



FEBRUARY 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 AND certainty@kmtel.com



February Schedule

WEST has 9:00 am worship (*coffee after church at 10:00 am*)

BOTH have **JAM classes** 10:00 am at West church

EAST has 11:00 am worship (*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 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

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,



The children's book *My Two Blankets* by Irena Kobald and Freya Blackwood tells the story of a girl whose family seeks refuge in a foreign country. At first she struggles to feel like herself and at home in this cold, new place, preferring the sounds and warm words of her native culture, her “old blanket.” Then she befriends another girl, who teaches her some words from her new country. As she develops more familiarity with the words and their friendship builds, she begins to get more comfortable with the “new blanket” she is weaving.

The Church is a blanket woven of a multitude of fabrics. There are the joyous Pentecostal churches bringing fire and enthusiasm. There are orderly Presbyterian churches, bringing structure and discipline. There are Roman Catholic churches practicing means of spirituality that can be practiced by persons at any time. There are devoted Baptist churches reminding us all to put our faith first in our hearts in our whole lives.

Where do we Lutherans fit in? If I were trying to be funny, I'd say we bring a Hot Dish and salad for all to share. But in reality, we Lutherans bring in a wealth of music to sing, from Johann Bach to John Ylvisaker. We bring a mountain of intellect to teach, from Martin Luther and Philip Melancthon to Rudolf Bultmann and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Above that, we bring a foundation of proclaiming the Grace of God to all people, so that everyone knows they are loved by God, even when we act unlovable.

Ours is a necessary strand of the blanket called “Church.” Please join with one another whenever you can, worshipping with others.

In God's peace, Pastor Paul Thompson

Membership Updates, WELCA News and More

MEMBERSHIP INFO

No updates at this time.

EAST WELCA & EVENTS

EAST February Worship 11:00 am

- 4** **10 am** Quilting/sack lunch
- 8** **10 am** WELCA meeting – All East women invited to our meeting (in basement).
- 11** **10 am** Quilting/sack lunch
- 18** **10 am** Quilting/sack lunch
- 25** **10 am** Quilting/sack lunch

WEST WELCA NEWS

We are nearing the end of January—where did this month go? Let's all take a step back and slow down during our winter months. Spring will be here soon enough and then things will get busier.

Thank you to our January chairperson Sandy Iverson and altar guild Jane Estby & Sheryl Wohlers.

Our annual meeting is February 2nd with potluck lunch following.

Quilting Feb. 11th & 12th at 9am.
WELCA meeting at 1pm on the 12th.
Hostess is Sue Hyland and Bible study by Pastor Paul. We quilt again on the 25th & 26th at 9am.

Our Spring Conference event is on April 5th at Zion Lutheran Church in Stewartville. Consider attending this event to keep informed on current information for WELCA. Theme this year "Growing in God's Love". More details will be available later.

Thank you for supporting the WELCA events. You are special in God's eyes and special to us!

Happy Valentines Day

Sisters In Christ

Nancy & Sharon



CLASSES for First Holy Communion

At St. Olaf parish, we offer a class about Holy Communion for all young people who are in or entering 5th grade. *Any students who may be past 5th grade and would like to begin communing with our congregation are also invited to attend.* **Classes this year will be at 2:00 pm on February 9th, 16th, and 23rd at the West Chapel.**

If you would like your child to take these classes, please inform Pastor Paul via email or phone call. Students who complete these classes, they will receive First Holy Communion **March 2nd.**



SERVING SCHEDULES

WEST—February

Ushers: Pete D. organizes
Deacon: Carma Bjornson
Altar Guild: Jane Estby and Sheryl Wohlers
Stewardship:
1st Sun. – Luther League
2nd Sun. – Board of Ed.
3rd Sun. – WELCA
4th Sun. – Council
5th Sun. – Council
Acolytes: None at chapel.

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EAST—February

Acolytes: Ushers covering
Altar Guild: Danny Zieman
Deacon: To be determined

Typical Weekly Servers for East Coffee & Fellowship:

- 1st Sunday — *Quilting Sisters*
- 2nd Sunday — *Sarah Circle*
- 3rd Sunday — *OPEN*
- 4th Sunday — *Circle 4*
- 5^h Sunday — *SS group during school year, Church council in summer*

Happy Valentine's Day!



WEATHER-RELATED CANCELATIONS

To verify if there is a cancellation for a church service or church activity, **please check: K TTC TV (channel 10), or online at www.kttc.com** and click on the tab for WEATHER - then click on Closings and Delays or check parsonage answering machine 365-8222. Decisions made by council presidents/pastor.

EAST WELCA

WOMEN OF EAST WELCA Meeting Minutes, Jan. 18 (rescheduled due to weather and illness)



The Women of East met on January 18 at 10:00 in the East Basement. President Amy Schwarz and Rosemary Schwanke led the meeting. Amy reported on the Palooza, as we cleared \$768.34. This money will be donated to the church, as the Palooza was a fundraiser for East St Olaf. A motion was made to move the event to September 27 next year, as there were so many other events going on in December. Thank you notes will be going out to our vendors, and we are so grateful for their attendance this year. Adjustments will be made for the kitchen and food offerings for next year. Lent is arriving, and East has two dinners. Each circle will take a turn serving. A Spring Dinner will be held on Palm Sunday, and Fellowship will continue after services for 2025 (see new schedule in newsletter and church bulletins). End of Year Giving was decided and a distribution note will be sent to our treasurer. **This year's donations:**

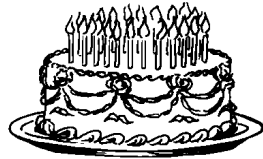
Dodge County Food Shelf: \$500, Possibilities: \$500, Lutheran Campus Ministries in Winona: (recovering from a fire) \$500, and East St Olaf Operating Budget: \$7,500

The East WELCA next meeting will be Saturday, Feb. 8 at 10:00am. Election of Officers and Calendar Planning for 2025 will take place at that meeting. If you are a member of East St Olaf, and you are a woman, you are already a member of Women of East. If you are interested in our church, and would like to try us out, we invite you to come and join us! We are working together to grow our faith, and provide love and support for our church, community, and world.

Feb. Birthdays East

- 1 Mark Brakke
- 1 Jennifer Schwanke
- 3 Haylee Lantz
- 4 Heather Rud
- 5 Diane Severson
- 10 Pat Lee
- 21 Zach Carstensen
- 24 Robert Braaten

Happy Birthday!



Feb. Birthdays West

- 2 Rebecca Dahle
- 5 Gwenda Tiegen
- 5 Tammy Johnson
- 5 Gail Laxen
- 6 Rachel Arett
- 8 Carol Christopherson
- 10 Dee Rabehl
- 11 Amie Schei
- 12 Nikole Kaehler
- 12 Calvin Keckhafer
- 16 Orin Johnson
- 17 Peyton Jervis
- 18 Katie Schuck
- 18 Brad Lechnir
- 19 Heidi Schrader
- 20 Erin Hellickson
- 23 Annabelle Bamlet
- 24 Sarah Glynn
- 25 Wayne Lee
- 26 Luann Christopherson
- 28 Isaac Glynn



COMING IN MARCH!

Save the Dates for Ash Wednesday, Lenten Services

Mar. 5 at EAST – (NO soup supper Ash Wed.) 7:00 pm Ash Wed svrice with Comm

Mar. 12 at WEST – 6:00 pm Soup Supper (*JAM hosting*) and 7:00 pm Lenten service

Mar. 19 at EAST – 6:00 pm Soup Supper (*Circle 4 hosting*) and 7:00 pm Lenten service

Mar. 26 at WEST – 6:00 pm Soup Supper (*LL hosting*) and 7:00 pm Lenten service



EAST & WEST ST. OLAF CHURCHES,

Thank you so much for the cards, the tasty goodies, and gifts at Christmas time. Thank you for another year of working together. You are all great folks to both of us! ~ *Gina Moser, Secretary AND Pat Nelson, Organist* ~

DEAR MEMBERS OF EAST AND WEST LUTHERAN CHURCHES,

Jana and I are grateful for the love and support you've given us this past challenging year. Thank you also for the generous gifts, from both councils and from many individuals through the Christmas season. God bless you all in 2025. ~ *Pastor Paul & Jana Thompson* ~

EAST QUILTING SISTERS,

Thank you for your donation of the handmade baby quilts for use in our Birth-Center. Handmade items are made with so much love and care; and we can't thank you enough for your generosity. This truly is an incredible gift for our newest patients.

We are so pleased that you remembered Olmsted Medical Center and our patients in your quest to make a difference, ~ *Best Regards, Stacey Vanden Heuvel, Vice President of Marketing and Philanthropy* ~

EAST: ALL THINGS COZY DONATIONS

The Mission Group would like to thank everyone at East for your generous donations to the Women's Shelter for this Holiday Season. We had more than 75 items under our tree!! This year, when we went to drop off the beautiful clothing and supportive items, we were asked to share with others. The Women's Shelter was in need of items and clothing for boys, but said they are currently stocked well with girls and women's clothing... and asked, "Would East consider donating these items to the Family Services of Olmsted County for Emergency Foster Care needs?" Absolutely! And we gladly did. Your donations covered TWO areas of need this year. Thank you! Thank You!

Luke 3:11 in the Bible says, "He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise". This verse is from John the Baptist, who encourages us to share with those who are in need. God bless! ~ *The Mission Group at East* ~

WEST ST. OLAF WOMEN,

Thank you for your gift of \$200 to Good Earth Village. Your participation in our ministry helps embolden Christians in their faith, and to reassure them that they are loved beyond measure. God walks with us in the good times and difficult seasons. By sharing spiritual practices, Bible stories, and forming relationships based in common faith, we create a world that is easier to navigate. Thank you for your investment!

~ *In Christ, Dianna M. Parks – Executive Director GEV* ~

St. Olaf Kid's Corner: February

I Love You!

The Bible uses the word "Love" over 500 times! The Bible tells us about lots of different kinds of **Love**. There is **Love** like you feel for your mom, dad, and family. There is a kind of **Love** you feel for your friends. There is **Love** you feel for a girlfriend or a boyfriend. And there is **Love** you feel for your neighbors, and those around you. There's even a special kind caring or **Love** for our pets, animals, and even our toys.

When you **Love** people or things, you take care of them. You watch over them and treat them with kindness.

When you **Love** others, you want the best for them. You pray for them and you hope good things come to them. You help them.

When you **Love** others, you protect them from things that might hurt, like dangerous places or mean people. You try to keep them safe.

When you **Love** someone, and they make a mistake, you forgive them, you pray for God to help them. Maybe you can help them make better choices next time.

God gave us **Love**. What a wonderful gift! He made us, and he wants what is best for us too. He watches over us. Sometimes we don't always get what we want, and we get mad at God. But God has bigger plans. He knows what we need to be happy. God wants us to be kind, to help others, to protect those we love, and to forgive those around us. He is our Heavenly Father. May God love you now and forever! Happy Valentine's Day!

Bible Verse

BIBLE VERSE

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.'"

Matthew 22: 35-40

Daily Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the gift of love. Please be with me and guide me to love all those around me. Help me to be kind and loving to all. Amen.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
12	25	21	10	14	4	22	26	2	7	24	11	6

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
3	1	20	8	16	13	18	23	17	9	5	15	19

9 14 11 1 17 14 22 1 10

25 14 21 12 23 13 14 26 14

4 2 16 13 18 11 1 17 14 10 23 13



Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
WEST worship is at the chapel for all of February and March						1
2 9:00 am WEST Worship/Comm. West ANNUAL ★ MEETING after the service—then a POTLUCK DINNER 10:00 am JAM at West West coffee 11:00 am EAST Worship/Comm. Rev. Jim Rushton	3 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	4 <u>NEWSLETTER DAY at office, for printing Feb. newsletter</u> 10:00 am East Quilting/sack lunch 6:00 pm East Council meeting	5 7:00 pm BOTH at West: Confirmation 7:30 pm Deadline for bulletin info	6 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	7 Pastor: day-off	8 10:00 am East WELCA meeting at church, in the basement
9 9:00 am WEST Worship 10:00 am JAM at West West coffee 11:00 am EAST Worship 2:00 pm BOTH at WEST: Class for 1 st Holy Communion	10 9:00am-Noon Pastor office 7:00 pm West Council meeting	11 9:00 am West Quilting/sack lunch 10:00 am East Quilting/sack lunch	12 9:00 am West Quilting/sack lunch 1:00 pm West WELCA meeting Host: Sue Hyland Study: Pastor Paul 7:00 pm BOTH at West: Confirmation 7:30 pm Deadline for bulletin info	13 10:00 am Pastor- Kasson Ministerial Mtg.	14 Pastor day-off Happy Valentine's Day!!	15
16 9:00 am WEST Worship (Backup date for West Ann. Mtg.) 10:00 am JAM at West West coffee 11:00 am EAST Worship 2:00 pm BOTH at WEST: Class for 1 st Holy Communion	17 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	18 10:00 am East Quilting/sack lunch	19 7:00 pm BOTH at West: Confirmation 5:00 pm DEADLINE to submit info for next newsletter 7:30 pm Deadline for bulletin info	20 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	21 Pastor day-off	22
23 9:00 am WEST Worship/Comm. 10:00 am JAM at West West coffee 11:00 am EAST Worship/Comm. 2:00 pm BOTH at WEST: Class for 1 st Holy Communion	24 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	25 10:00 am East Quilting/sack lunch	26 7:00 pm BOTH at West: Confirmation 7:30 pm Deadline for bulletin info	27 9:00am-Noon Pastor office <u>NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEER DAY for printing March issue</u> 9:10 am print 9:20 am fold 9:30 am collate/tape	28 Pastor day-off	

East Council Minutes: January 7, 2025

Call to order: Bruce Peterson at 6 p.m.

Members present: Pastor Paul Thompson, Bruce Peterson, Danny Zieman, Bryan Decook, Lori Peterson, Mary Madsen, Gary Kearns, Tara Stewart.

Devotions: Pastor Paul gave the opening prayer.

Pastors report: Reviewed and approved. Pastor Rushton will be covering the East and West church's annual meeting times and Jeanine will be covering the piano/organ during both annual meetings.

Secretary's report: Reviewed and approved.

Financial secretary's report: The months of November and December reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's report: The months of November and December reviewed and approved. The parsonage had a 9% increase in property tax.

Deacon's report: Mary and Lori will be taking down the old artificial wreaths and discarding them as they are brittle and falling apart. New wreaths were purchased for next year. Sunday, January 12th will be the day to take down all Christmas decorations.

Trustees report: Randy will replace the outlet in the kitchen that is making a buzzing sound.

Old business: West St. Olaf paid for a new computer and printer. Gina will require some assistance getting everything set up. Pastor Paul was going to contact some people to see if they could assist. The cost will need to be split between churches. The old system was not working due to the age. The folding machine required service. That has been completed.

New business: None.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting: Next council meeting February 4th at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tara Stewart.

West Council Minutes: January 13, 2025

Attendance (P = Present)

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

Meeting called to order by Will Laxen.

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

Secretary's Report: Report read, motion made to approve by Sheryl seconded by Carma, motion carried.

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

Board of Education Report: JAM Christmas program was at East on 12/8, it went well. We're ready for the West program on the 12/15. No JAM for two weeks (12/22 & 12/29) to start again January 5. In November, the Luther League kids helped at the food shelf then went out for dessert at Uncle Mony's. About a dozen kids and half a dozen adults helped. In December, the kids will have a Christmas party on Thursday (12/12), they will wrap unwrapped gifts received for our sponsored family followed by food and games.

Deacon's Report: Thinking of You Cards sent to Peyton Jervis, Ashley Hazelman, Amber Haley, Barb and Dudley Davis and a Birthday card sent to Joy Beaver. Thank you to Mary for being November's Deacon. Also, thank you to all who helped decorate the church and chapel. Both buildings look beautiful as we prepare for the blessed Christmas season. Advent by Candlelight went amazing. There were beautiful tables, an inspiring program, good food, and fellowship for 150+ people who joined together to celebrate the coming of baby Jesus. All involved enjoyed a wonderful evening (Olaf showed up to park cars in style). The mission offering of over \$1700 will go to the Hayfield ambulance and fire department. The WELCA Christmas party (program & potluck) is Wednesday 12/11 starting at 10:30. Come and join this special event. Thank you for all the generous support of gifts for our two adopted families. Sunday 12/15 is the Christmas program with coffee hour at 10:00 and the program at 11:00 followed by Jesus' birthday cake. Volunteers are needed to help serve cake & coffee. Volunteers from the council are needed to serve coffee on Sunday 12/22. Christmas Eve candlelight service is at West starting at 4:00pm. December 29 service, at East, will be a hymn sing starting at 10:00. Deb is the Deacon for December.

Trustees Report: Thank you to Chad, Clay & Scott for putting up the snow fence.

Old Business: None

New Business: The current 2024 and proposed 2025 budget was reviewed. Will, Jenny, Deb and Cindy met and discussed some ideas to reduce costs, those suggestions were discussed. To try and save fuel costs a motion was made by Cindy to propose Sunday services be held in the chapel from January 19 through the end of March, seconded by Deb, motion carried. Motion made by Sheryl to approve the proposed 2025 budget (excluding staff compensation), seconded by Deb, motion carried.

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

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

Next Meeting: Next meeting will be at West on Mon., Jan 13th at 7 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

Living in God's amazing grace since 1856