



MARCH 2021 HAPPENINGS

Pastor Paul Thompson Cell: 507-273-8504 Email: pthomp821@gmail.com

Office Hours: 9:00 am–Noon (Monday & Thursday ...Visits by appointment only) **Websites:** eaststolaf.org ...OR... weststolaf.org

Gina Moser, Secretary: Office: 365-8222 - Cell: 507-951-4964 Emails: eastwest@kmtel.com and certainty@kmtel.com



East & West Worship Times & Other Info

Please wear a mask, sanitize hands upon arrival and leaving, and remain socially distant from other family groups. Also, no coffee hours are permitted at either church due to Covid restrictions

- **Worship service times MARCH:** East 9:00am / West 11:00 am (EXCEPT Mar. 21-times are switched).
- **Confirmation classes:** March Confirmation class meets at EAST church at 7:00 pm
- **JOINT Council meeting** will be MARCH 8 at West church (6:00 pm separate mtgs., 7:00 pm Joint mtg.)

NOTES ABOUT ANNUAL MEETINGS:

EAST will not have an annual meeting – there may be a special meeting this spring to vote regarding constitutional updates.

WEST annual meeting will be **March 21** (backup date is April 11) There is NO potluck dinner this year due to Covid restrictions.

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

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

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

Pastor's Letter



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

A few years ago Marie Kondo made headlines with her method of decluttering. Kondo invites people to sort through their piles of stuff, things like clothes, books, and papers, and to discard those things that do not “spark joy.” In a sense, Lent is an invitation to spiritually declutter. Imagine using an assortment of shirts as a visual representation of different burdens people carry or blessings they know. Sort through the shirts, keeping some and tossing others as a way of visibly cleaning out the spiritual closet.

Our Lenten fast encourages the winnowing out and “decluttering” of our lives. The best fast is the one that continues even after Lent. Giving up things we do not need may help us keep from constantly acquiring more and more. Giving up things that were once meaningful to us may help us find more room in our hearts for God. Letting go of solid objects can help us focus on the things of the heart, like compassion, forgiveness, hope, and love.

We have but a few weeks to go for Lent. There's still time to let go of the things that drag our spirits down, and hold more strongly to the things that lift us up, the things that last beyond our lives. May you find more room in your hearts for the things of the spirit.

In Christ's name,
Pastor Paul Thompson



Membership Updates, WELCA News

MEMBERSHIP INFO

No updates at this time.

West WELCA News

Welcome back to resuming our church activities. The past year has been difficult and it makes us aware how important our church family connections are in our lives. We have certainly missed all of you! We pray we can be healthy, get vaccinated and continue to worship together in 2021.

We will resume quilting and WELCA this month continuing with COVID protocol measures. *Please wear a mask, social distance, bring a sack lunch and snack for coffee, if you wish.*

QUILTING: 9AM:

March 9 & 10 and March 23 & 24

WELCA: 1 PM: March 10

Gloria Brown will lead us in the Bible study called, "The Woman at the Well". It will be so good to see all of you again to gather in fellowship. *Please wear a mask. We will not be having coffee after the meeting.*

We may decide to add more quilting days this month so watch the Sunday bulletin. We have several quilts that need to get done before graduation. We are thankful for Virginia, Sandy and Jane for sewing the quilt tops for us! We know what they have doing to keep busy during this pandemic. Please think about joining us for quilting.

Stay safe, stay well and God bless all of you.

Sharon and Nancy



Lilies to Beautify Our Altar ~ Easter Will be Here Soon!

If anyone wishes to donate/share their Easter lily/lilies at church "in-memory of" and/or "in-honor of" someone... please let Gina Moser know, (or at West: Sheryl Wohlers) by March 24, if you would like them listed in the Easter bulletin. **Please drop-off lilies at your church the day before Easter.**



Donations for Victims of Mantorville Apartment Building Fire

The Kasson-Mantorville Ministerial Association encourages all local churches to collect a "special offering" for the victims of the recent apartment building fire in Mantorville. Please make your check out to SEMCAC (Kasson) and notate "Mantorville fire victims" on the memo line and mail to: 105 South Mantorville Ave., Kasson, MN 55944



SERVING SCHEDULES

MARCH at WEST

Acolytes: Ushers fill-in

Ushers: Pete Danielson is organizing volunteers

Deacon: Cindy Orning

Altar Guild: Sandy Iverson and Mary Brandt (Mar. & Apr.)

Stewardship: No coffee hour

MARCH at EAST

Acolytes: Ushers fill-in

Altar Guild: Maryling Carlson
And Audrey Carlson

Deacon: Pat Cahill



Date for First Holy Communion

The Rite of First Holy Communion will be held on **Sun., March 7** for the following students:

EAST: Ryley Pyfferoen, Rachel Pyfferoen, and EllaMae Ohman.

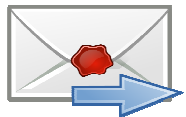
WEST: Scott Cocuzzi, Reese Hazelman, Benjamin Laxen, LauraLee Olson, Kaleb Palmersheim, Brayden Peterson, and Cole Twaddle



Thank You West St. Olaf

To West St. Olaf Church,
Our thanks for the gifts we received this past Christmas—the pretty poinsettia and the thoughtful gift package— all gratefully received.

~ David & Jean Thoe ~



East St. Olaf Special Delivery...

East St Olaf delivered 19 Christmas Celebration Packages to their Sunday Schoolers. We miss our kiddos coming to learn about Christ and the wonderful traditions of the church.



Thank You West St. Olaf

Than you all of West. St. Olaf Church family, for the birthday cards, poinsettia, and the goodies. All very thoughtful. God bless!

~ Mervis Keckhafer ~

March Birthdays East

- 1 Kathleen Herness
- 1 Rachel Pyfferoen
- 1 Ryley Pyfferoen
- 5 Jerome Nelson
- 11 Brandi Bakken
- 12 Laural Bauer
- 16 April Nemechek
- 17 Pat Cahill
- 19 Landon DeCook
- 20 Julie Quinn
- 25 Lawrence Brandt
- 27 Elizabeth Carstensen






Happy Birthday!



March Birthdays West

- 1 Benjamin Alrick
- 3 Aloma Eastlee
- 4 Robert Christopherson
- 5 Heather Bamlet
- 5 Linnea Borland
- 9 Cynthia Stoppel
- 9 Erin Olson
- 10 Ralph Kylo
- 11 Lillian Gulbransen
- 11 Elijah Gulbransen
- 21 Mary Bamlet
- 22 Lee Gulbransen
- 22 Brandon Schuck
- 22 Wilson Cahill
- 23 Diane Mittelstadt
- 24 McCayla Thoe
- 24 Katrina Thoe
- 25 Riley Phenix
- 27 Lana Martin
- 27 Lenora Bamlet
- 28 Jessica Lechnir
- 30 Denise Kylo
- 30 Lindsay Johnson
- 31 Jane Estby



| Sun. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| <p>IMPORTANT NOTE!!! Worship times are switched on March 21... because West is holding their annual meeting that day.</p> | | | | | | |
| 7  <u>BOTH churches have 1st Holy Communion</u> 9:00 am East Worship/ 1st Holy Communion 11:00 am West Worship/1st Holy Communion | 8 9:00 am-Noon Pastor at office  <u>Joint Council Meeting at EAST</u> 6:00 pm brief separate mtgs. 7:00 pm joint meeting starts | 9 9:00 am West Quilt/sack lunch | 10 9:00 am West Quilt/sack lunch 1:00 pm West WELCA meeting... No coffee/dessert Study is: <i>The Woman at the Well</i> <u>BOTH at EAST</u> 7:00 pm Class for Confirmation | 11 9:00 am-Noon Pastor at office | 12 <u>Pastor Paul's Day Off-Work</u> | 13 |
| 14  9:00 am East Worship 11:00 am West Worship | 15 9:00 am-Noon Pastor at office | 16 | 17 <u>BOTH at EAST</u> 7:00 pm Class for Confirmation | 18 9:00 am-Noon Pastor at office <u>Volunteer Day for printing of WEST annual reports at office - start at 9:15 am</u> | 19 <u>Pastor Paul's Day Off-Work</u> | 20 >>> Noon Deadline to submit info for next newsletter |
| 21  <u>EARLY TODAY!!</u> 9:00 am West Worship... then Annual Meeting (NO potluck meal) <u>LATE TODAY!!</u> 11:00 am East Worship/Comm | 22 9:00 am-Noon Pastor at office | 23 9:00 am West Quilt/sack lunch | 24 9:00 am West Quilt/sack lunch <u>BOTH at EAST</u> 7:00 pm Class for Confirmation | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28  9:00 am East Worship 11:00 am West Worship/Comm | 29 | 30 <u>NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEER DAY at office:</u> 9:10-print 9:30-fold 9:45-labeling | 31 <u>BOTH at EAST</u> 7:00 pm Class for Confirmation | | | |



FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Many thanks for the generosity and support from many churches and individuals in our local area, also thanks to our incredible volunteers from all around our community!

This Pantry has been a huge blessing to many very appreciative families in just a few short weeks! Please continue to spread the word.

“4Giving” is an online giving platform for the Food Pantry. You can find it on the website of Cedar Creek Church: www.cedarcreekchurch.org -- just click on the button/tab for Food Pantry (*this is an ongoing fundraiser, there is no deadline*). **A list of needed foods for the Panty Food Drive is also on the website.**

SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THE PANTRY:

The Hayfield Community Food Pantry, hosted out of Cedar Creek Church, began serving our community on [December 9](#), 2020, and is off to a GREAT start! The Pantry is open each [Wednesday](#) evening from 4-6 pm to anyone, and all are welcome to shop as often as needed without restrictions. After the first 10 weeks of operation, 123 families registered to shop and we've served 934 people with 378 family visits, distributing 14,800 pounds of food!

This is a strictly volunteer-run program of very generous individuals from throughout the community. Volunteers pick up donated food twice weekly from HyVee Kasson, twice monthly volunteers pick up Channel One orders as well as unload the Channel One truck the other two weeks, unload cases of food and stock shelves, set up the rolling pantry shelves weekly, assist shoppers on [Wednesday](#) evenings (*other times by appointment*), make food deliveries, manage registrations, statistics, advertisement, volunteer coordination and compliance. The volunteer church Treasurer of Cedar Creek, Jenny Scott, also handles all finances and accounts payable.

Many hours are donated weekly by a lot of people to make this successful!

The City of Hayfield granted the Pantry a generous CARES grant of \$12,000. An additional \$4,245 has been donated to date (from churches and individuals). Food expense so far has been around \$1200. All equipment including coolers, freezers, pantry racks, scale, etc. have been donated. *The Cedar Creek Church Board has offered to assume the increased cost of electricity and insurance premiums from the church's General Fund- Cedar Creek makes no income from the pantry- leaving all money available to cover the cost of food instead.*

Because of the high need and limited availability for food in Dodge County, we were granted the only new Channel One Agency in 2020 in their 14 county region! Being a Channel One Agency allows us access to TEFAP Program food, much of which we receive for just the low cost of shipment at \$0.18 per pound. Channel One has a great variety of food available for purchase and selection varies weekly. We've received generous food donations from individuals and organizations, supplementing what is not available through Channel One. Because we're able to source food for such a low cost, in addition to the donated food from individuals and HyVee Kasson, the average expense of feeding one person per week is around \$1.50 (less than \$4 per family visit). Incredible!

Kerry Fjerstad, for the Hayfield Community Food Pantry



St. Olaf's Kids Corner: *March*

March Bible Story of the Month: (What is Lent?)

This year, some of February, and the entire month of March is used to celebrate Lent. Part of the big story about Jesus is how he died for our sins. So, for those of us who believe in God and Jesus, it's sort of a big deal. So big, that some people start getting ready to celebrate Easter (When Jesus rose from the dead) 40 days before Easter! That time is called "Lent". History books say "40 days of Lent" started in the fourth century AD. It's the twentieth century now, so it's been around for a long time.

Today, people who choose to practice Lent do so by giving up something; like a food, an activity that might not be healthy, or a bad habit that takes too much of our time. Some pray more to God and ask forgiveness, or read the Bible a little more. Some give more to charities or make it a point to help others during this time. The key is to be closer to God during Lent. Do you have to give up things during Lent? No, serving God isn't about following religious customs; it's about having a relationship with God. If you accept Jesus as your savior, you can't be "more saved" by giving up dessert. But, if you set aside a little extra time to pray or read about God, can that help you know more about him? That answer is yes! Lent is a great time to learn, pray, and think more like Jesus.

Try out the Lenten Calendar/game below. You can do a little, or you can do a lot. You get to decide. This game is based on giving, praying, and fasting (giving up something to remember what God gave up for you... his son). Jesus died so we can live!

BIBLE VERSE:

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me!"
Philippians 4:13

Prayer of the Day:

Dear God,
Thank you for sending Jesus to our world. I am so glad he came to Earth to teach us, and to save us from sin. Amen

| | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Fast from a bad habit for a day. | Ask God to bless a special person today. | Give Time: Do something nice for a parent. | Fast from TV today. | Give: Share something of yours today. | Pray at dinner and tell God thank you for your food. |
| Pray to God and tell him one thing you feel | | Fast from eating dessert today! | Pray for the leaders of the world to be kind. | | Pray and tell God 3 things you love. |
| Give someone a hug. | | Pray for someone who is sick today. | Give a smile to everyone today. | | Give Time: Clean up the toys. |
| Say a prayer to thank God for one thing. | | Sing a Song to God today. | Pray for your pastor. | | Fast from playing video games today. |
| Fast from candy today. | | Give Time: Read a book to someone. | Fast from making a mess today. | | Read a Bible story together. |
| Give help: Do someone else's chores. | | Pray with someone in your family. | Give Time: Call your grandparents. | | Give: Donate something to a nonprofit. |
| | | Fast from yelling today. | Pray for someone in another country who is telling others about God. Help them be safe. | | |



You can roll a dice and do the activity you land on, or you can choose a few to do and cross them off.





East Offerings/Contributions:

(02/02 & 02/14) Current \$2,185. In memory of Paul Jordan \$352 Undesignated and In memory of David Seim \$20 Undesignated.

East St. Olaf Church Council Minutes ~ Feb. 2, 2021

- Call to Order:** Brian Mueller at 6 p.m.
- Members Present:** Pastor Paul Thompson, Brian Mueller, Glenda Mueller, Pat Cahill, Jane Williams, Gary Kearns, Steve Senjem, Bryan DeCook, Deb DeCook
- Devotions:** Pastor Paul gave the opening prayer.
- Pastor's Report:** Reviewed and approved. Services in church will resume on Feb. 7th. Discussion held regarding having the annual meeting. Motion made by Pat Cahill to skip annual meeting this year due to Covid; seconded by Jane. Members will hold their current spots on council through 2021. Confirmation classes will resume February 3rd and will be in place of Lenten Services since so many classes have been missed due to Covid. First Communion will be on March 7th for Ryley Pyfferoen, Rachel Pyfferoen & EllaMae Ohman. Motion made by Pat Cahill to purchase a gift for these girls to make their day more special; Bryan seconded. Jane agreed to purchase gifts. Easter services discussed. Council felt services should be held for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter if Covid permits.
- Secretary's Report:** November report reviewed and approved. Thank you note was sent to Donald Nelson for his generous donation to the church.
- Financial Sec. Report** November, December & January reports reviewed. Motion made by Pat Cahill to approve; Deb seconded.
- Treasurer's Report:** December & January reports reviewed. Motion made by Pat Cahill to approve; Bryan seconded.
- Deacon's Report:** Pastor thanked Jane for submitting the children's activity page each month for the newsletter. There were 19 activity bags delivered to kids' homes in the congregation around Christmas time. Jane urged the council to think of goals for the church such as ways to increase members, etc.
- Trustee's Report:** None.
- Old Business:** CRP land was discussed. Further discussion will be held at joint meeting in March regard to obtaining bids to farm this land.
- New Business:** Gary discussed moving some money into Mission Checking Fund. Motion made by Jane to move \$20,000 to this fund at 0.75%; Pat seconded. Motion made by Pat to put the \$1,682 in Benevolence toward the \$2,900 promised to the Synod and the balance (\$1,218) will be taken out of current; Glenda seconded. Check for \$2,900 will be sent to the Synod.
- Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned with the Lord's prayer.
- Next joint council meeting will be at West on Monday, March 8th - individual councils will meet at 6:00 with joint meeting at 7:00.** Respectfully Submitted, Deb DeCook



West St. Olaf Church Council Minutes ~ Feb. 8, 2021

Meeting called to order by: Deb Schuck

Devotions: Given by Paul Thompson

Attendance: Pastor Paul, Deb Schuck, Dee Rabehl, Greg Brandt, Missy Olson, Dave Peterson, Cindy Orning, Chad Thompson, Darlene Hanson, Sheryl Wohlers.

Secretary's Report: Report from November 9th meeting was reviewed. Motion to approve: Missy second: Sheryl.

Financial Report: Report for Dec. 16-Jan. 15th was reviewed. Motion to approve: Dee, Second: Greg.

Treasurer's Report: Report for Dec. 16-Jan 15th was reviewed. Motion to approve: Dee, Second: Greg.

Board of Education: Still on hold for classes.

Luther League: No business.

Pastor's Report: Discussion about where to place notices for CHURCH cancellations, to find consistent site for those messages when necessary. Five students will have first communion, date designated for March 7th, Pastor Paul will notify families in regard to details and congregation will be allowed to attend.

Deacon's Report: WELCA women will return to quilting projects. Five seniors are designated for graduation in 2021 year, bible order will be placed. No flowers will be on altar during the Lenten services.

Trustee's Report: Furnaces in church sanctuary are showing some repair needs, those repairs are in process. Discussion about keeping this as a regular fall furnace maintenance will be added to a servicing schedule with that business. Chad Thompson volunteered to be the backup for Greg Brandt when those needs arise when sensors send out alarms, etc.

Old Business: Nominating committee will reach out for 2021 year.

New Business: CRP land available, parsonage committee will follow up in regard to renting to another party.

Ash Wednesday Feb. 17th, 7 PM service will be @ West St. Olaf.

Maundy Thursday April 1st service will be @ East St. Olaf 7 PM.

Good Friday service April 2nd will be @ West St. Olaf 7pm.

Treasurer's annual budget report was approved by: Dave, second by: Dee. Annual meeting is scheduled for March 21st, 9AM service, immediately followed by the meeting.

Motion to adjourn by: Dave, second by Missy, followed by the Lord's prayer.

Submitted by: Darlene Hanson

Next council meeting is March 8 @ West St Olaf 6 PM followed @ 7PM joint meeting with East St Olaf.

Submitted by Darlene Hanson

East & West St. Olaf Lutheran



6200 County Road 3 SW

Pastor Paul Thompson

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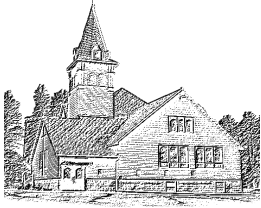
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HAPPENINGS



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