



MAY 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

>>> **May 25 thru May 31 FOR PASTORAL EMERGENCIES :**
Contact Reverend Kristen Anderson of Trinity in Hayfield. She may be
 contacted at: kanderson@trinityhayfield.com or call (507) 477-2248.



MAY Worship Schedule

WEST: EARLY at 8:30 am for May (*coffee 9:30 am*)

JAM 9:30 am at West (*last day May 10 with year-end bowling party for ALL JAM and all Luther League teens at Mony's 10:30am-12:30 pm*)

EAST: LATE at 10:30 am for May (*coffee follows*)

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 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,



Robert Surcour was a French privateer, (*that is a type of pirate who captures ships for a government in time of war*). He'd distinguished himself in many battles against the British, but was finally himself captured. A British officer scoffed at his successes saying, "We British fight for honor, while you French fight for money."

Surcour responded, "Yes, each of us fights for what he lacks most."

Honor is a quality much desired by most people. The Medal of Honor is the most highly sought after of any in our country. We all like it when our good deeds and success get noticed and acknowledged by others. The most honorable of people, though, are the ones that do good, that sacrifice for others, that go the extra mile without seeking to be recognized. Selflessness is, I think, the most honorable of all human qualities.

At the end of this month, we will honor those who chose the path of military service. Maybe some of them joined up so they'd be honored by others. Some certainly joined out of love. Some, perhaps, joined because they saw no other path for their lives. The reason why does not matter. What matters is that they did join, they did serve, and some lost their lives in service. To remember them, as we do on Memorial Day, is to honor them. I hope we all remember that this year as we relax by our grills.

Hope in God be with you always,

Pastor Paul Thompson

Membership Updates, WELCA News, Serving Schedules

MEMBERSHIP INFO

BAPTISM (West)

Zoey Lucille Kruse will be baptized at West St. Olaf on May 3, 2026 at West St. Olaf church. Her parents are Crystal Narveson & Bryer Kruse. Blake Kruse, Alexis Kruse, Ella Twaddle, & Jenny Twaddle are her sponsors. Rev. Paul Thompson will be the officiant.

WOMEN OF EAST & EVENTS

May 5: Circle 4 meeting—bring a lunch (goodies provided)

May 9: Women of East meeting in the church basement

May 10: Mother's Day Lunch (with East men serving the meal)

May 24: Pentecost Sunday—wear red to church: *Wearing red symbolizes the "tongues of fire" associated with the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles. It represents the fire of God's love, the transformative power of faith, and acts as a celebration of the Church's birthday.*

Quilting & Sack Lunch Tuesdays at 10:00 am at church.

MINUTES: EAST WOMEN

The Women of East met on Saturday, April 11 at 10:00 in the dining room. There are many events coming in the months of May and June. Discussion of special meals, dates, and times were put into plans. We plan on working with Pastor Paul, Pat, and Norman Senjem to plan our 170th Anniversary of St. Olaf Parish on June 14—this is a joint service, and we would like to invite all our Sister Churches that are part of our Church's history. We would like to thank our Men's Group for volunteering to serve at our Mother's Day Dinner. Women of East are providing food for Mother's Day, and Father's Day. If you would like to contribute, please call Marilyn Carlson.

Women of East Booklets have been mailed or handed out. If you have not received one, please contact Jane Williams. Please note that

dates and times in the booklet are as close as we can get today - *read the newsletters and Sunday worship bulletins to see if any changes are made. The future is always surprising us with events we didn't foresee.*

If you are not getting EAST emails, but would like to be on the EAST email list, please send an email to Jane jawilliams5240@gmail.com and I'll get you on the list. Emails go out if there is a weather closure, a funeral, or other important information. This is a personal list for church members only, and your email is NOT shared with anyone else.

If you know of anyone in our congregation who needs support from our church, please let us know. Even a prayer request is welcome. Blessings in Christ!

Jane Williams/Dawn Evjen
Secretaries of Women of East

WEST WELCA NEWS

We look forward to the coming spring season with trees budding, flowers and gardens to plant and the farmers back in the fields. We know our young people look forward to graduation, prom events, and school being out for the summer.

Thank you to Sharon for planning a very nice graduation recognition for our four graduates; Austin, Kendyl, Avaya, and Carlon. We wish them much success and happiness in their future. Special thanks to Sandy Iverson who designed and sewed the quilt tops for the graduates and the quilters who finished them.

Thank you to our April chairperson Sharon Gulbransen and altar guild ladies Donna Larsen and Cindy Senjem. Our May chairperson is Jane Estby and altar guild ladies are Mary Brandt and Sandy Iverson.

We really enjoyed our April WELCA meeting held at the Villa in Hayfield. We were blessed to have Kathy and Randy Demmer provide beautiful music for our program. We had 23 in attendance and it was good to be able to visit with Wilma. Sally West and Nancy Peterson provided the

dessert. **On May 13 at 1 PM,** we will meet at the chapel and Pastor Paul will lead us in a study about Martin Luther. Margaret Senjem is hostess.

Jane Estby will be in charge of the Memorial Day event on May 25. **We will be having a raffle for a beautiful patriotic quilt made by Jane Estby.** It will be on display in the MBT bank in Hayfield prior to Memorial Day. The proceeds from that raffle and the lunch served will benefit the Hayfield Legion color guard. This is a Thrivent Action Team mission. We will be serving food from 7:30 AM-10:30 AM. The Color Guard will be at West at 8:25 AM.

We pray for those in our Oslo area who were affected by the tornadoes. Let's hope we have no more severe weather like that this spring.

Sisters in Christ,
Nancy and Sharon



SERVING SCHEDULES

WEST—MAY

Ushers: Pete D. organizes
Deacon: Carma Bjornson
Altar Guild: Mary B., Sandy I.
Acolytes: Ushers covering
Stewardship:

- 1st Sun. — Open in summer
- 2nd Sun. — Open in summer
- 3rd Sun. — WELCA
- 4th Sun. — Church council
- 5th Sun. — Church council

=====

EAST—APRIL

Acolytes: Ushers covering
Altar Guild: Dawn Evjen
Deacon: Terry Zieman
Fellowship Servers:

- 1st Sun.— Quilting Sisters
- 2nd Sun.— Men serving meal
- 3rd Sun.— OPEN: *Contact Marilyn Carlson, if willing*
- 4th Sun.— Circle 4
- 5th Sun.— S.S. or Council



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 Committee ~



EAST ST. OLAF CELEBRATES MOTHER'S DAY

East St. Olaf Mother's Day Sunday Dinner

May 10: 10:30 am Service, 11:30 am Lunch.

TATOR TOT HOTDISH, SALADS, DESSERTS

Meal served by the Men's Club



BOTH: YEAR-END BOWLING PARTY FOR ALL JAM AND LUTHER LEAGUE STUDENTS!

The last day of JAM will be May 10. We will have a bowling party at Uncle Mony's from 10:30am-12:30pm. Both JAM kids and Luther League teens are invited to attend!



WEST: MEMORIAL DAY AT WEST ST. OLAF

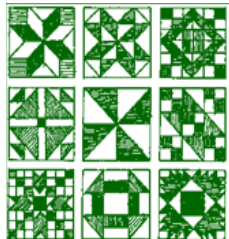
Jane Estby will be in charge of the May 25 Memorial Day event. **We have a raffle for a beautiful patriotic quilt made by Jane Estby.** It will be on display in the MBT bank in Hayfield prior to Memorial Day. The proceeds from that raffle and the lunch served, will benefit the Hayfield Legion color guard. This is a Thrivent Action Team mission. We will serve food from 7:30--10:30am and the Legion Color Guard will be at West at 8:25am.



WEST ONLY: WATERING OF CEMETERY FLOWERS

Do you need someone to take care of your 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 \$40 per gravesite*

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



Quilt Show at East St. Olaf ~ Save the Date!

JULY 11, 2026 from 10:00 am ~ 2:00 pm

Refreshments will be available. Save the date, more details to come.

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

Happy Birthday!



- 24 Nicole Moore
- 24 Shelby Jorgenson
- 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 Felix Laxen
- 17 Corey Morris
- 17 Daryn McGowan
- 18 Erika Smith
- 18 Alexis Glynn
- 20 Beth Connelly
- 21 Rosalie Steele
- 23 Nancy Danielson
- 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

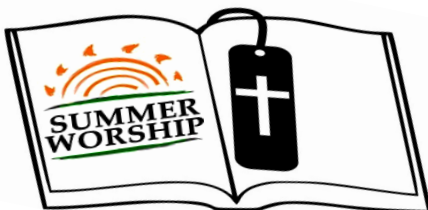
OUR BIRTHDAY LISTS: If you are not on our birthday lists in the monthly newsletter and you wish to be listed, please email our secretary, Gina at eastwest@kmtel.com

JUNE JOINT WORSHIP: SAVE THE DATE!



St. Olaf Parish Celebrating 170 Years!
 Sunday, June 14, 2026 at East St. Olaf
 10:00 am: Joint Worship service at East church
 11:00 am: Fellowship, Music and
 Tverberg Cabin Walk-Throughs

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE!







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

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JUNE
EAST EARLY at 8:30 am for June (coffee follows)
WEST LATE at 10:00 am for June (coffee at 9:00 am)
JOINT Worship 10am June 14 at EAST - fellowship and music following, with walk-throughs of Tverberg cabin

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JULY
WEST EARLY at 8:30 am for July (coffee at 9:30 am)
EAST LATE at 10:00 am for July (coffee follows)
JOINT Worship 10am July 12 at WEST - fellowship following

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST
EAST EARLY at 8:30 am for June (coffee follows)
WEST LATE at 10:00 am for June (coffee at 9:00 am)
JOINT Worship 10am August 9 at EAST - fellowship following

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1 Pastor day-off	2 BOTH: SE MN SYNOD ASSEMBLY at Mankato, MN
3 8:30 am WEST Worship, Comm  Baptism Zoey Kruse 9:30 am JAM West coffee 10:30 am EAST Worship, Comm 	4 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	5 10:00 am East Quilt/sack lunch Noon: East Circle 4 meeting Bring lunch... Goodies provided 6:00 pm EAST church council meeting	6 7:00 pm BOTH have Confirmation Class at West	7 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	8 Pastor day-off	9 10:00 am Women of EAST meeting in East church dining room—All East women invited.
10 8:30 am WEST Worship 9:30 am West coffee JAM—Last Day 10:30am-12:30 pm JAM & L.L Year-end Bowling Party at Mony's!! 10:30 am EAST Worship 11:30 am EAST Mother's Day Lunch (men serving meal)	11 9:00am-Noon Pastor office 7:00 pm WEST church council meeting	12 10:00 am East Quilt/sack lunch	13 1:00 pm WEST WELCA Meeting at chapel. Hostess: Margaret Senjem Study: Pastor Paul	14 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	15 Pastor day-off	16
17 8:30 am EAST Worship, Comm  East coffee after svc 9:30 am West coffee 10:30 am WEST Worship, Comm. 	18 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	19 10:00 am East Quilt/sack lunch 7:00 pm Deadline to Email info for the next newsletter	20	21 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	22 Pastor day-off	23
24 8:30 am EAST Worship East coffee after svc 9:30 am West coffee 10:30 am WEST Worship	25 OFFICE CLOSED Holiday WEST Memorial Day 7:30-10:30 am Coffee/goodies 8:25 am Legion Color Guard	26 Pastor VAC 10:00 am East Quilt/sack lunch	27 Pastor VAC	28 Pastor VAC 9:00am-Noon Pastor office NEWSLETTER DAY at the OFFICE 9:10- print 9:25- fold 9:35- collate	29 Pastor day-off	30 Pastor day-off
31 Pastor day-off Rev. Jim Rushton 8:30 am EAST Worship East coffee after svc 9:30 am West coffee 10:30 am WEST Worship						

EAST OFFERINGS

(03/29/2026) Current \$1,520 and Benevolence \$129.

(04/05/26) Current \$1,845 and Benevolence \$3,773.

(04/12/26) Current \$595 and Benevolence \$25.

EAST Council Minutes: April 14, 2026

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order.

Members Present: Randy Robertson, Terry Zieman, Jeff Beaver, Jane Williams, Brian DeCook, Danny Zieman, Pete Exe, Pastor Thompson, Gary Kearnes, Megan Ohman

Devotions: Pastor Thompson led the board in a reading and prayer

Pastor's Report: No confirmation classes; mileage a bit more due to conference. Luther League overnight stopped in, Fieldcrest Nursing Home, Prairie Meadows services. No vacation. Vacation upcoming starting 4/15 for ~10 days.

Secretary's Report: Pete motioned to approve, Jane seconded, motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report: Brian distributed the report for the past two months. Cemetery had \$6K specialty check. Jane moved to approved, Terry seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Gary distributed report for March. Paid November – February snow plowing. Received bill through the last snowstorm. Other expenses standard. Brian motion to approve, Megan seconded, motion carried.

Deacon's Report: Readers continue to sign up. WELCA is working with West to schedule 170 year anniversary recognitions. The parish (both East and West) is turning 170. East is planning a fellowship time on the joint Sunday in June. The Heritage Association agreed to open the cabin for this.

Trustees Report: Jeff and Pete talked with Josh Fjerstad (Fjerstad painting bid). Concerns that once ceiling is started it could expand (what needs to be done). Bidding is time + material versus straight estimate. Pressure washing the stairs, masonry cleanup w/ protectant and other. Some paint is in inventory, but is around 20 years old, so likely need new paint to be purchased. Jane motions that we accept the bid, Jeff second, for both sets of stairs and inside repair, motion carries.

Education Report: Luther League lock-in and regular group has been working on sign up for Ronald McDonald House. Sunday school ongoing (end of April)

Parsonage Report: Gary noticed downspout piping was coming off; Pete Exe saw earlier and fixed. Found rabbit holes by the steps; trapped and released; later filled the holes.

Old Business: Summer Worship schedule 8:30 and 10am; Joint Services set; Andy Pyffereon is only confirmation student. We are sending out requests for graduating seniors for a Recognition Sunday – if we find any, it will be on May 17.

New Business: Parsonage proposal update. Randy will reach out to a couple of contractors for updates on estimates to share at the next joint meeting. Discussion about possibly moving the office to East took place. Pete will touch base with Gina and contact KMTel about the cost of routing internet to the church. Information will be shared with joint council.

The council reviewed their decision to not accept Norman Senjem's proposal for the parsonage, and clarified the reasoning being it was not complete enough to be ready for approval. Mr. Senjem is welcome to resubmit a proposal with more clarity and respond to our concerns. Ultimately the joint council will need to provide options on the parsonage to the entire congregation for a vote. President Robinson is hopeful that we will have that ready at the next Annual Meetings.

Adjournment: Brian motions to adjourn, Pete seconded, and motion carried. Closed with the Lord's Prayer

NEXT MEETING: May 5th, 6:00PM at East St Olaf (First Tuesday of the month).

Respectfully Submitted by Jen Briske

WEST Council Minutes: April 13, 2016

Attendance (P = Present)

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

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

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

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

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

Pastor's Report: Report reviewed

Boad of Education Report: No report given

Deacon's Report: Cards sent: Thinking of You to Russ Skov, Congratulations for birth of Zoey to Crystal Narveson and Bryer Kruse. Sunday April 19 will be graduation recognition for seniors during coffee hour. Congratulations graduates and best wishes. Sunday April 26 will be First Communion (rescheduled from March 15) for Grasy Hiam & Grant Palmersheim. Thank you to all that helped with preparations, serving, and cleaning up for Ginny Hyland's memorial service. Blessed be her memory. Thank you to those who attended March 18th's Lenten service supper. The free will offering of \$257 was given to the Hayfield food pantry. Greg read a thank you received from the food pantry. Thank you Sue for being deacon in March. Deb is April's deacon. Council serves coffee April 26th volunteers are needed. Last week WELCA met at Villa with a great program.

Trustees Report: Attention was brought to the Chapel door handle as it is wearing out. Permission given to replace the handle.

Old Business: Discussion continued on the Parsonage.

New Business: None

Motion to adjourn: Motion to adjourn made by Dave, and seconded by Cindy, motion carried and we closed with the Lord's prayer.

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

Next Meeting: Next West meeting on May 11th at 7:00pm

WEST ST. OLAF FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

March 16-Apr. 15, 2026

Date		Current	Date		Benevolence
22-Mar	Offering	\$ 1,305.00	12-Apr	Offering	\$25.00
29-Mar	Offering	912.00		Offering	
5-Apr	Offering	3,663.00		Offering	
12-Apr	Offering	<u>2,577.00</u>		Offering	<u> </u>
Subtotal		\$8,457.00	Subtotal		\$25.00
Other Current Income:			Other Benevolence Income:		
22-Mar	Coffee Hour	64.00	22-Mar	Lent	\$15.00
29-Mar	Coffee Hour	89.00	5-Apr	Lent	25.00
			5-Apr	Easter	450.00
			5-Apr	ELCA	<u>50.00</u>
Subtotal		<u>\$ 153.00</u>	Subtotal		<u>\$540.00</u>
Total Current Income		<u>\$ 8,610.00</u>	Total Benevolence Income:		<u>\$565.00</u>

West St. Olaf Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report

MAR 16, 2026- APRIL 15, 2026

Current Account	3/16/26-4/15/26
Beginning Balance	\$ 25,132.12
<i>Income</i>	<u>\$8,610.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 33,742.12
<i>Expenses</i>	\$12,100.18
<i>Supplies</i>	\$0.00
<i>Utilities</i>	\$1,785.05
Total Expenses	<u>\$13,885.23</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 19,856.89
 Benevolence Account	
Beginning Balance	\$ 233.00
<i>Income</i>	<u>\$565.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 798.00
<i>Expenses</i>	\$0.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 798.00

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

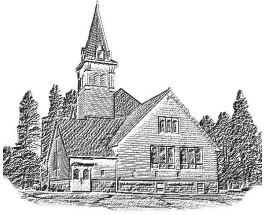
Church Office Hours: 9:00 am - Noon

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