

West St. Olaf Lutheran Church



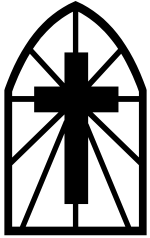
East St. Olaf Lutheran Church

OCTOBER 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



October Schedule Worship & JAM

EARLY SERVICE at 8:30 am (at WEST for October... coffee after church, at 9:30 am)

>> **JAM Sunday school** is 9:30 am (at West for all parish students)

LATE SERVICE at 10:30 am (at EAST for October... coffee always after church)

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 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,



St. Anselm of Canterbury once wrote a prayer that included these sentences, "I yearn to understand some measure of your truth, which my heart believes and loves. For I do not seek to understand in order to believe, but I believe in order to understand. For I believe even this: that I shall not understand unless I believe."

People often don't realize that belief and understanding are not the same thing. Reading a book can help you understand the motions of the planets around the sun, but it can't make you believe that God put those planets in motion. Understanding is based on facts, logic and evidence. Belief is simply where your heart is, what you know and trust without facts. We can understand things that are true, if there is evidence. We believe what is true because we trust the Bible, those who taught it to us, and those who were examples of faith for us.

We are people who believe. We believe in a God of love, who came to Earth, who died for our sins, and who rose so we may rise. We weren't there to see Jesus die, nor to see him rise, but we believe nevertheless that he died and rose

We celebrate this month three young people who will announce their belief in God. We will celebrate the faith that cause Martin Luther to defy the powers of his age in the name of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. We celebrate not because we understand, but because we believe.

In Christ's name,
Pastor Paul Thompson

Membership Updates, WELCA News, Serving Schedules

MEMBERSHIP INFO

New Members at West 09/14

Norman Senjem, Dudley & Barbara Davis, Lon & Judy Jones, and T.J. & Bonnie Austin and sons Lane and Owen Austin.

WOMEN OF EAST & EVENTS

WELCA Meeting Minutes for Sept.: The group focused on the upcoming Vendors Sale: Sept. 27. Amy is putting advertising in the DCI the week of the event. Dawn and Amy will pick up groceries for the event on Friday. Amy and Dave will be there on Thursday or Friday to put up the tables for the event. Jane will be at the church on Friday evening for those who want to set up early. Advertising: The event is in the Newsletter and posted at both churches. Jane sent invitations to 33 local Lutheran Churches advertising the Vendors Sale at East St Olaf. We have 9 confirmed tables, and Amy is talking with others. Jane will send out an email reminding the East Members of our date and time. There are "Sandwich Sign Boards" being made and Rosie is contacting Thrivent to get funds for the materials. There will be 5 that we can set out for the event. It was noted that the poster sized signs were too small, and no one could see them, so, this needs to change.

Marylin and Sharon R will be kitchen managers for the coffee time in the morning and the soup and sandwich time for lunch. WELCA is asking 6-7 people for soup donations. Last year we had WONDERFUL donations (13 crock pots of soup) and sadly, we didn't serve all the soups, and felt awful about that, so this year we are trying something different.

The MEATBALL DINNER is coming up! There is a signup sheet in the Narthex requesting help with prep work in the kitchen on Oct. 4, and we will need help serving on Oct. 5.

WEST WELCA NEWS

As I begin writing this today, we have had a shower of rain and I'm

watching leaves falling from our trees. IT IS FALL!! Enjoy the changing colors all around as our Lord paints a beautiful picture for all to enjoy.

Thank you to everyone who contributed school supplies. Kits will be completed and sent by the time you are reading this. THANK YOU!!

Thank you to our September chairperson Jane Estby, Altar Guild Donna Larson and Cindy Senjem, WELCA Meeting Hostess Margaret Senjem.

Our Sunday Rally Day and New member Sunday were special. We are blessed to have these members as part of our church family. A delicious meal was served after church. Thank you everyone for helping that day.

OCTOBER:

Chairpersons:

Mary Brand & Nancy Peterson

Altar Guild:

Mary Brandt & Sandy Iverson

Sat., Oct. 4: Gloria Brown's celebration of life service at 2:00 pm (*with visitation one hour prior*). Gloria guided our bible study for WELCA a few years. She did a great job!

Tue., Oct. 7

9:00 am: Quilting/sack lunch

Wed. Oct 8

9:00 am: Quilting/sack lunch

1:00 pm: WELCA meeting
(hostess Jill Thompson)

Sun., Oct. 12

9:30 am: Confirmation Recognition

Tue., Oct. 21

9:00 am: Lefse /Donut baking

Thur., Oct. 23

9:00 am: Lefse /Donut baking

Sat., Oct. 25:

FALL BAZAAR 9:30-11:30 am

On Friday evening before our bazaar, the chapel will be open 4-6:30 pm to bring your items.

On Saturday morning the chapel opens at 8:00 am. Thank you for your donations. Thank you Sue, for making our bazaar posters!

Sun., Oct. 26: Confirmation Service

Drive safely as our school buses and farm machinery are on the roads.

Blessings to everyone!
Nancy and Sharon



SERVING SCHEDULES

WEST—OCTOBER

Ushers: Pete D. organizes

Deacon: Sue Hyland

Altar Guild: Cindy Senjem & Donna Larsen

Acolytes:

Oct. 5 – Kaleb & Austin P.

Oct. 12 – Ryker & Reese H.

Oct. 19 – Kaleb & Austin P.

Oct. 26 – OPEN, 2 needed

Stewardship OCTOBER:

1st Sun.— Luther League

2nd Sun.— JAM (or B.O.E.)

3rd Sun.— WELCA

4th Sun. – Council

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EAST—OCTOBER

Acolytes: Ushers covering

Altar Guild: Meghan and Ellamae Ohman

Deacon: Meghan Ohman

Coffee Servers OCTOBER:

1st Sun.— Quilting Sisters

2nd Sun.— Sarah Circle

3rd Sun.— OPEN: Contact Marylin Carlson, if willing

4th Sun.— Circle 4

5th Sun.—S.S./Council



EAST ST. OLAF
Operation School Supplies 2025
Drive goes thru Oct 7: Drop off in
East church entryway (list was in
last month's newsletter)

Supplies go to Byron,
 Kasson, Stewartville, Hayfield



WEATHER-RELATED CANCELATIONS

To verify if there is a cancellation for a church service or church activity, **please check: KTTC TV (channel 10), or online at www.kttc.com** and click on the tab for **WEATHER** - then click on **Closings and Delays**. Decisions made by council presidents and the pastor.

EAST: FALL DINNER



SCALLOPED POTATO DINNER FOR EAST MEMBERS

All EAST members are invited for dinner on **Sun., October 26, after East worship**. Circle 4 will host a meal of scalloped potatoes and ham, salad, and dessert for a free-will offering.

WEST: ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT



West St. Olaf will host **Advent by Candlelight** on **December 7, 2025**. We will have time for fellowship and refreshments starting at 5:00pm in the Chapel, service in the church at 6:00pm where Pastor Heidi Heimgartner from the First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie will share her Advent message. A light supper will follow back at the chapel.

If you are interested in attending, hostessing a table, helping with the service or on the food committee, please sign up in the back of the church beginning in October. We hope to have 14-16 tables again this year to share the blessings of the season with many! **Please direct any questions to Donna Larsen or Heather Bamlet.**

OCT. Birthdays: EAST

4 Lilly Rand
 6 Matthew Nelson
 7 Brenda Exe
 12 Lyle Carstensen
 14 Doug Bakken
 18 Manford Viker
 18 Eric Herness
 19 Tammy Baier
 20 Brian Mueller
 20 Thomas Myhre, Jr.
 27 Gary Kearns
 28 Mel Schultz

Happy Birthday!



29 David Distad
 29 Terry Carstensen
 29 Paul Meier
 30 Liam Finseth

OCT. Birthdays: WEST

4 Jenny Twaddle
 5 James Kylo
 5 Bobbi Gunsallus
 7 Larry Himle
 8 Caden Ziegenhagen
 9 Leah Beyer
 10 Todd Beaver
 13 Diane Himle
 13 Nikolas Aasen
 18 Bryan Schroeder
 21 Julia Smith
 21 Drew Johnson

23 Jacob Dahle
 23 Antonia Fjerstad
 23 Grasyn Hiam
 28 Jean Thoe
 28 Nicole Johnson
 28 Greer Tiegen
 31 Philip Senjem

A Meatball Dinner for East and West

*Scandinavian Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes,
Lefsa, and all the fixings!*



Sunday, Oct. 5 11:30AM-12:30PM

Hosted by East St Olaf Members

Bring Family and Friends!

\$ 15.00 ages 13-Adult \$ 8.00 ages 6-12 Under 5 are free

Parsonage Tour!

Invitation to East and West Members

Sunday, Oct 5, 2025 1:00PM-2:30PM: Question /Answer Session

Meet at East Sanctuary at 1:00 or just drop by during the tour.



*Co-Hosted by East President Randy Robinson and
West President Will Laxen, plus Members of the Parsonage Committee*

West St Olaf Lutheran Church

70640 260th Ave, Hayfield, MN 55940

Fall Brunch & Bazaar

Saturday, Oct 25, 2025

9:00 ~ 11:30

Brunch Menu

Stuffed French Toast
Parfait Cups with toppings

Sweet Breads

Orange Juice/Coffee

Price: \$8.00

Children 6-12: \$4.00, 5 & under: free

Mission: Hayfield Community Pantry

Bazaar

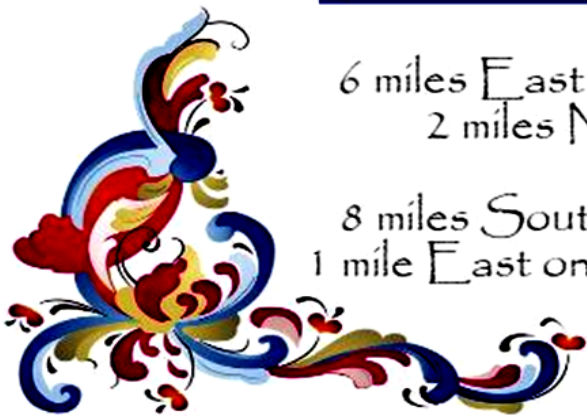
LEFSE, Rosettes, Krumkake
Baked Goods, Crafts, Quilts

Directions

6 miles East of Hayfield on Hwy 30,
2 miles North on 260th Ave

OR

8 miles South of Kasson on Cty 13,
1 mile East on Cty 4, left on 260th Ave



OCTOBER 2025 St. Olaf

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 <u>7:00 pm BOTH CONFIRMATION</u> Class at chapel	2 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	3 Pastor day-off	4 10am-2pm <u>EAST preps for Meatball Dinner</u> <u>Memoria Service for Gloria Brown at West St. Olaf:</u> 1:00 pm visitation 2:00 pm service (luncheon after)
5 8:30 am WEST Worship, <u>Comm.</u> 9:30 am JAM- BOTH at West West Coffee 10:30 am EAST Worship, <u>Comm.</u> East coffee after svc 11:30—12:30 pm <u>BOTH invited to MEATBALL DINNER</u> <u>at East church, then</u> 1pm—2:30 pm PARSONAGE OPEN HOUSE tours	6 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	7 9:00 am West Quilting/sack lunch 10:00 am East Quilt/sack lunch 6:00 pm EAST <u>council meeting</u>	8 9:00 am West Quilting/sack lunch 1:00 pm West <u>WELCA meeting</u> Hostess is Jana Thompson Study—Pastor Paul 7:00 pm BOTH <u>CONFIRMATION</u> Class at chapel	9 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	10 Pastor day-off	11 10:00 am <u>Women of East meeting at church, in basement (all East women are invited)</u>
12 8:30 am WEST Worship 9:30 am JAM- BOTH at West <u>West Coffee with West Confirmand Recognition</u> 10:30 am EAST Worship, <u>coffee after</u> <u>Pastor goes to a Theological Conf.</u>	13 <u>Pastor away at THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE</u> 7:00 pm WEST <u>council meeting</u>	14 <u>Pastor away at THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE</u> 10:00 am East Quilting/sack lunch	15 <u>NO CLASS for Confirmation due to MEA break</u>	16 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	17 Pastor day-off	18
19 <u>Pastor vac.</u> 8:30 am WEST Worship-Rev. Miller 9:30 am JAM- BOTH at West West Coffee 10:30 am EAST Worship-Rev Miller East coffee after svc	20 9:00am-Noon Pastor office NOON: <u>DEADLINE to Submit info & reports for next newsletter</u>	21 9:00 am West <u>Lefse/Donut baking</u> 10:00 am East Quilting/sack lunch	22 6:00 pm East sets up tables for Craft & Vendor Sale 7:00 pm BOTH <u>CONFIRMATION</u> Class at chapel	23 9:00am-Noon Pastor office 9:00 am West <u>Lefse/Donut baking</u>	24 Pastor day-off 4—6:30 pm <u>Drop West bazaar donations at the chapel</u>	25 <u>W. chapel RESERVED</u>  <u>WEST FALL BAZAAR AND BRUNCH</u> 9:30-11:30 am Everyone is Welcome!!!
26 8:30 am WEST Worship, <u>Comm. & Confirmation Day at West St. Olaf</u> 9:30 am JAM- BOTH at West West Coffee 10:30 am EAST Worship, <u>Comm.</u> <u>EAST has FALL DINNER after church (by Circle 4)</u>	27 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	28 10:00 am East Quilting/sack lunch	29 7:00 pm BOTH <u>CONFIRMATION</u> Class at chapel	30 9:00am-Noon Pastor office <u>NEWSLETTER DAY at OFFICE</u> 9:10- print 9:25- fold 9:35- collate/tape	31 Pastor day-off	

EAST OFFERINGS

08/31/2025) Current \$1,478.

(09/07/2025) Current \$1,469.

(09/14/20) Current \$1,852 and Reimbursement \$1,300.

(09/21/25) Current \$849.

EAST Council Minutes: September 9, 2025

Call to Order: President Robinson called the Meeting to Order at 6:00PM

Members Present: Randy Robinson, Pastor Paul Thompson, Gary Kearns, Bryan DeCook, Jane Williams, Meghan Oman, Mary Madson, Terri Zieman, Danny Zieman, Pete Exe, Guest: Mel Schulz

Devotions: Will be given at Joint Meeting later.

Pastor's Report: Will be shared at Joint Meeting later.

Secretary's Report: August minutes were read and approved.

Financial Secretary's Report: Brian DeCook provided the Financial Reports from June, July, and August.

Note: The June and July reports were posted in the last months minutes.

August Totals: Current: \$ 13,960.96 Benevolence: \$ 275 Heritage \$113

Memorial (Cem): \$350 Undesignated: \$930 (Not in General Fund)

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report from August was read and approved.

The Total Income for the month was \$14,078.96

Expenses for the month were \$8,031.95. The larger expenses this month included church insurance, salaries w/health and pension, groundskeeping, maintenance (bills for AC and electric repairs from last month), elevator permit, and guest pastor and organist.

Deacon's Report: Many cards went out last month, please let Deacons know if a member would like a card.

The Reader Sign-Up sheet is in the Narthex for September and October. If you would like to read, sign up or let a Deacon know. Currently, those on Alter Guild are purchasing live flowers, or there are no flowers up there. If members would like to donate for flowers, let them know.

Trustees Report: The last electrical switch was fixed in the sanctuary. The trustees will check the furnace filters before the furnace season starts. It was decided to forego an inspection of the furnaces and focus on utilizing the money if work needs to be done on them. Brad Amos will be coming to look at the chipping paint in the sanctuary ceiling (under the balcony) and the front steps outside the church.

Education Report: Meghan reported that Rally Sunday is at West St Olaf on Sept. 14. There are no more East children attending Sunday School at West St Olaf at this time.

Parsonage Report: Med City Environmental did an inspection for asbestos in the Parsonage and also in the basement of East St Olaf. Randy had a general report, but not the estimate yet. He will share that with the council at the next meeting. The inspection fee is coming out of the Parsonage Account. No matter what is done with the parsonage, it has to have the asbestos removed. This will be discussed at the Joint Meeting.

New Business:

East St Olaf will not be having the Lutefisk Dinner, but will have a Meatball Dinner on Oct. 5.

A sign up sheet for prep work on Saturday, Oct. 4 will be put in the back of the Narthex.

The next joint meeting will be in December. We will discuss the spring calendar and any shared dates.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bryan DeCook and seconded by Terri Zieman. The meeting ended with The Lord's Prayer.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday OCTOBER 7 at 6:00pm,

Respectfully Submitted by Jane Williams

West St. Olaf Council Minutes: September 9, 2025

Attendance (P = Present, A = Absent)

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

Meeting called to order by Will Laxen

Agenda approval: Motion made to approve agenda by Deb and seconded by Sheryl, motion carried.

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

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

Boad of Education Report: Rally Day Sunday September 14, 2025, with a bounce house. SS calendar is set. Christmas program is scheduled for December 14 at West and December 7 at East.

Deacon's Report: Cards sent: Thinking of you to Carma Bjornson, Pat Nelson, & Russ Skov; Sympathy to Roxanne Weinmann (Father Richard Hyland passing); and Congratulations to Maleah & Logan Schumaker on the arrival of their daughter Evelyn Lee.

Rally day & new member Sunday on September 14, lunch will be served following 10:30 church. Free will offering will go to the JAM technology fund. WELCA quilting began,

Pastor will lead in Bible Study on September 10th.

Bags for Lutheran World Relief were prepared.

Plans for fall bazaar on October 25th are being made. Lefse baking will be on October 21 & 23.

Heritage Sunday normally in November will be planned for February.

Have been unable to find a photographer for confirmation pictures, therefore photos will be taken after the church service on Confirmation Sunday October 26th.

Thinking ahead, Christmas decorating is planned for November 30. Deb is September's Deacon, Thank you.

Trustees Report: Church basement bathrooms are not usable, discussion regarding removal or shutting them down.

Old Business: None

New Business: LP contract has been completed. Members needed for nominating committee.

Motion to adjourn: Motion to adjourn was made by Cindy, seconded by Sue, approved.

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

Next Meeting: Next meeting will be October 13th, at 7:00

JOINT COUNCIL Minutes St. Olaf: September 9, 2025

Attendance: (P=Present)

Pastor Paul	P	Mary Brandt	P	Del Senjem	P	Mary Madson	P	Kelly Pyfferoen	
Will Laxen	P	Sue Hyland	P	Ben Horejsi		Meghan Oman	P	Mel Schultz	P
Hans Estby	P			Billie Jean Smetana		Terry Zieman	P		
Cindy Stoppel	P	Deb Schuck	P	Randy Robinson	P	Dan Williams			
Jenny Twaddle	P	Clay Hazelmann		Bryan DeCook	P	Danny Zieman	P		
Dave Peterson	P	Greg Brandt	P	Gary Kearns	P	Pete Exe	P		
Sheryl Wohlers	P	Chad Thompson		Jane Williams	P	Bruce Peterson			

The meeting was called to order by East President Randy Robinson. Devotions led by Pastor Paul.

Secretary's Report: Report from the June Meeting was ready by Cindy Stoppel. Report was approved as read.

Pastor's Report: Pastor's Report was reviewed. He was on vacation for three weeks, so not as many items in his report. He accompanied the Luther League to Niagara Cave, Confirmation is resuming, visited Field Crest Nursing Home, and will attend the Fall Theological Conference Oct 12-14.

Guest Speaker: Mel Schultz requested speaking time, and commended Pete Exe for the amount of work he puts in at the church and at the parsonage. He thanked the Joint Committee for supporting and approving the removal of the old granary, as it had become dangerous. He is concerned about the heating system at the parsonage, as there are no fixes and no parts available anymore. He requested clarity of information be provided to the congregational members as the council considers what to do with the Parsonage. Misinformation is starting to spread. Both presidents stated they are open to discussions and invite members to contact them with any questions.

Education Report: Rally Sunday is coming up, and the Christmas Program will be at East on Dec. 7, and West On Dec. 14. Jenny Twaddle noted that there are no East St Olaf Sunday School kids attending JAM.

Old Business: At the last joint meeting, the Heritage Committee requested access and some control over the planning of what to do with the Parsonage, it was noted tonight that this committee has no intention of being involved in that decision, as the property belongs to St. Olaf. The next step in the Parsonage is asbestos abatement. This needs to be done for safety. Randy shared a document with the findings. There is an estimate coming in from Med City Environmental, and Randy will share that at the December meeting.

New Business:

President Laxen, President Robinson, and members of the Parsonage Committee will provide information at an open house at the Parsonage after the Meatball Dinner on Oct. 5. Many of our members have not been inside the parsonage for many years. A video will be made and shared inside on the big screens for those who cannot navigate steps. The video will include the attic and the basement. Discussion time will be provided, and all members are asked to bring your questions!

The Dinner is provided by East WELCA at 11:30-12:30, and the Open House will start around 1:00pm.

Church Calendar for December

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 4:00PM at East, 6:00PM at West, Communion served.

No Service on Christmas Day, Dec. 25

Last Sunday, Dec. 28 will be a JOINT service with Pastor Paul at West, 9:30AM, No Communion will be served, as it will be provided 4 days earlier on Christmas Eve.

Will brought up the Minnesota Paid Leave program that is going to start on January 2026. The Church will need to pay about 0.22% of Pastor's and Gina's salary into a pot, and then they can access family and/or medical leave through Minnesota. Will, Gary, and Jenny will work together with the Synod to get clear direction on the Paid Leave Program and bring this forward at the Dec. Meeting.

Next Joint Meeting: Monday, December 9, 2025 7:00PM at West St Olaf

Motion to adjourn: Motion made by Deb Schuck, seconded by Danny Zieman. Closed with Lord's Prayer Submitted by Jane Williams, East St. Olaf Council Secretary

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

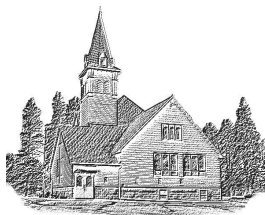
Church Office Hours: 9:00 am – Noon

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

Living in God's amazing grace since 1856

