylo is our hostess. We would like you to think of ideas for our June and July WELCA outings and share them at our meeting. It is always fun to do something different for WELCA in the summer.

Please note the chapel is reserved on May 23 & 24 for the Bamlet family to prepare for Nora's graduation open house.

Happy Mother's Day!
Sharon and Nancy



WEST ST. OLAF Cemetery Care

Donations to West Cemetery Care Fund are greatly appreciated, as it takes a lot to maintain our beautiful burial grounds. We've included an envelope addressed to Gene Gulbransen (stapled to this page), if you wish to make a donation. Please note "cemetery fund" on the memo line of your check and mail it to Gene. Thank you!
Cemetery Perpetual Care Comm.



SERVING SCHEDULES

WEST—May

Ushers: Pete D. organizes
Deacon: Carma Bjornson
Altar Guild: Cindy Senjem, Donna Larsen

Stewardship:

- 1st Sun. – Luther League
- 2nd Sun. – Board of Ed.
- 3rd Sun. – WELCA
- 4th Sun. – Council
- 5th Sun. – Council

Acolytes:

- May 4: Riker & Reese H.
- May 11: Isabelle C.
- May 18: Riker & Reese H.
- May 25: Isabelle C.

=====

EAST—May

Acolytes: Ushers covering
Altar Guild: Meghan/Ella Mae
Deacon: Meghan Ohman

Servers for East Coffee and Fellowship:

- 1st Sun.— Sewing Sisters
- 2nd Sun.— Men's Group, for Mother's Day Brunch
- 3rd Sun.— OPEN week
- 4th Sun.— East WELCA
- 5th Sun.—Circle 4

West St. Olaf: Do you need someone to care for cemetery flowers this summer?

My name is **Kendyl Beyer** and I'm a West St. Olaf member. I would like to help keep your flowers blooming all summer. I will water twice a week (*or as needed*) for the months of June, July, and August for \$30 per gravesite.



Contact me at: 507-884-8627 or kendylbeyer28@gmail.com

OUR BIRTHDAY LISTS: If you are not on our birthday lists in the monthly newsletter and you wish to be listed, please email our church secretary, Gina, at eastwest@kmtel.com

May Birthdays: East

- 2 Janet Anderson
- 3 Greg Moore
- 4 Alysia Rud
- 7 Carl Yngsdal
- 8 Nickoli Schneckloth
- 13 Deb DeCook
- 13 Hunter Rud
- 13 Owen Pyfferoen
- 16 Diane Boysen
- 19 Grace Senjem
- 20 Karen Yngsdal
- 20 Lori Peterson
- 22 Heidi Herness
- 24 Nicole Moore
- 24 Shelby Jorgenson

Happy Birthday!

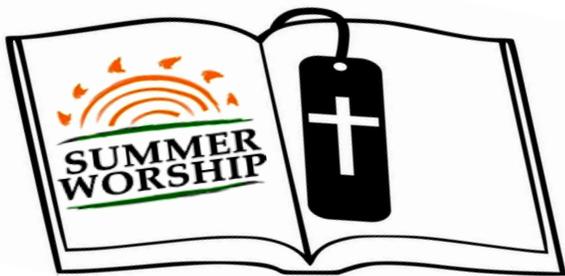


- 25 Dale Boelter, Jr.
- 27 Carol Anderson
- 29 Payton Koehler
- 30 Sandra Nelson
- 31 Jaedyn Quinn

May Birthdays: West

- 3 Amber Haley
- 3 Paige Johnson
- 4 Susan Hyland
- 8 Cooper Beyer
- 11 Virginia Hyland
- 12 Myranda Martin
- 13 Roxann Weinmann
- 14 Brian Daleske
- 14 Scott Morris
- 14 Camryn Dahle
- 16 Patrick Boyum
- 16 Felix Laxen
- 17 Corey Morris
- 17 Daryn McGowan
- 18 Erika Smith
- 18 Alexis Glynn
- 20 Beth Connelly
- 21 Rosalie Steele
- 23 Nancy Danielson
- 24 Cathy Hovda
- 24 Kaitlyn Borland
- 25 Jacob Iverson
- 27 Olivia Larson
- 27 Alexander Phenix
- 27 Bradley Schuck
- 28 Dale Roe
- 28 William Bamlet
- 29 Lori Aasen
- 30 Daniel West
- 31 Russel Skov

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE!



Watch future newsletters and church bulletins for details on VBS & "Taste of Norway"

JUNE 2025

Regular services: West at 8:30 am, East at 10:00 am
JOINT SERVICE June 15—10:00 am inside West church

JULY 2025

Regular services: East 8:30 at am, West at 10:00 am
JOINT SERVICE July 20—10:00 am inside East church

AUGUST 2025

Regular services: West at 8:30 am, East at 10:00 am
JOINT SERVICE August 17—10:00 am inside West church
 VBS: Watch future newsletters/church bulletins for details
 "Taste of Norway" Watch future newsletters and church bulletins for details

EAST: Women of East ~ April Meeting



All Women of East Booklets are completed and have been mailed out to all women members of East St Olaf. If you have not received a booklet, contact Jane Williams (secretary) 507-271-2272. Our Lenten Dinners were interrupted by bad weather, and only one serving took place at East. It was a wonderful success and we are grateful for West St Olaf joining our feast that evening. The Spring Dinner hosted by Circle 4 will take place on Palm Sunday. All are invited. The East St Olaf Congregational Rummage Sale will be July 18 and 19, with set up taking place on July 17. This event corresponds with Byron Good Neighbor Days. We will be renting the Salem Town Hall. Plans were discussed for the Mother's Day Brunch and the Graduation Celebration. Letters and invitations to the graduates have been sent out. Also, there is discus-

sion about a New Member Sunday, but we have not heard of any dates from the Pastor yet. He is going to contact the 4 new members who joined last month. We are so blessed! We closed with the Lord's Prayer. Our next meeting is May 10. All East Women are WELCOME to attend!! 10:00AM at East Dining Room.

EAST: Mother's Day Brunch at East St Olaf ~ May 11



Sunday, May 11 is Mother's Day. East St Olaf will be hosting a brunch for East Moms, and those women who take care of their loved ones. Church is at 9:00AM and Brunch is at 10:00AM. It will be catered by HyVee, and the East Men's Group will be serving and doing clean up. Please come and join us for worship and a wonderful treat afterwards, or just come for the brunch.

EAST: Graduation Celebration at East St Olaf ~ May 18



Congratulations to our three High School Graduates; Dawson Meier, Teagon Koehler, and Justice Deno. We will be celebrating their graduations and sharing a Fellowship Hour with cake and sandwiches after the service on Sunday, May 18. Service is at 9:00AM and the Fellowship Celebration will be at 10:00AM. We hope you will all stop by to congratulate them and wish them a blessed future in their next steps in life!

EAST: Treasure Sale hosted at East St. Olaf ~ Coming in July



Are you spring cleaning? Not sure what to do with your nearly new items that you no longer enjoy or need? Well get ready!! East St Olaf is hosting a "Congregation Wide Treasure Sale" on July 18 and 19. This will be connected to the Byron Good Neighbor Days Rummage Sales. Set Up in on July 17, and pick up is on July 20. There will be two rooms. One for consignments, and the other for donations. At the end of the day on July 20, all items not collected by owners will be donated to Goodwill in Rochester MN. All proceeds go to East St Olaf Lutheran Church. Look for more information in the June/July Newsletter.

WEST: Sale of Spring Cleaning Items ~ May 18



Sale at West St. Olaf chapel during our 10:00 am coffee hour, May 18. **FOR SALE:** Four folding banquet tables 60-inch diameter with Formica tops, two computer desks, numerous sized whiteboards, chalkboards and bulletin boards. Items not sold that day will be advertised to be sold in another way. Contact a council member if you need more information.

WEST: Graduation Open House ~ May 24



Saturday, May 24 from 11:00am-2pm: OPEN HOUSE GRADUATION PARTY for NORA BAMLET! Everyone is welcome to come help Nora celebrate this accomplishment!
Note that the chapel is reserved Fri., May 23 and Sat., May 24 by the Bamlets, for setup and to hold this celebration.

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				1 <i>National Day of Prayer</i> 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	2 Pastor: day-off	3
4 9:00 am EAST Worship/Comm., & <u>New Member Day</u> <i>(coffee after church)</i> 10:00 am JAM (last class) West coffee 11:00 am WEST Worship/Comm. & JAM sings in service 12:30 pm Year-End JAM Bowling Party at Mony's!! Parents welcome to stay and join in the fun!	5 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	6 10:00 am East Quilt/sack lunch 6:00 pm EAST Council meeting	7	8 <i>Pastor at Kasson Ministerial Mtg.</i>	9 Pastor: day-off	10 10:00 am <u>Women of East meeting at church, in the Basement (all East women are invited)</u>
11 9:00 am EAST Worship... <u>THEN our Mother's Day Brunch</u> with men serving. 10:00 am West coffee 11:00 am WEST Worship	12 9:00am-Noon Pastor office 7:00 pm WEST Council meeting	13 10:00 am East Quilting/sack lunch 7:00 pm <u>DEADLINE to submit info for next newsletter</u>	14 1:00 pm West <u>WELCA meeting</u> Host: Denise Kyllö Study: Pastor Paul	15 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	16 Pastor day-off	17
18 9:00 am EAST Worship... <u>Then East Graduate Recognition</u> with coffee and cake <i>All of East invited.</i> 10:00 am West coffee <u>West SALE of spring cleaning items during coffee</u> 11:00 am WEST Worship	19 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	20 10:00 am East Quilting/sack lunch 7:00 pm <u>DEADLINE to submit info for next newsletter</u>	21	22 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	23 Pastor day-off <u>WEST Chapel RESERVED for Bamlet's to setup there</u>	24 <u>WEST Chapel RESERVED for GRADUATION OPEN HOUSE 11am-2pm for Nora Bamlet</u>
25 9:00 am EAST Worship/Comm., <i>(coffee after church)</i> 10:00 am West coffee 11:00 am WEST Worship/Comm.	26 <u>OFFICE CLOSED</u> Memorial Day Coffee @ West St. Olaf 9am-Noon West WELCA serves coffee & food 10:25 am Hfld Legion service	27 10:00 am East Quilting/sack lunch	28	29 9:00am-Noon Pastor office <u>NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEER DAY at office</u> 9:10 am print 9:20 am fold 9:30 am collate/tape	30	31 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> SEMN Synod Assembly at Mankato, MN May 31 & May 31 </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> Summer Worship Schedule on pg. 3 </div>

EAST COUNCIL MINUTES April 1, 2025

Call to Order: President Randy Robinson called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Pastor Paul Thompson, Randy Robinson, Gary Kearns, Bryan DeCook, Jane Williams, Mary Madson, Meghan Oman, Terry Zieman, Danny Zieman, Pete Exe, Dan Williams

Devotions: Pastor Paul led us in Devotions and Opening Prayer.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Paul provided a print out of his pastoral duties. We discussed the Palm Sunday Procession, and future New Member Sunday dates.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from March meetings read / approved.

Financial Secretary's Report:

A total intake for February was \$12,615.34, and March was \$9,451.00. (\$9,281.00 + \$170 undesignated). These reports were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report: The Financial Report from March read and approved.

The Contributions to the General Fund, as of Mar 25 was \$9,281.00
Expenses for the month were \$7,401.57. The largest expenses this

month included fuel,

Insurance, phone and fiber, and salaries. Gary and Jane received thank you's from Channel One and the Women's Shelter for our Benevolence Disbursement last month.

Deacon's Report: Terry sent out cards to people brought to her attention. The sign-up sheet for readers is in place at the back of the church. Pastor Paul will be reading all lessons on Easter Sunday. Easter Books and cards were mailed out to our Baptismal Kids as reminders of the season.

Trustees Report: Pete and Tracy fixed up the siding on the West side of the church. Danny Z fixed a broken pew, and attention was brought to paint peeling from the ceiling in the back of the sanctuary.

Education Report: Meghan reported that the Luther League had a lock-in, and are providing a meal at the Ronald McDonald House. An Easter Egg Hunt will be at West on Palm Sunday.

Old Business: Parsonage Project Update:

Randy and Bryan met with the TCPA about adjusting Boundary Lines into three sections; farm/cabin/Parsonage Park. A motion was made by Jane Williams to add 3 acres of wooded land to the 37 acres of farm land to make it a buildable property and increase the value. Seconded by Mary Madson. Motion approved.

The application cost to change the boundaries is \$816.00. A motion was made by Jane Williams to set aside \$1,000 for costs associated with boundary changes. Pete Exe seconded. The motion was approved. Randy and Gary will keep track of the costs associated with this project separate.

Randy contacted the Byron Fire Department (Paul Ryan) about the possible use of this building in fire training. They are interested. There would need to be asbestos abatement before the burn. Pete will contact Casey and check on asbestos issue. BFD would handle the permits and would also burn the granary and the garage. The cost to us would be \$750 for the burn.

Randy is contacting Will Laxen, West President, and requesting to be on their Council Meeting Agenda for April. He will also contact the Parsonage Committee. We also need to notify the Heritage Committee that came forward last year wanting to purchase the land under the cabin.

The current goal is to meet with the Rock Dell Township in May, for Boundary line adjustment.

New Business: Mary motioned we bring back "Share the Peace", which was stopped during Covid. Pete Exe seconded. Motion passed. Synod Assembly participants will be switched from Mike and Sue Senjem to Pat Cahill. Pastor Paul will be attending. Gary will send in registration and fees. Meghan Oman made a motion to send \$100 for a Synod offering (past practice). Bryan DeCook seconded. Motion Approved.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bryan DeCook and seconded by Dan Williams.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by Jane Williams, Council Secretary

EAST OFFERINGS

(03/23/2025) Current \$2,770.

(03/30/2025) Current \$819, Benevolence \$50, and In Memory of Dale Boelter \$145 Undesignated.

(04/06/2025) Current \$2,411 and Benevolence \$25

(04/13/2025) Current \$1,559 and Benevolence \$25.

(04/18 & 04/20/25) Current \$1,755 and Benevolence \$2,101.

(04/27/2025) Current \$811, Benevolence \$100, and In-Memory of Raymond "Terry" Molde \$50

West Council Minutes: April 14, 2025

Attendance (P = Present, A = Absent)

Pastor Paul	P	Dave Peterson	P	Deb Schuck	P	Ben Horejsi	P
Will Laxen	P	Sheryl Wohlers	P	Clay Hazelmann		Billie Jean Smetana	
Hans Estby	P	Mary Brandt		Greg Brandt	P	Guests: Randy Robinson	P
Cindy Stoppel	P	Sue Hyland		Chad Thompson	P	Mel Schultz	P
Jenny Twaddle	P	Carma Bjornson		Del Senjem	P	Pete Exe	P

Meeting called to order by Will Laxen.

Devotions lead by Pastor Paul.

Secretary's Report: Report read, motion made to approve by Hans and seconded by Deb, motion carried.

Financial Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Reports reviewed and discussed. Motion made to approve both reports by Cindy and seconded by Deb, motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor presented his March report.

Board of Education Report: JAM sang on Palm Sunday and had an Easter egg hunt after church. The last day of JAM is Sunday May 4th - on that Sunday JAM kids will sing, have a lesson, and end the year with a bowling party, after church, at Uncle Mony's. Planning for VBS continues. Luther League hosted the egg hunt for JAM. March's activity was a sleepover with about a dozen kids and 3 chaperones attending. The April activity will be volunteering to serve a meal at the Ronald McDonald house in Rochester.

Deacon's Report: Cards sent: Thinking of you to Carma, sympathy to Russ Skov and family (passing of brother Leverage). Thank you to those that made bars, helped in the kitchen, and attended graduation recognition coffee hour celebration for Nora Bamlet. WELCA quilters have finished until fall. WELCA served Lenten supper on 4/9 and this Thrivent sponsored event was well attended raising \$265, which will be donated to the Hayfield food pantry. Thank you to the ladies who cleaned the church for service on April 6th. Thank you to Debbie and Laura-Lee for serving coffee on March 30th. The council will serve again on April 27th. Thank you to Sue for being deacon in March and Mary will be April's deacon. The chapel basement is being cleaned with unused items put on sale on May 18th.

Trustees Report: Insurance on the Church and Chapel buildings was cancelled by the company; new liability coverage is being sought. The church interior painting and exterior power washing work will be done soon.

Old Business: East president and parsonage committee members presented maps of boundary lines for the parsonage/log cabin/acreage property. The complete parcel is a total of 52 acres with 37 as farmland. There will be the need to get township approval to do any division of property lines for the Heritage Association's desire to purchase land for the log cabin. Hans will present the maps to the Heritage Association and ask for contributions to the cost of presenting to township.

New Business: Summer joint services will be held indoors at 10:00am on the 3rd Sunday of each month, June at West, July at East, and August at West.

Motion to adjourn: Motion to adjourn was made by Dave, approved. Closed with the Lord's prayer.

Submitted by: Cindy Stoppel, West St. Olaf council secretary

Next Meeting: Next meeting will be Monday, May 12th at 7 pm.

WEST ST. OLAF FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

March 16-April 15, 2025

Date	Current	Date	Benevolence
16-Mar Offering	\$ 1,780.00	13-Apr Offering	\$200.00
23-Mar Offering	1,081.00	Offering	
30-Mar Offering	1,480.00	Offering	
6-Apr Offering	2,155.00	Offering	
13-Apr Offering	<u>2,643.00</u>	Offering	<u> </u>
Subtotal	\$9,139.00	Subtotal	\$200.00
Other Current Income:		Other Benevolence Income:	
16-Mar Coffee Hour	51.00	16-Mar Lent	\$ 20.00
Non-Member			
30-Mar Donation	25.00	6-Apr Lent	67.00
30-Mar Coffee Hour	35.00	13-Apr Lent	15.00
30-Mar Insurance Roof	10,461.12		
Non-Member			
13-Apr Donation	<u>50.00</u>		<u> </u>
Subtotal	<u>\$ 10,622.12</u>	Subtotal	<u>102.00</u>
Total Current Income	<u>\$ 19,761.12</u>	Total Benevolence Income:	<u>\$302.00</u>

West St. Olaf Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report

March 16, 2025-April 15, 2025

Current Account	3/16/2025-4/15/2025
Beginning Balance	\$ 19,732.82
Income	<u>\$19,786.12</u>
Total Income	\$ 39,518.94
Expenses	\$16,715.07
Supplies	\$0.00
Utilities	\$1,403.21
Total Expenses	<u>\$18,118.28</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 21,400.66
Benevolence Account	
Beginning Balance	\$ 218.34
Income	\$302.00
Total Income	<u>\$ 520.34</u>
Expenses	\$0.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 520.34

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

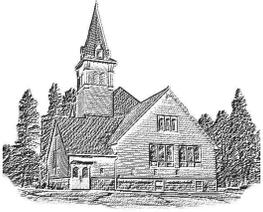
Church Office Hours: 9:00 am - Noon

Mon. and Thur. or by appointment

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



Living in God's amazing grace since 1856