

# West St. Olaf Lutheran Church

70640 260<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Hayfield, 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.*

**OFFERING:** You may place your offering in the offering plate, in the narthex, as you enter the church (*the plates are not passed during the service*).

## **DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**



**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 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**

**WELCA Chair(s):** Dec. – Carma Bjornson, Deb Schuck

**Altar Guild:** Dec. - Jane Estby & Sheryl Wohlers

**Acolytes:** Dec. 8 - Scott Cocuzzi, Cole Twaddle

**Reader:** Dec. 8 - Deb Schuck

**Ushers:** Pete Danielson organizes volunteers

**Deacon:** Dec. - Deb Schuck

**Stewardship:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Board of Education

**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!

**THANK YOU:** Thank you to everyone for the cards, thoughts, and prayers during my recovery. It is comforting to know all of you are thinking of me. I also want to thank the ladies for the lap robe - it will come in handy this winter. ~ Russ Skov ~

## OUR CHRISTMAS MISSION



West is adopting two families from Stewartville for our Christmas mission this year. **Please drop off your gifts today.** *Luther League is willing to wrap your gifts if you choose not to wrap them. This is a Thrivent Action Team mission. Thank you.*

## ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT AT WEST ST. OLAF



Advent by Candlelight will start at 5:00 pm this evening for punch, conversation, and the chance to view all of the tablescapes. The church service begins at 6:00 pm in the church. A light supper to follow in the chapel. *Offering tonight will go to Hayfield Fire & Ambulance.*

## 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.

## A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY IN DECEMBER:

December 18<sup>th</sup> will be Mervis Keckhafer's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday! This is a special birthday for a special lady! *Everyone please shower her with birthday cards at:*

115 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NE Apt. 209 Hayfield, MN 55940 ...

**ALSO, 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!*

## WEST HELPERS NEEDED

We could really use some help with coffee hours. Luther League is the first Sunday of each month, and JAM is the

second, so really if you're a Luther League family, a JAM family, or both, if any of the weeks on the schedule work for you it would be great if you could help out.

**This is the signup for coffee hour:**

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1b-d2jJmMHTVIVy5B6Sk3tm\\_wlf22i8Mpjet-IP5qpbU/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1b-d2jJmMHTVIVy5B6Sk3tm_wlf22i8Mpjet-IP5qpbU/edit?usp=sharing)

**Also, JAM is busy with Christmas program preparations right now but we'd appreciate teaching help next year** (*and kid wrangling help would be awesome this year too, if you'd like to help out with the Christmas program*)

**This is the signup for teaching help:**

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1OT58SGCkSnWTdVqST4HaRxGDkBDtGTTzfdnJA-9cRaY/edit?usp=sharing>

*We really appreciate your assistance! ~ West B.O.E.~*

## WEST WELCA INFORMATION

**DECEMBER** Chairpersons: Carma Bjornson, Deb Schuck  
Altar Guild: Jane and Sheryl

8 5:00 PM Advent by Candlelight

15 9:00 AM JAM Christmas program & cake served after

11 10:30 AM WELCA Christmas Program & Potluck Luncheon (Men are welcome too)

24 4:00 PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE at WEST ST. OLAF

25 MERRY CHRISTMAS (*no worship service*)

## 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).***

**WEST:** Sheryl Wohlers (365-8816 or 259-5974)

**EAST or WEST:** Email Gina at [eastwest@kmtel.com](mailto:eastwest@kmtel.com) and [certainty@kmtel.com](mailto:certainty@kmtel.com). You may also call the church office (365-8222).

## HAPPENING TODAY & THIS WEEK

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

<b>TODAY</b>	9:00 am	<u>East CHRISTMAS PROGRAM... &amp; Jesus Birthday Cake afterward</u>
	>>>>	<u>NO coffee at West today</u>
	11:00 am	<u>West worship (Due date for gifts for West's Christmas mission)</u>
		<b><u>ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT</u></b>
	5:00 pm	Punch & Table Viewing @ West
	6:00 pm	Advent by Candlelight Service
<b>Dec. 9 (Mon.)</b>	9am-Noon	Pastor at office
	>>>>	<b><u>JOINT council meeting at WEST</u></b>
		<i>6:00 pm- individual meetings</i>
		<i>7:00 pm- joint meeting begins</i>
<b>Dec. 10 (Tue.)</b>	9:30 am	ELCA Pastor's Conference at EAST, for Zumbro River Conference - refreshments served
	10:00 am	East take down quilting items
<b>Dec. 11 (Wed.)</b>	10:30 am	<b><u>WEST WELCA CHRISMAS PROGRAM &amp; LUNCHEON...</u></b>
		<b><u>West men invited too</u></b>
	7:00 pm	BOTH - Confirmation at West
<b>Dec. 12 (Thur.)</b>	9am-Noon	Pastor at office ( <i>10am Kasson mtg.</i> )
<b>Dec. 13 (Fri.)</b>	9am-Noon	Pastor's day off-work
	1-4:00 pm	<b><u>OPEN HOUSE at Midtown Manor Community Room for the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Mervis Keckhafer</u></b>
		<u>All are welcome to drop by!</u>
<b>Dec. 15 (Sun.)</b>	9:00 am	East worship
	10:00 am	EAST CHRISTMAS BRUNCH by East WELCA - ALL East members are invited! ( <i>AND after the brunch, WELCA will have their meeting.</i> )
	10:00 am	West coffee
	11:00 am	<b><u>WEST CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, followed by coffee and Jesus' Birthday Cake!</u></b>

## 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

**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).

**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*).

## 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, Will Laxen: 507-208-5399

Vice President, Hans Estby: 507-365-8600 or 507-259-8843

Head Deacon, Sheryl Wohlers: 507-365-8816 or 507-259-5974