



## JANUARY 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



### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**East & West St. Olaf will remain closed for the time-being:** So no in-person worship, no classes for confirmation or Sunday school, no quilting or other meetings. Pastor Paul's sermons will be online.

**ALSO: All annual meetings AND council meetings are postponed**—Watch future newsletters for details on when we will reopen our churches AND when we will reschedule these meetings

**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 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

**Until we can meet again, we wish you all good health:** physical, mental and spiritual health. So let's all keep reading our Bibles and continue with our prayers.

## Pastor's Letter



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The year 2020, with its pandemic lockdowns, racial violence, horrific weather events, and divisive elections, is finally over. The calendar is turning over, and we pray 2021 will bring peace and justice and joy.

Jana and I will be experiencing a big change. We just bought a house in Byron, and look forward to many years of happy living there. In the meantime, we are filling boxes, hauling boxes, and getting rid of things we don't feel like moving. It's a big job, and will take up all of our spare time for the near future.

Change happens all the time, but not always easily. Like moving from one house to another, change means work. No matter how much you may like your life to stay the same, the world changes around us, and takes us with it, whether we like it or not.

The witness of scripture is that God does not change. From time to time, like when Moses begged God to spare his people even though they were worshipping the golden calf, God may change his mind. But God declares through the prophet Malachi, “*For I the Lord do not change...*” God is always the Almighty, God is always gracious and always merciful. But God causes change. God changes us from sinners to saints. God changes us from weak to strong. God changes us for the better.

In Christ's name,

Pastor Paul Thompson



## Membership Updates, WELCA News

### MEMBERSHIP INFO

#### BAPTISM WEST

Danielle Elizabeth Iverson was baptized on October 11, 2020 at West St. Olaf. Parents: Samuel & Kyrie Iverson. Sponsors: Leslie Jacobson and Michael Gronback. Officiated by Rev. Paul Thompson.



### IF YOU NEED DEACONS:

**January at Both:**

**West Deacon:** Cindy Senjem

**East Deacon:** Jane Williams

## Pastor Paul's Sermons Online-Only Until Further Notice

Be sure to check out Pastor Paul's worship videos being posted at our YouTube channel ([search for East and West Lutheran Churches at YouTube.com](#), or our [East and West St. Olaf Facebook page](#)). There is a clickable icon on our church webpage for either site. *If you like what you see, please don't forget to click the "like" button, or the "thumbs up" icon.*

## WEST Teens and/or Adults Needed to Run Slide Shows



If you are familiar with operating a computer mouse - it's pretty easy to learn how to run the Microsoft PowerPoint slides – **and more people will needed to help run slideshows on Sundays (when we reopen). We'd like to have enough volunteers so that folks would only need to be scheduled about once per month.** Please inform Deb Schuck or Pastor Paul, if willing to volunteer once we do



### THANK YOU, WEST ST. OLAF

Thank you for your generosity supporting the Women's Shelter and Families First/ Crisis Nursery missions for November and December. We were able to furnish many much needed basic supplies for the Women's Shelter and they were very appreciative of our support. We thank Alli Horesji for setting up a program on the computer for the West JAM families to choose a gift to give the two families we adopted for Christmas. The response from West JAM was phenomenal! We received many monetary donations from our members which enabled us to purchase a vacuum cleaner, gift cards to Fareway Foods and Kwik Trip besides the wish list items for these families. We are also thankful for Thrivent Action Team funds to help us carry out our missions. *West St. Olaf, you certainly demonstrated how to live generously, even during a pandemic!* ~ Nancy P. & Sharon G. ~



### THANK YOU, WEST ST. OLAF (FROM "FAMILIES FIRST")

West St. Olaf, Thank you for adopting "Families First" Crisis Nursery families for the holidays this year. Your generosity is truly astounding and no doubt, makes a positive impact for struggling families. The families we have been able to give the gifts to have been so touched and are very grateful for your kindness. They are visibly moved and very grateful for your kindness and generosity. They are families who are balancing a lot on very little, and just trying to do well by their children, especially this time of the year. Thank you again, from the bottom of our hearts.

*Allison Carpenter; LSW/ Crisis Nursery Coordinator ~ Families First of MN*



**Thank You  
East & West St. Olaf**

Dear friends,  
Jana and I want to thank you for all the kind words, gifts, and expressions of support, not only at this time year, but throughout the year. Your generosity is truly awesome. This has been a trying year for all of us, and we pray we may be able to return your love throughout the coming year. May God bless you all, and keep you safe.

~ *Pastor Paul & Jana Thompson* ~



**Thank You  
West St. Olaf**

We thank you all for your kindness, concern, and cards sent to us when David had a short stay in the hospital (this fall). Also for the Happy Birthday wishes for Jean on her 90th. All thoughts are truly appreciated.

Thanks to God for care shown in many ways.

~ *David & Jean Thoe* ~



**Thank You  
West WELCA**

For the nice card, monetary gift and the beautiful poinsettia plant. It is a privilege and a pleasure to work for, and with, all of you.

~ *Gina Moser* ~



**Thank You East  
Quilting Sisters**

Thank for the nice card and the monetary gift. It is a privilege and a pleasure to work for, and with, all of you.

~ *Gina Moser* ~

**Jan. Birthdays East**

- 2 Carol Severson
- 4 Dorothy Hesse
- 7 Keaton DeCook
- 11 Justin Mansfield
- 12 Brian Pyfferoen
- 14 Becky Brakke
- 15 Benjamin Petersen
- 17 Duaine Molde
- 17 Gary Rud
- 20 Mark Evjen
- 22 Wendy Moore
- 22 Elanor Pyfferoen
- 26 Kaysie Peterson

**Happy  
Birthday!**



- 28 Alexis Olson
- 28 Maddi Pyfferoen

**Jan. Birthdays West**

- 3 Aleisha Lechnir
- 5 Eugene Trygstad
- 5 Kristie Larson
- 5 Nicholas Olson
- 9 Cynthia Orning
- 9 Mary Brandt
- 9 Karla Daleske
- 10 Craig Hanson
- 11 James Senjem, Jr.
- 11 Daniel Larsen
- 16 David Peterson
- 16 Neil Rabehl
- 19 Susan Thoe
- 19 Coty Stoppel
- 20 Gloria Pew
- 21 Benjamin Horejsi
- 22 Delano Senjem
- 22 Neven Horejsi
- 23 Gregory Brandt
- 24 Pete Danielson
- 25 Ella Rudlong
- 25 Jamie Smith
- 26 Travis Johnson
- 28 Kendyl Beyer
- 31 Wilma Kyllö
- 31 Ricky Johnson
- 31 Austin Dahle



## St. Olaf's Kids Corner: *January*

### January Bible Story of the Month: From the book of Genesis

In the beginning, there was nothing; everything was formless, and darkness covered the surface of everything. Only God existed. One day, God commanded that there should be light, and the light was created.

On the first day of creation, God made night and day.

On the second day, God created the sky to separate the waters.

On the third day, the creation of land and sea took place. He also commanded that the land produce vegetation and seed-bearing plants, and that they must all multiply according to their own kind.

On the fourth day, God created the sun, the moon and the stars, in order to serve as markers for the day, the night, the years, and the sacred times.

On the fifth day, God created all the living creatures in the sea and the air, and commanded that they should multiply according to their own kinds.

On the sixth day, the creation of all the land animals was done, and he commanded them all to go forth and multiply across the earth, according to their own kind. Then, he formed man out of the dust of the earth and breathed life into him. From the rib of the man, he created the woman, and he gave man and woman authority over all the earth. God was pleased by all that He created, and on the seventh day, God rested.

### BIBLE VERSE:

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

Genesis 1.1

### Color Me!

### Prayer of the Day:

Dear God, Thank you for all the beautiful things you have made and placed on our earth. Help me to take good care of them. Amen

### Fill in the Grid

Can you find where to put the words?

			L					

DAY  
LIGHT  
NIGHT  
EARTH  
HEAVENS





## East Offerings/Contributions:

**November 22 & 29:** Current \$2,345 and Benevolence \$100.

**December 6:** Current=\$1,420 and

**In Memory of Pat Molde:** \$40 Undesignated.

**In Loving Memory of Kent Boysen:** \$610 Cemetery Fund

*(Son of Diane Boysen, Brother of Penni Ryan, and Father of Andrew and Erik Boysen).*

**December 13 & 20:** Current current=\$2,825 and Piano Fund \$50

**No meetings at either church - so no council minutes to publish at this time.**

## Dear West St. Olaf,

The committee of the Hayfield Community Food Pantry would like to give an enormous thank you for the food and monetary donations provided. Those donations have been delivered to Cedar Creek Church for families in need in the Hayfield area. December 9, 2020 was the first day of operation for the pantry and it was able to serve 25+ families. That is just over 1223 pounds that left the shelves from 4-6pm that evening. That is a testament to the need and the gift we are providing to families that may not know as to where their next meal comes. Your generosity provides for support and overall strength in the Hayfield community.

The Hayfield Community Food Pantry is open at Cedar Creek Church on Wednesdays from 4-6pm or by appointment by calling 507-477-2255. There are no income thresholds and the pantry is open to anyone in need. So please pass this information onto anyone in the community that may have a need during these uncertain times.

There will continue to be a box at the entrance of the chapel if anyone would like to drop off donations when church is back in session or donations can be provided directly to the pantry at 30 East Main Street, Hayfield (call the church office before driving there 507-477-2255). Or, Donna Larsen can be reached at 507-438-1712 or [dmlarsen73@yahoo.com](mailto:dmlarsen73@yahoo.com) and she can deliver any items gathered by members. If you have an account on Facebook, please "like" the Hayfield Community Food Pantry page for current updates, photos, opportunities to volunteer and current needs.

Thank you for your faithfulness and the opportunity to serve others.

Sincerely,

Donna M. Larsen  
Hayfield Community Food Pantry – committee member





## WEST ST. OLAF FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Nov. 16-Dec. 15, 2020

Date		Current	Date	Benevolence
22-Nov	Offering	\$ 375.00	12/6	Offering \$50.00
29-Nov	Offering	425.00		Offering
6-Dec	Offering	1,915.00		Offering
13-Dec	Offering	1070.00		Offering
	Offering			Offering
	Offering			Offering
		\$ 3,785.00	Subtotal	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Other Current Income:			Other Benevolence Income:	
22-Nov	Freeborn Co-op	90.22	29-Nov	ELCA \$ 25.00
6-Dec	Non-Member Donation	<u>500.00</u>		
Subtotal		<u>\$ 590.22</u>	Subtotal	<u>\$ 25.00</u>
Total Current Income		<u>\$ 4,375.22</u>	Total Benevolence Income:	<u>\$ 75.00</u>

## WEST ST. OLAF TREASURER'S REPORT

Nov. 16th - Dec. 15th 2020

### CURRENT ACCOUNT

<i>Beginning Balance</i>	\$21,182.17
Income	<u>\$4,375.22</u>
<i>Total Income</i>	\$25,557.39
<i>Expenses</i>	
Property Insurance & Work Comp Premium	\$697.53
Mowing (Oct. 30)	\$103.00
Building & Maintenance (Fire Extinguishers)	\$370.00
Postage- (Shared Expense)	\$0.00
Shared Expense (Office Supplies)	\$0.00
Secretary's Mileage- (Shared Expense)	\$13.80
Secretary's Salary- (Shared Expense)	\$676.31
Cleaning	\$221.64
Pastor's Mileage	\$0.00
Pastor's Pension	\$406.00
Pastor's Salary	\$3,296.32
Bank Charges (service charge)	\$3.16
<i>Supplies</i>	
Church Supplies	\$0.00
Worship Supplies	\$0.00
<i>Utilities</i>	
Electric	\$181.08
Fuel	\$426.40
Telephone	\$40.56
Total Expenses	\$6,435.80
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$19,121.59</b>

### BENEVOLENCE ACCOUNT

<i>Beginning Balance</i>	\$4,401.34
Income	<u>\$75.00</u>
<i>Total Income</i>	\$4,476.34
<i>Expenses</i>	
<i>Total Expenses</i>	\$0.00
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$4,476.34</b>

Balance left from Audio/Visual Donations  
& Window Fund \$590



East & West St. Olaf Lutheran



6200 County Road 3 SW

Pastor Paul Thompson

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

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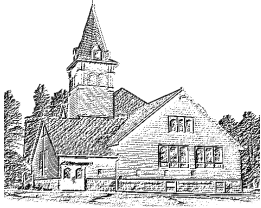
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# HAPPENINGS



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