

# NOVEMBER 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



# November Schedule

EARLY SERVICE at 8:30 am (November at EAST, coffee after church) JAM at 9:30 am at West for all students, also West coffee LATE SERVICE at 10:30 am (November at WEST, coffee 9:30 am before 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 then

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

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

# Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,



In the Bible, holy means not sinless, but: 1) set apart, different from the ordinary; 2) sanctified, or uplifted before the community; and 3) whole, filled with the power of God. The month of November begins with an ancient church holiday (Holy Day), All Saints Sunday. Even though every day of the calendar is dedicated to one saint or another, it was felt that there soon wouldn't be enough days to fit them all in. In 609 AD, Pope Boniface IV rededicated the Pantheon in Rome (a pagan temple dedicated to all the gods) to the Virgin Mary and all martyrs, establishing a feast

day on May 13. Pope Gregory III later expanded the feast to include all saints and moved it to November 1. In 837 AD, Pope Gregory IV ordered the celebration to be observed on November 1st throughout the entire Western Church, to do away with the Celtic festival of Samhain, which marked the end of summer and the beginning of winter. This date was chosen, then, to Christianize this pagan festival of the dead into honoring all the departed.

For Christians today, All Saints reminds us that we are all set apart front a sinful world by baptism. We live in it, yet we belong to God, not the world. We are reminded that we are all, again by baptism, lifted up before the community of believers. And we are reminded that we are made whole by the Means of Grace, Baptism, Communion, and the Holy Scriptures.

This is why it is so important to join with your brother and sister saints regularly. We become stronger in faith the more we gather, and the more we remember and honor those who've died before us, and we are better able to live lives that proclaim God's love, and make the world around us a little more holy.

> In Christ's name, Pastor Paul Thompson

## Membership Updates, WELCA News, Serving Schedules

### MEMBERSHIP INFO Confirmation of Fatih Affirmation of Baptism

Congratulations and blessings to our youth who were confirmed Sunday, October 26, 2025 at West St. Olaf: Isabelle Connelly, Riker Hazelman, and Mathea Horejsi.

Officiant: Rev. Paul Thompson.

#### **WOMEN OF EAST NEWS**

There was no WELCA meeting in Oct, as Steve Jensen's funeral was on that day. So we plan on meeting November 8 at 10:00 in the East Church basement.

#### **EAST** Dates to be aware of:

Sat., Nov. 8

10:00 am WECLA Meeting at church Sat., Nov. 22

1:00 pm Wreath Decorating Day at Mary Madson's House Sun., Nov.23

Decorate EAST for Christmas from 9:30-10:30 am (right after church)... BRUNCH SERVED TOO. NOTE: Vikings play the Packers at noon. Help us to decorate God's house for Christmas! Then, we can decorate our houses in purple!

EAST Giving Tree will go up on Nov. 23. There will be tags that members can take from the tree, and purchase gifts for the 180 Youth Shelter—pg. 5 (this is NEW mission because the Women's Shelter is transitioning to a new facility—so they cannot accept donations at this time). "All Things Cozy" has supplied gifts of necessities for the past few years. Presents can be put under the tree until Dec. 21. Those gifts will be dropped off at the 180 Youth Shelter Dec. 22.

#### **WEST WELCA NEWS**

Our cooler weather is here, a sign of a season change. Leaves are showing color and we see empty harvested fields. October began our busy season now until Christmas. Our Fall Bazaar was Sat. Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, which has not happened at this time of writing. We are hopeful it was a success. Thank you to those who helped with Lefse & Donut baking.

Thank you to our October Chairpersons Mary Brandt & Nancy Peterson Altar Guild Mary Brandt & Sandy Iverson WELCA meeting hostess Jill Thompson (and Jana Thompson).

Thank you to everyone who brought bars and served for Gloria Brown's celebration of Life Service. Confirmation Recognition was held Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> during coffee hour. Thank you to all who brought food and helped. These 3 were honored: Isabelle Connelly, Ryker Hazelman & Mathea Horejsi, they were confirmed on Sunday Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### NOVEMBER:

Chairpersons: Nancy Gulbransen &
Marilyn Skov
Altar Guld: Donna Larsen &
Cindy Senjem

11<sup>th</sup>- 9AM Quilting/Sack lunch
12<sup>th</sup>- 9AM Quilting/sack lunch
1PM WELCA meeting
Hostess: Sharon Gulbransen
Bible Study: Pastor Paul

27<sup>th</sup>- THANKSGIVING 28<sup>th</sup>- 9AM Decorate the Chapel 30<sup>th</sup>- WELCA board meeting during coffee hour

NOVEMBER IS FOOD SHELF MONTH! There will be containers available to drop off food or monetary gifts. Thank You!

We plan to adopt a family from Crisis Nursey for our Christmas mission. Watch for notification in our bulletin for their needs.

Don't forget to sign up for Advent by Candlelight: Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at 5PM.

Thanksgiving Blessings! Nancy & Sharon



# WEATHER-RELATED CANCELATIONS

To verify if there is a cancelation for worship OR a church activity, <u>please</u> <u>check</u>: KTTC TV (channel 10), or online <u>www.kttc.com</u> Click on the tab for WEATHER - then click on Closings and Delays or check office answering machine at 365-8222. Decided by the council presidents and pastor.



## SERVING SCHEDULES

#### WEST—NOVEMBER

Ushers: Pete D. organizes Deacon: Carma Bjornson Altar Guild: Cindy Senjem, Donna Larsen

Acolytes: Ushers covering

Stewardship:

1<sup>st</sup> Sun. – Luther League 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. – JAM (or B.O.E.)

3<sup>rd</sup> Sun.– WELČA 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. – Council

4<sup>th</sup> Sun. – Council 5<sup>th</sup> Sun. – Council

## **EAST—NOVEMBER**

Acolytes: Ushers covering Altar Guild: Gena Cahill Deacon: Mary Madson

#### **Coffee Servers:**

1<sup>st</sup> Sun.— Quilting Sisters 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun.— Sarah Circle

3<sup>rd</sup> Sun.— OPEN: Contact Marylin Carlson, if willing

4<sup>th</sup> Sun.— Circle 4 5<sup>th</sup> Sun.—S.S./Council



## WEST CHAPEL DECORATING

West will decorate the CHAPEL for Advent & Christmas at 9:00 am on Friday, November 28. Helpers are welcome!





# EAST DECORATES FOR CHRISTMAS & THEN HAS BRUNCH!

Come one, come all! All ages of helpers are invited to help decorate at EAST for Christmas right after church, on **Sunday**, **November 23**. It's fun and many helpers make the decorating go quickly (so everyone can get home in time for the football game).



# WEST CHURCH DECORATES FOR CHRISTMAS

Come one, come all! All ages of helpers are invited to help decorate at WEST for Christmas <u>right after church</u>, on <u>Sunday</u>, <u>November 30</u>. It's fun and many helpers make the decorating go quickly.

## NOV. Birthdays: EAST

- 3 Dawson Meier
- 4 Glenda Mueller
- 8 Michael Senjem
- 10 Gena Cahill
- 10 Amanda Pyfferoen
- 15 Kayla Coil
- 16 Troy Schoenrock
- 17 Michael Peterson
- 18 Rhonda Leighty
- 18 Elnore Nelson
- 18 Rosemary Schwanke
- 19 William Kearns Shea-
- han
- 20 Dallen Rud
- 20 Elaina Roller
- 21 Shannon Meier

# Happy Birthday!



- 25 Holly Rud
- 29 Teagon Koehler

#### NOV. Birthdays: WEST

- 2 Laura Arett
- 2 Jennifer Martin
- 3 Bonnie Austin-Thoe
- 5 Kathleen Johnson
- 6 Donald Alrick
- 7 Carma Bjornson
- 7 Sharon Arett
- 8 Amanda Scheffler
- 8 Avaya Bjornson
- 9 Ardean Bjornson
- 9 Kaleb Palmersheim
- 11 Scott Iverson
- 11 Steve Arett
- 11 Justin Hahn
- 11 Mathea Horeisi
- 12 Debbie Schuck

- 13 Kristoffer Aasen
- 16 Sheryl Wohlers
- 16 Drew Baudoin
- 17 Joy Beaver
- 17 Linda Wilson
- 21 Terry Gulbransen
- 21 Jeremiah Keckhafer
- 23 Mitchell Eastlee
- 24 Jan Nordland
- 25 Allen Iverson
- 28 Darrell Beaver
- 29 Garrett Rabehl

#### **BOTH: LIVER & ONION SUPPER AT HAYFIELD:**



The Sons of the American Legion in Hayfield will have their Liver and Onion Supper on <u>Saturday</u>, <u>November 1 from 4:00-7:00 PM</u>. It is all you can eat liver and onions (with meatball alternative), mashed potatoes, corn, bread, ice cream for a FREE WILL DONATION.

#### WEST: NOVEMBER IS FOODSHELF MONTH



JAM and Luther League are working together on a food-drive for nonperishable foods or monetary donations. *Please consider donating to help those in need. Thank you.* 

- >> Collection boxes will be in the church and chapel.
- >> During coffee hour **on Nov. 9 and Nov. 16** free-will coffee offerings will go to food shelves (*cosponsored by Thrivent*).

#### BOTH: IMPORTANT JAM INFO FOR NOVEMBER

<u>Sun., November 2</u>: All JAM students are welcome to wear costumes for our **Reformation Day/Halloween**Celebration for JAM. Come learn about Reformation Day – it will be fun! We are having this event one week <u>after</u> Reformation Day due to Confirmation service being on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Sun., November 9**: We will begin practicing every week for the Christmas program.

Sun., November 30: We will have a two-hour practice over at EAST church (from 9:30-11:30 am.)

#### EAST: WREATH DECORATING FOR ALL EAST WOMEN



<u>Sat., November 22:</u> ALL EAST WOMEN are invited to Mary Madson's home at 1:00 pm to decorate wreaths. We hope you can join us for this fun event!

### **BOTH: BEAUTIFYING OUR SANCTUARIES FOR CHRISTMAS**



If you'd like to donate a poinsettia, we will recognize it in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Please inform one of the following people by Friday, December and (specify who the plant is from; and whom it's in memory-of).

<u>WEST</u>: Sheryl Wohlers (365-8816 or 259-5974) <u>EAST or WEST</u>: Email Gina at <u>eastwest@kmtel.com</u>

#### **WEST: ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT EVENT**



West St. Olaf will host **Advent by Candlelight** on <u>December 7</u>, **2025.** We will have time for fellowship and refreshments starting at 5:00 pm in the chapel, church service at 6:00 pm with Pastor Heidi Heimgartner from First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie sharing 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. We hope to have 14-16 tables again this year to share the blessings of the season with many! **Please direct questions** to **Donna Larsen or Heather Bamlet.** 



## **BOTH: THANK YOU FROM JOINT COUNCILS**

"Thank You" to all who attended the Meatball Dinner and the Open House at the Parsonage in early October. The East and West events were a success, and many people passed through the doors.

## **EAST CHRISTMAS MISSION: All Things Cozy for a YOUTH TREE**



This year, the Women's Shelter is in transition and cannot take donations right now. However, they suggested **180 Degrees Emergency Youth Shelter**, formerly the VonWald Youth Shelter, right on Bamber Valley Road. This shelter supports youth from Southeast Minnesota, who are experiencing homelessness, are in transition between foster families, or simply need a safe place to stay due to family crisis. **180 Degrees** provides shelter, meals, support services, and a clothing closet.

This 12-bed facility has been rebuilt with donations from our local community. There is an increasing need for teenagers to find safe havens. This new facility provides the basic items, along with counseling for youth and families, and support for school success.

#### **OUR MISSION: Provide clothing donations for these teens!**

Clothing is needed in sizes 10/12 to 2X, for both males and females.

You can find tags of "clothing needs" on the Christmas Tree in the Narthex. You can also make a donation on their website, directly to 180 Degrees.

<u>Donations will be collected from Nov. 1 till Dec. 21</u>. Monday, Dec. 22 donated gift items will be delivered to the 180 Shelter.

Your donations for these kids are greatly needed. Some of these teens come with just the clothing on their backs, and attending middle and high school means looking presentable. Please consider giving a gift under our Mission Tree for a young person who is truly in need.

## **INVITATION TO OPEN HOUSE at 180 Degrees Youth Shelter:**



# **NOVEMBER** East & West St. Olaf HAPPENINGS ~ 2025 November edition

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.			
						1 DST ends at 2am Sun.: set your clocks BACK 1-hour before bed			
2 All Saints Day	3	4	5	6	7	8			
B:30 am EAST Worship, Comm. East coffee after svc 9:30 am JAM Party (wear a costume) for Halloween & Reformation Day Also West Coffee 10:30 am WEST	9:00am-Noon Pastor office	10:00 am East Quilt/sack lunch 6:00 pm EAST Council Meeting	7:00 pm BOTH CONFIRMATION Class at chapel	9:00am-Noon Pastor office	Pastor day-off	10:00 am  Women of East meeting at the church, in basement (rescheduled from October)			
Worship, Comm.									
9 8:30 am EAST Worship, then coffee 9:30 am JAM practice prog. Also West coffee with Free-will offering to Food shelves 10:30 am WEST Worship	9:00am-Noon Pastor office  7:00 pm WEST Council Meeting	9:00 am West Quilting/sack lunch 10:00 am East Quilting/sack lunch	9:00 am West Quilting/sack lunch 1:00 pm West WELCA meeting Host— Sharon G. Study— Pastor 7:00 pm BOTH CONFIRMATION Class at chapel	9:00am-Noon Pastor office	Pastor day-off	15			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
8:30 am EAST Worship, then coffee  9:30 am JAM at West Also West coffee with Free-will offering to Food shelves  10:30 am WEST Worship	9:00am-Noon Pastor office  NOON: DEADLINE to submit info for newsletter	10:00 am East Quilting/sack lunch	9:00 am West Quilting/sack lunch 7:00 pm BOTH CONFIRMATION Class at chapel	9:00am-Noon Pastor office	Pastor day-off	1:00 pm Women of East invited to decorate wreaths at Mary Madson's home			
23 Christ the King	24	25	26	27	28	29			
8:30 am EAST Worship, Comm. Then East decorates church for Christmas and BRUNCH after  9:30 am JAM at West Also West coffee  10:30 am WEST Worship, Comm.	9:00am-Noon Pastor office	NEWSLETTER DAY at OFFICE 9:10- print 9:25- fold 9:35- collate/tape NO quilting for EAST	NO CLASS for Confirmation  Verify time: Hayfield Community Thanksgiving Worship	OFFICE CLOSED Happy Thanksgiving!	9:00 am WEST will decorate the CHAPEL Pastor day-off				
<b>30 8:30</b> am EAST									
Worship, then coffee  9:30 am JAM 2-hour prog practice @ EAST  Also West coffee & WELCA officer's year-end mtg	<ul> <li>SEVERAL DECEMBER EVENTS TO NOTE (not all are listed):</li> <li>&gt;&gt; Dec. 7 at 10:30 am: EAST Sunday school Christmas Program         <ul> <li>5:00 pm: West Advent by Candlelight</li> </ul> </li> <li>&gt;&gt; Dec. 14 at 8:30 am: WEST Sunday school Christmas Program,</li> <li>&gt;&gt; Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Services: 4 pm at EAST, 6 pm WEST</li> </ul>								
10:30 am WEST Worship <u>Then</u> West decorates church for Christmas	>> Dec. 25: NO services at either church on Christmas Day >> Dec. 28: 10:00 am: JOINT Worship at WEST Church (Hymn-Sing Service)								

## **EAST OFFERINGS**

(09/28/2025) Current \$570.

(10/05/2025) Current \$622.

(10/12/2025) Current \$1,194.

## EAST Council Minutes: Oct. 7, 2025

Call to Order: There were not enough members at the October Meeting for a Quorum.

Members Present: Pastor Paul Thompson, Gary Kearns, Jane Williams, Terri Zieman, Bruce Peterson

**Devotions:** Pastor Paul gave devotions and the prayer.

Pastor's Report: Pastor shared his duties for the month, meetings, services, and no funerals for September. He will be attending the Fall Theologian Conference Oct. 15-19, and then take the last of his vacation days. Chris Miller will be subbing for him on that Sunday. There are 11 kids in Confirmation this year.

**Secretary's Report:** September minutes were read.

**Financial Secretary's Report:** General Fund was at \$4,740.00.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report from September was read.

The Total Income for the month was \$6,040.00,

\$4,740.00 + \$1,300.00 reimbursement from the Parsonage Fund for the asbestos inspection. Expenses for the month were \$7,288.49. The larger expenses this month included church insurance, 6 months of the workman's comp, salaries w/health and pension, Culligan and Pest control, Ink/Office supplies, and electricity.

Deacon's Report: Cards are continuing to go out. Please let a Deacon know if you would like a card sent.

If members would like to donate for flowers, please donate to the church and write flowers in the memo, or on the front of the envelope.

Trustees Report: Brian Mueller replaced a GFCI Outlet in the kitchen during the Meatball Dinner Prep.

**Education Report:** No report this month.

Parsonage Report: No report this month.

#### **New Business:**

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

Adjournment: There was no Quorum, so no business was done.

The meeting ended with The Lord's Prayer.

NEXT MEETING: <u>Tuesday NOVEMBER 4 at 6:00pm. NOTE: This is election day.</u>

Respectfully Submitted by Jane Williams

# West St. Olaf Council Meeting Minutes: Oct. 13, 2025

Attendance (P = Present)

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

Meeting called to order by Will Laxen

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

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

**Boad of Education Report:** JAM went on a field trip to Red Barn Learning Farm on September 28<sup>th</sup>. About a dozen kids attended. Halloween/Reformation party is planned for November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Christmas program practices will start the Sunday after the party. Luther League September activity was a pizza party the first Wednesday of confirmation. The October activity is going to a haunted house.

**Deacon's Report:** Rally day and new member Sunday went well. The \$260 free will offering from lunch was given to JAM. WELCA quilting is going well. A few more quilts will be finished on Tuesday (10/14) for the annual bazaar. Bazaar & brunch being held Saturday October 25 from 9-11:30am. Lefse and donut baking will happen on Tuesday October 21<sup>st</sup> and Thursday October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Confirmation Sunday October 26 during the 8:30am church service. Mary will help with robes and flowers. Jana Thompson will take a group picture for the church stand. Sharon will do alter vases and student flowers. Sue is Deacon and will also be serving coffee hour. Thank you, ladies.

**Trustees Report:** Continue to replace light bulbs as necessary. Mailbox has been purchased, and installation location is being finalized.

Old Business: None

**New Business:** 

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

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

**Next Meeting:** Next meeting will be November 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm.

# East & West St. Olaf Lutheran



**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

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