

West St. Olaf Lutheran Church



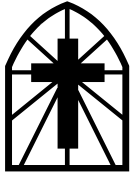
East St. Olaf Lutheran Church

## SEPTEMBER 2026 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:** Email: eastwest@kmtel.com Office: 365-8222 Cell: 507-951-4964



### September Worship Schedule

**WEST is EARLY at 9:00 am** for Sept. (*coffee at 10:00 am*)

**JAM RALLY DAY 10:00 am Sun., Sept. 20** (*at West church*)

**EAST is LATE at 11:00 am** for Sept. (*coffee always after church*)

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

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

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

## Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,



September is the beginning of the school year in most places. Through our schools, we try to teach the youngest generation not only reading and math, but being good citizens, good neighbors, and cooperative members of our communities. We will send our children back to school with blessings for a healthy, happy, and productive new year.

Over the years I encountered writings about children from many authors. Some of the things I've encountered include:

Frank A. Clark - The most important thing that parents can teach their children is how to get along without them.

James Baldwin - Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.

Thomas Paine - I prefer peace. But if trouble must come, let it come in my time, so that my children can live in peace.

My prayer, as schools reopen and books are read, and lessons are learned, that we all remember that we all are teachers, by our words and by our deeds. Let us teach our children well. Let us remember the words of Reinhard Bonnke, "God has no grandchildren. He has only children, so being a born-again Christian is not an automatic thing." Our children will not grow to be godly people by themselves, but by the example of each one of us.

God bless you all, Pastor Paul Thompson

## Membership Updates, WELCA News, Serving Schedules

### MEMBERSHIP INFO

No updates for September.

### WOMEN OF EAST EVENTS

**NEW day for meetings for Women of East:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. each month (after church) for Sept. thru Dec., so our next meeting is Sun., September 13.

*Women's notes and upcoming event ads are in this newsletter.*

**Every Tuesday:** Quilting in the church basement / sack lunch

### WEST WELCA NEWS

It is already time to look forward to a new season in Minnesota. Fall is such a beautiful time with brilliant colors, harvest time, new beginnings in school, and back to our regular church activities. We hope you had a wonderful summer spent with family and friends. It certainly was a warm one!

Thank you to Roxanne W. and Jan N. for organizing the meal and workers for Betty Bjornson's memorial service. Also thank you to all who worked that day. Thank you to Donna Larsen and Cindy Senjem for serving on altar guild in August. *Our September chairpersons are Mary Brandt and Nancy Peterson and serving on altar guild are Mary Brandt and Sandy Iverson.*

**We look forward to Rally Day/ New member Sunday on September 20 (please note the change of date).** We welcome Nancy Thorson who will be joining West St. Olaf. Keep the West JAM students and Board of Education in your prayers for this coming year. Thank you to Sheryl W. for organizing the lunch that will be served at 11:00 am. Please join us to celebrate.

It's already time to begin quilting! We quilt on September 8 & 9 at 9 AM - Bring a sack lunch and please join us for a fun time and a worthy cause.

We will have a WELCA meeting at 1 PM on Sept. 9 with Breanna Estby as our hostess and Pastor Paul will lead us in a Bible study about Martin Luther. We will quilt again on September 22 & 23 at 9 AM. Look in this newsletter for information about a special quilt show at Trinity Lutheran in Hayfield on Sept. 19.

Please have your school kit donations for our Lutheran World Relief Mission turned in to the church or chapel by September 13. Thank you for your generosity.

**Keep in mind our fall bazaar will be October 24.** We have already started planning for it so please say yes if you get a call to help. We plan to make and sell lefse and doughnuts again this year.

Sisters in Christ,  
Sharon and Nancy



### SERVING SCHEDULES

#### WEST—SEPTEMBER

**Ushers:** Pete D. organizes

**Deacon:** Sheryl Wohlers

**Altar Guild:** Mary Brandt and Sandy Iverson

**Acolytes:** Ushers for summer

**Stewardship:**

1<sup>st</sup> Sun.— Luther League

2<sup>nd</sup> Sun.— JAM (or B.O.E)

3<sup>rd</sup> Sun.— WELCA

4<sup>th</sup> Sun.— Church council

5<sup>th</sup> Sun.— Church council

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#### EAST—SEPTEMBER

**Acolytes:** Ushers covering

**Altar Guild:** Meghan Ohman

**Deacon:** Terry Zieman

**Coffee Servers:**

1<sup>st</sup> Sun.— Quilting Sisters

2<sup>nd</sup> Sun.— Sarah Circle

3<sup>rd</sup> Sun.— Circle 4

4<sup>th</sup> Sun.— OPEN: *Contact*

*Marilyn Carlson, if willing*

5<sup>th</sup> Sun.— S.S. or Council

### WEST

### FALL BAZAAR

will be OCTOBER 24

More details soon!

## A PERSONAL LETTER FROM WEST COUNCIL PRESIDENT

The ELCA'S continuing theological shift away from traditional teaching and practice, how is it quietly impacting our church today and our future?

I felt the need to share my thoughts on where it appears the ELCA is headed and how it could impact our churches. I'm sure most ELCA Lutherans have no idea what the ELCA is up to.

I've been watching the ELCA for some time as they continue their mission to change the way we think about the scriptures we hold close to our heart and believe in. I struggle with the continuing shift of the ELCA moving away from literal and traditional interpretation of scripture to a more flexible, critical and diverse method. Sadly they continue to push this shift to all ELCA churches. Unfortunately they also attempt to use manipulative tactics to persuade congregations from leaving.

I'm very concerned with the likelihood of changes in the future regarding the governing of documents, increased syndical oversight and control that threatens our congregational autonomy. The ELCA model constitution is updated at every meeting of the church wide assembly every three years. Their changes and revisions continue to widen unwanted control over congregations. There is a good possibility of controlling specific church decisions in the future that could become a reality through ELCA mandates.

I also believe over the years the ELCA have lost their way with their common identity and shared beliefs with respect to East and West St Olaf's longstanding support of them. The ELCA's liberalizing, hierarchical structure related to theology, governance and social stances will definitely impact whether their future can weather the storm it created.

What's important is that we keep our faith and Lutheran values strong. Where do I see the direction of the ELCA going? I believe it is a slowly sinking ship as it continues to lose membership because of the path it has taken to shift away from biblical authority and confessional Lutheranism.

Considering the timing of pastor communicating his notification of retirement, I consciously believe the time is right to now leave the ELCA. I realize change can be difficult for many of us, and for most it's just easier to stay the status quo. I also believe change needs to happen when the facts shows the truth that will result in a positive outcome. I've asked myself multiple times, what the ELCA is doing for me and specifically what is it doing for us as rural congregations. If anything, they have lost their way and understanding of the needs of rural churches. The ELCA is not our solution to our church surviving, for us; it could very well be our downfall.

I'm sure you are wondering, if we leave the ELCA then what? We do have options; I believe we need to consider something more centrist. I'm thinking not something ultra-liberal or ultra-conservative. Perhaps we consider something that's conservative-to-moderate with congregational autonomy and a non-critical approach to scripture.

I put this together with the intention to stimulate thoughts and conversation and to receive feedback. Many may be thinking here we go again; we went through something like this around 2009. You may be saying to yourself, what is Greg trying to do, why would he want to stir things up? Well, I care deeply about our church, church families and our future. Also, you may have noticed, I did not mention one thing about the ELCA's social stance on same-gender relationships. If I did, that would have been stirring things up because of conflicting views that have become more personal in today's cultural landscape.

I would like to know your thoughts about leaving the ELCA, whether it is negative or positive. Send me an email, write me a letter, text me or call me with any questions, thoughts or concerns you may have.

**Isaiah 30:21** *"Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'this is the way; walk in it'".*

Greg Brandt, West St. Olaf President [GregHBrandt@gmail.com](mailto:GregHBrandt@gmail.com) 507-272-0217 301 9th St. NW Byron, MN 55920

## WOMEN OF EAST

Women of East meeting was on Saturday, August 8. There are many upcoming events, and a couple changes to our schedule. September we will start collecting for schools again. October is the brunch & fundraising raffle for our church, and November has the meatball supper and the Pastor's Recognition for his 10 years of wonderful service to our congregation.

The Women of East meetings will now be held on the second Sunday, after church, for September - December. Saturdays are getting more and more difficult for all officers to attend, along with members, as these weekend days are often filled with family events. We understand how important family is, so possibly, this change of day/time will allow for more participation.

## THANK YOU!

East St. Olaf Church extends a special thank you to Bob and Dawn Braaten for their work and donation towards seal coating the parking lot. It looks wonderful! ~ East St. Olaf Church ~

## A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FROM PAT NELSON

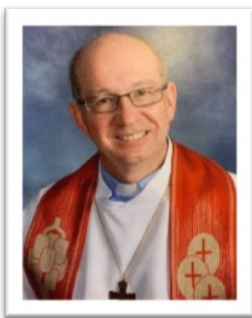
On Sun., July 19, I was completely surprised and overwhelmed when the quilting ladies from East St. Olaf presented me with a beautiful quilt in recognition of my several years of providing music at East St. Olaf. It is with deep appreciation that I say, "Thank you so very much for this lovely gift!" ~ Pat Nelson ~

## EAST ST. OLAF OPERATION SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Drive is Sept 1 – Oct 7: Drop off in church entryway

*Supplies go to Byron, Kasson, Stewartville, and Hayfield*

- Financial Donations (jot on memo line: "School Donations")
- Wide lined notebooks
- Packs of #2 Pencils
- Crayons (24 pack)
- Expo Markers (3 or 4 packs)
- Safety Scissors
- Pencil Boxes
- Large erasers
- Rulers (with both in and cm)
- Solid colored folders
- Glue Sticks or Elmers Glue



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**East Retirement Recognition for**  
**Pastor Paul Thompson**  
**Sunday, November 15**  
**11:00am: East Worship**  
**Noon: Luncheon**  
*Wishing you the best!*

# Fundraiser at East:

## Proceeds to East St. Olaf General Fund



## Fun + Support



All are welcome to take part  
in this fun Sunday!!!



**East Members:** Please consider donating to a "Silent Auction" with a raffle-type spin to it. You can bring an item(s) OR a themed group of things. Drop them off at the church any-time from October 1 thru Oct. 10 (before 10am). See bottom of page for donation ideas.

**Saturday Oct. 10 from 10 til Noon:** Women of East will set up displays.

**Sunday Oct 11:**

**9:00am** Worship service

**10:00am** Enjoy a Congregational Potluck Brunch and take part in the raffle for the items.

**\$1.<sup>00</sup> per ticket, and 20 tickets for \$18.<sup>00</sup> ... you may put AS MANY tickets as you wish, into the cup/bucket for any given item. It'll be fun!!!**

>> Questions or Donations: Call Women of East at 507-271-2272 <<

### **DONATION IDEAS FOR THIS RAFFLE FUNDRAISER**

**Reserved Parking Spot in Front of Church** for a set amount of weeks/months (by the Pastor)

**Themed Gift Baskets:** Fun ideas bundled together

- **Faith & Devotion Bundle:** Devotionals, a nice journal, worship music, and a gift card to a local Christian bookstore (Christos).
- **Coffee and Conversation:** A basket with specialty coffee beans, a fun travel mug, and a gift card to a local coffee shop.
- **Family Game Night:** Include board games, microwave popcorn, and a pizza gift card.
- **Movie Night Basket:** Include popcorn, movie-style candy boxes, maybe tickets to a movie theater, or a nice blanket to curl up in at home.
- **Relaxing Basket:** Include some bath bombs, or shower gel, lotion, luxurious towel, luffa or back scrubber, etc.
- **Keep in Touch Basket:** Include cards, stamps, fun colorful pens, stickers, etc.

**Craft Basket:** Pick a craft (embroidery, crocheting, rug making, stained glass, etc.), and include all the items to complete the craft. You could also offer a lesson to help them get started.

**Handmade and Donated Goods**

- **Handmade Quilts:** A custom, hand-stitched quilt is a highly cherished item.
- **Homemade Baked Goods:** Offer a "Bake of the Month" club, where the winner receives a fresh cookies, a cake or pie every month for a set period, or just load up a container with fresh baked goods or homemade breads, etc...

**Local Art:** Include a coupon for a photo session at someone's farm, or if you have a painting or artistic item that you would like to donate.

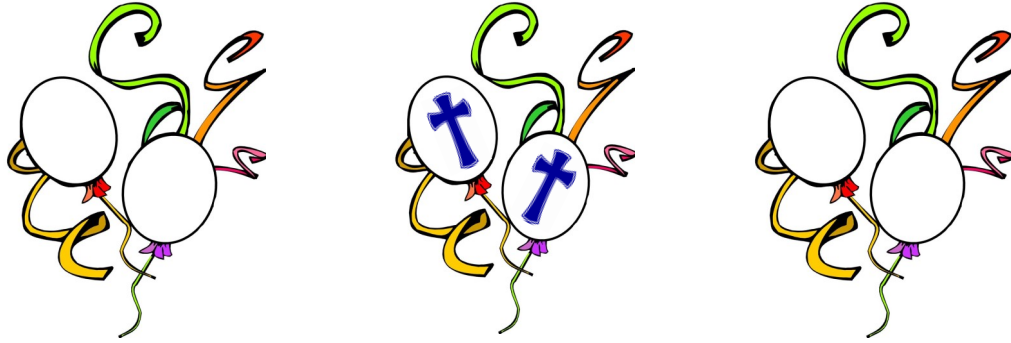
**Services and Skills**

- **Home-Cooked Dinners:** Maybe host a "Dinner for 6" at their homes, provide a short list of possible choices you might offer as a meal.
- **Babysitting Packages:** Offer a parents' night out that includes 4 hours of babysitting, meal making for kids, games for the kids, etc.

**Handyman or Yard Work:** Offer a set number of hours of lawn care, painting, or minor home repairs. This is a very sought-after item, especially for those who are a little older, and living at home. There are always a few things that need done around the house.

**Be Creative:** Think of what you have that you can offer to another, and donate!

**Tax Write-Off Donation:** Do you have a large value item you would like to donate? Call 507-271-2272, and we will get you a donation form for your taxes. ALSO, let us know as soon as possible so we can include that in our advertising.



## JAM RALLY DAY WITH BOUNCE HOUSE! ALSO NEW MEMBER DAY AT WEST ST. OLAF!

**Join us Sun., September 20 for Rally Day fun & West New Member Day!!!** During West worship pastor will bless school backpacks and welcome Nancy Thoreson as a West new member. **After church & coffee hour**, all are invited to a delicious lunch of pulled-pork sandwiches, salads, and bars. Yum!!! **This is co-sponsored by Thrivent. Free will offering will go to JAM for operating expenses.**

### **RALLY DAY TIMELINE:**

**9:00 am** - West worship/Comm. (bless backpacks, and receive and welcome our new member)

**10:00 am** – JAM begins a new year with a BOUNCE HOUSE!  
Also West coffee hour.

**11:00 am** – Lunch served for Rally Day & New Member Day!!

## QUILT SHOW AT TRINITY LUTHERAN HAYFIELD

Trinity Lutheran of Hayfield invites everyone to their special quilt show on **Sat., September 19 from 1:00-2:15pm – followed by a dessert reception.** Nationally-recognized award-winning quilter, Tamara Carter, along with her husband and co-presenter, Joe Gaines (of the Choctaw Nation), will share quilts inspired by Indigenous American history, culture, and lifeways in an educational and inspirational program. ***Free of charge and open to the public.***

## HEGRE'S SWEDISH MEATBALL SUPPER: ONLY TAKEOUT & CURBSIDE PICKUP ORDERS

**Wednesday, September 23, 2026 from 4:00-7:00pm – CASH OR CHECK ONLY**

**at 51939 Hwy 56 Blvd. Kenyon, MN 55946 [Meals at \$18 each – they are adult sized portions.]**

Call ahead or text orders are recommended by Friday, September 18 and will guarantee meals – Call or text to Beth at 507-330-4996. Drive Up meals available the day of the supper until food is gone. Picnic tables will be outside for anyone to use. Please stay in line until reaching the cashier on the side of the church.

MENU: Swedish Meatballs, Ham, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Coleslaw, Corn, Cranberries, Dinner Roll and Apple Dessert.

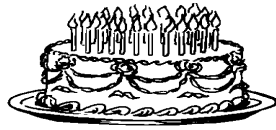
## FIRST LUTHERAN BLOOMING PRAIRIE LUTEFISK & MEATBALL DINNER

**MEAL IS Saturday, October 10 with 11am, Noon, or 1pm seatings:**

**\$28 per meal (children 5 years and under are free).**

TICKET SALES BEGIN on Monday, September 21 at 10am – Reserve & Pay Online at [flicbp.flocknote.com](https://flicbp.flocknote.com) OR by Phoning During Office Hours: 507-583-6621.

# Happy Birthday!



## SEPT. Birthdays: EAST

3 Donna Molde  
5 Sonja Mansfield  
6 Juliana Lee  
6 Kelsey Severson  
6 Sophia Senjem  
8 Cameron Meier  
11 Katelyn Severson  
13 Rusty Baier  
14 Bryan DeCook  
16 Dalton Mansfield  
19 Orillie Iverson  
21 Brenda Carstensen

21 Alexander Moore  
24 Thomas Myhre  
24 Pete Exe  
25 Allison Meier  
26 Darlene Myhre

## SEPT. Birthdays: WEST

3 Gregory Tiegen  
10 Raymond Sutton  
10 Jennifer Martin  
11 Mathea Horejsi  
14 Mark Hanson  
15 Jason Twaddle  
16 Erik Johnson  
17 Wayne Iverson  
17 Audrin Place  
17 Trystin Kaehler  
17 Gunnar Tiegen  
19 Michelle Lechnir

22 Quinn Johnson  
26 Margaret Senjem  
26 Adam Glynn  
28 Shauna Eastlee  
29 Jeff Lechnir  
29 Tina Bigaouette

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

## LUTHER LEAGUE SCHEDULE (2026 Fall—2027 Summer)

| SEPTEMBER                                                                                                                                                                                                       | OCTOBER                                                                                                                                                             | NOVEMBER                                                                                                                                                                                     | DECEMBER                                                                                                                                                                                        | JANUARY                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>PIZZA PARTY</b><br><u>Wed., Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm</u><br><u>and First Night of</u><br><u>Confirmation (7pm)</u><br> | <b>HESSE'S<br/>HAUNTED TRAIL</b><br>Claremont<br>                                | <b>HAYFIELD FOOD<br/>PANTRY</b><br>Packaging Thanksgiving<br>meal kits + ice cream at<br>Uncle Mony's<br> | <b>CHRISTMAS PARTY!</b><br>Wrapping gifts for our<br>adopted families + pizza<br>party + holiday games<br> | <b>AIR INSANITY<br/>TRAMPOLINE PARK</b><br>  |
| FEBRUARY                                                                                                                                                                                                        | MARCH                                                                                                                                                               | APRIL                                                                                                                                                                                        | MAY                                                                                                                                                                                             | SUMMER                                                                                                                            |
| <b>SNOW TUBING</b><br>(weather permitting)<br>                                                                               | <b>SLUMBER PARTY AT<br/>THE CHAPEL!</b><br>- Food, games, crafts,<br>and FUN<br> | <b>HOSTING A MEAL<br/>AT RONALD<br/>McDONALD HOUSE</b><br>                                                | <b>BOWLING PARTY<br/>WITH JAM</b><br>                                                                      | <b>MINI GOLF AND/OR<br/>MYSTERY CAVE</b><br> |

| Sun.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Mon.                                                          | Tues.                                                                                                                                                            | Wed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Thurs.                                                                                                                                                                                | Fri.                                         | Sat.                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                               | <b>1</b><br><b>10:00 am</b> East Quilting<br><b>Noon:</b> Circle 4 meeting/sack lunch<br><b>JOINT Council Meeting @ EAST</b><br>6pm-Individual<br>7pm-Joint Mtg. | <b>2</b> <u>Pastor VAC</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>3</b> <u>Pastor VAC</u>                                                                                                                                                            | <b>4</b> <u>Pastor VAC</u><br>(his day-off)  | <b>5</b> <u>Pastor VAC</u><br>(his day-off)                                                                        |
| <b>6</b><br><b>9:00 am</b> WEST Worship, Comm <br><b>10:00 am</b> West Coffee<br><b>11:00 am</b> EAST Worship, Comm. <br>East coffee after svc.                                                                                                                                | <b>7</b><br><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b><br>for<br>Labor Day Holiday! | <b>8</b><br><b>9:00 am</b> West Quilt/sack lunch<br><b>10:00 am</b> East Quilt/sack lunch                                                                        | <b>9</b><br><b>9:00 am</b> West Quilt/sack lunch<br><b>1:00 pm</b> West WELCA meeting<br>Host-Breanna E. Study- Pastor Paul<br><b>6pm Pizza Party</b><br>for all Confirmation youth at chapel - followed by first Conf. Class at 7pm | <b>10</b> <u>Pastor VAC</u>                                                                                                                                                           | <b>11</b> <u>Pastor VAC</u><br>(his day-off) | <b>12</b> <u>Pastor VAC</u><br>(his day-off)                                                                       |
| <b>13</b> <u>Pastor OFF</u><br>Rev. Jim Rushton will & Jeneane is organist<br><b>9:00 am</b> WEST Worship (West school supply donations due)<br><b>10:00 am</b> West Coffee<br><b>11:00 am</b> EAST Worship<br>East coffee after svc.<br><b>After Church:</b><br>Women of EAST meeting- dining room                                                                                                                                              | <b>14</b> <u>Pastor VAC</u>                                   | <b>15</b><br><b>10:00 am</b> East Quilt/sack lunch                                                                                                               | <b>16</b><br><b>7:00 pm</b> BOTH:<br>Conf. class @ West                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>17</b> <u>Pastor VAC</u>                                                                                                                                                           | <b>18</b> <u>Pastor VAC</u><br>(his day-off) | <b>19</b> <u>Pastor VAC</u><br>(his day-off)<br><br><b>7:00 pm Deadline</b><br>to submit info for next newsletter! |
| <b>20</b><br><b>9:00 am</b> WEST Worship, Comm <br>W. New Member Day<br>Blessing Backpacks<br><b>10:00 am JAM RALLY DAY with a Bounce House!!!</b><br>West Coffee<br>After West church Pulled Pork Lunch<br><b>11:00 am</b> EAST Worship, Comm. <br>East coffee after svc. | <b>21</b> <u>Pastor VAC</u>                                   | <b>22</b><br><b>9:00 am</b> West Quilt/sack lunch<br><b>10:00 am</b> East Quilt/sack lunch                                                                       | <b>23</b><br><b>9:00 am</b> West Quilt/sack lunch<br><br><b>7:00 pm</b> BOTH:<br>Conf. class @ West                                                                                                                                  | <b>24</b><br><b>9:00am-Noon</b><br>Pastor office                                                                                                                                      | <b>25</b><br><u>Pastor's day-off</u>         | <b>26</b><br><u>Pastor's day-off</u>                                                                               |
| <b>27</b><br><b>9:00 am</b> WEST Worship<br><b>10:00 am</b> Both-JAM @ West<br>West Coffee<br><b>11:00 am</b> EAST Worship<br>East coffee after svc.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>28</b><br><b>9:00am-Noon</b><br>Pastor office              | <b>29</b><br><b>10:00 am</b> East Quilt/sack lunch<br><b>NEWSLETTER DAY at OFFICE</b><br>9:10- print<br>9:25- fold<br>9:35- collate                              | <b>30</b><br><b>7:00 pm</b> BOTH:<br>Conf. class @ West                                                                                                                                                                              | <div> <b>COMING IN OCTOBER (All Welcome!)</b><br/> <b>Oct. 11: POTLUCK BRUNCH &amp; SILENT AUCTION-STYLE RAFFLE at EAST</b><br/> <b>Oct. 24: WEST FALL BAZAAR &amp; BRUNCH</b> </div> |                                              |                                                                                                                    |

## EAST OFFERINGS

(Month of July 2026) Current \$4,482.

(08/02/26) Current \$1,585 and Benevolence \$150

(08/09 and 08/16/2026) Current \$2,441 and Benevolence \$50.

## EAST Council Minutes: August 4, 2026

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Pastor Thompson

**Members Present:** Jeff Beaver, Gary Kearns, Pastor Thompson, Jen Briske, Danny and Terry Ziemann, and Randy Robinson

**Devotions:** Devotions and opening prayer led by Pastor

**Pastor's Report:** July/August; Mileage elevated due to 2-months combination report. Field Crest service and Prairie Meadow service. Upcoming events; election judge on election day, conference in October, and upcoming vacation Sept 13-15, Nov 29-Dec 3rd

**Secretary's Report:** Review of previous minutes

**Financial Secretary's Report:** Income of \$4,563.00

**Treasurer's Report:** Expenses - had Jeneane Rushton July piano/organ playing, mowing paid for June. \$5584 for painting completed. Inspection of fire extinguishers complete and paid. Paid 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr piano/organ services to Pat Nelson. Insurance increase of \$20 per month.

**Deacon's Report:** Quilt show took place in July.

### Trustees Report:

Parking lot resurfacing completed and bill received from Elcor Construction. Donation from Bob and Dawn Braaten for \$12,000 with \$9,000 for the parking lot; and remainder to the church. *Thank you for your very generous donation, Bob and Dawn!*

State of MN department of labor came to inspect elevator again while painters were here. Gary to check on state permit/statutes for process changes. Working on getting gravel to fill hole from runoff.

**Education Report:** No report

**Parsonage Report:** No report

**Old Business:** Creation of pros/cons of the parsonage options. Should take a look at breakdown of annual giving by age group to understand demographics.

**New Business:** Discussion of how to determine active church membership over the past two years.

Pastor has announced his retirement and need to begin reviewing the process and next steps. A representative will be attending the joint meeting in September and a call committee formed in the future for selection of a new pastor.

Additional thought of getting Pastor and Gina's offices moved over to the church. Add to the September joint meeting for WSO input and feedback.

Note for trustees to begin looking for snow removal options and seek out some bids.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Teri, Jeff second, motion carries. Ended with the Lord's Prayer.

**NEXT MEETING: JOINT MEETING - September 1<sup>st</sup> at East St. Olaf, Individual meetings 6:00PM and joint meeting at 7:00PM. (First Tuesday of the month).**

Respectfully Submitted by Jen Briske

## West St. Olaf School Kit Mission:

**WELCA is collecting school supplies again for Lutheran World Relief. We hope you will keep our mission in mind when school supplies go on sale. There are boxes in the chapel and church to place your donations. Thank you. This is a Thrivent Action Team project. The following items are included in each School Kit (donated items due September 13):**



Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper  
 One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other  
 One pencil sharpener  
 One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)  
 5 black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band  
 5 pencils secure together with a rubber band  
 One box of 16 or 24 crayons  
 One 2½" eraser  
 One sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag approximately 14" X 17" with shoulder straps WELCA will make these but welcome help.

**Any donation of school supplies will be appreciated. All items should be new. Please remove packaging.**

## WEST Council Minutes: \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

Attendance (P = Present)

|               |   |                |   |               |   |  |
|---------------|---|----------------|---|---------------|---|--|
| Pastor Paul   | P | Deb Schuck     | P | Ben Horejsi   |   |  |
| Greg Brandt   | P | Sheryl Wohlers | P | Clay Hazemann |   |  |
| Dave Peterson | P | Mary Brandt    |   | Hans Estby    | P |  |
| Cindy Stoppel | P | Sue Hyland     |   | Chad Thompson | P |  |
| Jenny Twaddle | P | Carma Bjornson |   | Del Senjem    | P |  |

Meeting called to order by Greg Brandt and Pastor Paul gave devotions.

Motion made to approve agenda by Deb and seconded by Sheryl, motion carried

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

**Financial Secretary:** Report reviewed and discussed. Motion made to approve by Cindy and seconded by Hans, motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Report reviewed and discussed. Motion made to approve by Deb and seconded by Sheryl, motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:** Report reviewed. Synod representative (Barb) to attend next joint meeting to explain the process for calling a new pastor.

**Boad of Education Report:** Rally Day for Sunday school on September 20<sup>th</sup> with a bounce house. Luther League July activity was at Ronald McDonald house. Next LL event is a pizza party on the first night of Confirmation September 16.

**Deacon's Report:** Cards sent: Thinking of you to Jenny Twaddle & Russ Skov; Sympathy to Sterling Larson family & to Ardean Bjornson family. RALLY DAY and NEW MEMBER SUNDAY on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> with new member recognition and blessing of backpacks during 9:00 a.m. church service. Lunch follows at 11am. WELCA quilting dates 9/8, 9/9, 9/22, 9/23, 10/6 & 10/7. Confirmation recognition will be Sunday October 11. WELCA meeting on 10/14, baking lefse & doughnuts on 10/20 & 10/22, and the fall bazaar will be on 10/24. Thank

**Trustees Report:** Sheryl reported a leaky kitchen faucet in the Chapel.

### Old Business:

**New Business:** Letter received about LP contract; Jenny will handle the contract. Motion made to accept Nancy Thoreson as a new member by Sheryl and seconded by Deb, motion carried.

**Motion to adjourn:** Motion to adjourn made by Sheryl and seconded by Chad, motion carried.

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

**Next Meeting:** Next month Joint meeting September 1, 2026 7pm at East, West meeting before at 6 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

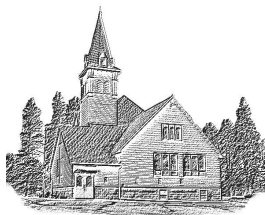
Church Office Hours: 9:00 am – Noon

Mon. and Thur. or by appointment

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

Websites: eaststolaf.org OR weststolaf.org

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# HAPPENINGS

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