

West St. Olaf Lutheran Church East St. Olaf Lutheran Church

APRIL 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



April Schedule

WEST has 9:00 am worship—back in the church (*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)

>>> SEE Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter Worship Schedule at the top of page 3.

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 movie Avengers: Endgame served as a culmination of the lengthy arc of the Marvel Comics cinematic universe. Empowered by possessing a full set of Infinity Stones, the villain Thanos wipes out half the universe's population with a snap of his fingers—people vanishing as ashes scatter to the wind. In attempting to undo the damage, various members of the Avengers briefly enjoy reunions with loved ones, made all the more painful because they cannot last.

Similarly, the Resurrection Stone of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows promises to bring the dead back to life—but only as pale echoes, miserably trapped between worlds and not fully at home in either one. The villain, a powerful wizard calling himself Lord Voldemort, tries to cheat death by getting hold of 3 magic objects, the Deathly Hallows. Our hero Harry does get hold of them, and defeats Voldemort, but them destroys one and hides another, so that no one can try to cheat death.

Death is our reality, and it's a hard one to accept. But Jesus died for us. He did not die to make us avoid death. He died to bring us into a fuller life here on earth, and in the world to come. He rose again so we can believe in the world ahead, while sharing God's love for this world and all its inhabitants.

After a long wait, Easter will soon be here. I hope to see all of you, at 8:30 a.m. at West, or at 10:00 at East. I hope we can rejoice once again that Jesus broke death's hold on us; and opened for us heaven's gates. I hope we can share life and love and the promise of God's peace and blessings with everyone around us.

> With lasting joy, Pastor Paul Thompson

Membership Updates, WELCA News, Serving Schedules

MEMBERSHIP INFO

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The following students will take part in their First Holy Communion on April 6, at West St. Olaf: Lane Austin Anya Bjornson, Felix Laxen, and Bradley Schuck.

EAST WELCA & EVENTS

APRIL: Service 11:00 (Easter 10:30)

- 1 Tu 10:00 Quilting/Sack Lunch 6:00pm Council Meeting at East
- 2 W 7:00pm Lent at East (Sarah Circle Serves Lenten Meal 6:00pm)
- 8 Tu 10:00 Quilting/Sack Lunch
- **12 Sa** 10:00 *E-WELCA* Meeting
- **13 Su** 11:00 Palm Sunday (East) 12:00 Spring Dinner by Circle 4
- 15 Tu 10:00 Quilting/Sack Lunch
- 17 Th Maundy Thursday (7:00pm at West w/Comm.)
- **18 F** Good Friday (7:00pm East)
- 20 Su Easter Worship with Comm. 8:30AM Easter Service at WEST 10:00AM Easter Service at EAST
- 22 Tu 10:00 Quilting/Sack Lunch
- **25 F** 5:30-7:30 Pizza & Bingo for East & West... at EAST
- 29 Tu 10:00 Quilting/Sack Lunch

WEST WELCA NEWS

Our weather has been so unpredictable this winter. Wind, snow, rain, warm, cold, sunny & gloomy. So ready for spring! I saw 2 robins last week, so spring really is coming!

March will end our quilting until next fall. Thank you to our March Chairperson Sheryl W., Altar Guild Mary B. & Sandy I., hostess for WELCA Dawn Steinfadt, Pastor Paul for directing Bible Study, quilting ladies, those who brought bars for Nora Bamlet's Graduation recognition, ladies attending our WELCA meeting and all other volunteers. We appreciate you ALL!

April Chairperson is Margaret Senjem, Altar Guild Mary B. & Sandy I. WELCA meets on April 9th with hostess Ali Horejsi, Bible Study by Pastor Paul: and Lenten Services this evening at West. Palm Sunday April 13th at West 9AM service. Thursday April 17th Maundy Services at West/ communion 7PM. Good Friday Services at East 7PM.

Easter Sunday April 20th service at West/Communion 8:30 AM and the East service10AM with Communion.

On Saturday, April 5th, 3 ladies attend Zumbro River Spring Conference Event at Zion Lutheran Church in Stewartville. This is always an inspiring day with great speakers and booths to view.

God's Blessing to All! Happy Easter! Christ is Risen!! Nancy & Sharon



A Shout-Out of Congratulations!!

Congratulations to our mom, Janice Twaddle, on her retirement after 44 Years of dedicated work at Fairview Care Center. May your retirement years be many, mom... and blessed!

~ Love, the best kids ever ~



SERVING SCHEDULES

WEST—April

Ushers: Pete D. organizes **Deacon:** Mary Brandt

Altar Guild: Mary B., Sandy I.

Stewardship:

1st Sun. – Luther League 2nd Sun. – Board of Ed.

3rd Sun. – WELCA 4th Sun. – Council

5th Sun. – Council

Acolytes: To be determined

EAST—April

Acolytes: Ushers covering Altar Guild: Marylin Carlson, Audrey Carlson

Deacon: Mary Madson

Typical Weekly Servers for East Coffee & Fellowship:

1st Sunday — *Quilting Sisters*

2nd Sunday — *Sarah Circle* 3rd Sunday — *OPEN*

4th Sunday — Circle 4 5th Sunday — SS group during school year. Church council in summer

Easter blessings!

West St. Olaf: Do you need someone to take care of your cemetery flowers this summer?



My name is **Kendyl Beyer** and I'm a West St. Olaf member. I would like to help keep your flowers blooming all summer. I will water twice a week (or as needed) for the months of June, July, and August for \$30 per gravesite.

Contact me at: 507-884-8627 or kendylbeyer28@gmail.com



Lenten, Holy Week Schedule

April 2: LENT at EAST with 6:00 pm supper by Sarah Circle - Worship at 7:00 pm

April 9: LENT at WEST with 6:00 pm supper by West WELCA, - Worship at 7:00 pm

April 13: PALM SUNDAY at regular April worship times (JAM sings at West during worship and an Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 am at WEST for JAM students)

April 17: MAUNDY THURSDAY at WEST service at 7:00 pm, with Holy Comm.

April 18: GOOD FRIDAY at service at EAST at 7:00 pm

April 20: EASTER DAY "Christ is Risen!" All are welcome to attend at either church

8:30 am worship at West-Holy Comm., and 10:00 am worship at East-Holy Comm.



Easter Egg Hunt Palm Sunday at West St. Olaf

After church on Palm Sunday, April 13: West has an Easter Egg Hunt for all JAM students. Bring a basket or bag to collect eggs. It'll be fun!

EVERYONE FROM EAST & WEST ARE INVITED TO



"SPRING DINNER" on Palm Sunday, April 13 (Hosted at East St. Olaf)

EAST & WEST: Please come and join us at East St Olaf as Circle 4 hosts a dinner of Scalloped Potatoes and Ham, fresh vegetables, and dessert for all who would like to join us. *Cost is \$10 (this a fundraiser for Circle 4.)*. Palm Sunday worship time is 11:00 AM at East, **the DINNER is served at 12:00 PM**. We would LOVE to have

you come and share a meal with us! No reservations needed unless you are bringing 10 or more people. Please contact Marylin if that is the case, at marylincarlson@gmail.com

WOMEN OF EAST MARCH MEETING



The East Women met on Saturday, March 8 at 10:00am. Amy Schwarz called the meeting to order. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer stated we have \$51,029.32 in our savings and \$14,340.50 in checking. There were no deposits or payments. Amy is sending thank you's and invitations to the Palooza Vendors. Lenten Suppers are coming up, Circle 4 is serving on Wednesday, March 19 and Sarah Circle is serving on Wednesday, April 2. The booklets for Women of East were completed, collated, stamped and mailed. All members should get one this week. A visitation list was created for Pastor Paul, and we have two new members joining Women of East: Welcome to Jennifer Bruske and Jennifer Braaten-Winch. So glad to have you as new members of East St Olaf! Our next meeting is April 12 at 10:00. All East Women are invited to attend.























are invited to East St. Olaf Lutheran Church for



























(Free Will Donation for Pizza is Welcomed)

































WEATHER-RELATED CANCELLATIONS

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

SYNOD SPRING WOMEN'S ZUMBRO RIVER CONFERENCE

If you pre-registered by March 15, just a reminder about the Zumbro River Conference Spring Event Saturday, APRIL 5 at Zion Lutheran Church (400 5th Ave NE, Stewartville, MN 55976). Fee is \$15 each—pay at the door.

9:30 am Registration & Displays

10:30 am Welcome & Program

Speaker: Rev. Emily Carson from SE MN Synod Office. Special Guest: Rev. Martha Kitiu from Tanzania 12:00 pm Lunch served

EAST QUILTING SISTERS 2024 DONATIONS:



33 lap quilts to Ronald McDonald House.

6 lap quilts to Hope Lodge

13 lap quilts Field Crest Care Center

12 lap quilts to Byron Care Center

12 baby quilts to Olmsted Hospital

7 lap quilts to people in our congregation

1 baby quilt for baptism

\$500 donated to East St. Olaf Church

(submitted by Marylin Carlson)

OUR BIRTHDAY LISTS: If you are <u>not</u> on our birthday lists in the monthly newsletter and you wish to be listed, please email our church secretary, Gina, at eastwest@kmtel.com

April Birthdays East

- 4 Steve Jensen
- 7 Tanner Boelter
- 10 Larry Severson
- 12 Elsa Lantz
- 16 Lowell Gilbertson
- 18 Tara Finseth
- 24 Lisa Yngsdal
- 25 Randy Lantz
- 25 Sue Lantz
- 25 Kayla Jorgenson
- 27 Julie Schiesser
- 27 Haley Baier
- 27 Dan Zieman
- 28 Sharon Tix

Happy Birthday!



April Birthdays West

- 2 Grant Palmersheim
- 4 David Thoe
- 10 Sandra Iverson
- 10 Jessie Twaddle
- 10 David Palmersheim
- 13 Darlene Hanson
- 18 Will Laxen
- 18 Landon Steinfadt
- 20 Steven Fjerstad
- 20 Jim Ahrens
- 20 Tad Kaehler
- 21 Ronald Martin
- 22 Isabelle Connelly

- 26 Samuel Iverson
- 27 Nancy Gulbransen
- 29 Walter Borland
- 29 Jeffery Mittelstadt
- 30 Boyd Pew



Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	
>> In April, West returns to holding worship services in the church. >> West quilting resumes in Sept.		1 10:00 am East Quilt/sack lunch 6:00 pm East Council meeting	2 BOTH @ EAST 6:00 pm Lenten supper (Sarah Circle serves) 7:00 pm Lenten service	3 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	4 Pastor: day-off	5 BOTH: Zumbro River Women's Conference at Zion Lutheran Stewartville Register 9:30am	
9:00 am WEST Worship/Comm. also WEST First Holy Communion Day 10:00 am JAM at West West coffee 11:00 am EAST Worship/Comm (coffee after church)	7 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	8 10:00 am East Quilt/sack lunch	9 1:00 pm West WELCA meeting Host: Alli Horejsi Study: Pastor Paul BOTH @ WEST 6:00 pm Lenten supper (West WELCA serves) 7:00 pm Lenten service	10 Pastor at Kasson Ministerial Mtg.	11 Pastor: day-off	10:00 am East WELCA meeting at church, in the basement	
13 PALM SUNDAY NO communion at either church 9:00 am WEST Worship, JAM sings. 10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt at West for JAM kids West coffee 11:00 am EAST Worship/Comm (coffee after church) NOON: All East and West invited to a SPRING DINNER at EAST (\$10 each)	9:00am-Noon Pastor office 7:00 pm West Council meeting	15 10:00 am East Quilting/sack lunch	NO Conf. class, <u>but</u> instead, students attend Maundy Thursday & Good Friday services.	9:00am-Noon Pastor office 7:00 pm BOTH at WEST: Maundy Thursday worship (with communion)	18 Pastor day-off 7:00 pm BOTH at EAST: Good Friday worship	19	
20 EASTER DAY Christ is risen!!! All welcome at either church. >> Note the earlier start times:: 8:30 am WEST Easter worship & Communion 10:00 am EAST Easter worship & Communion	9:00am-Noon Pastor office	10:00 am East Quilting/sack lunch 7:00 pm DEADLINE to submit info for next newsletter	7:00 pm BOTH at West: Confirmation class	9:00am-Noon Pastor office	Pastor day-off 5:30-7:30 pm BOTH invited for PIZZA & BINGO at the EAST church. Bring family & friends!!! No admission cost (donations accepted for pizza)	26	
27 NO communion at either church 9:00 am WEST Worship 10:00 am JAM at WEST West coffee 11:00 am EAST Worship (coffee after church)	28 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	29 10:00 am East Quilting/sack lunch NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEER DAY at office 9:10 am print 9:20 am fold 9:30 am collate/tape	7:00 pm BOTH at West: Confirmation class				

EAST OFFERINGS

(03/02/2025) Current \$ 2,805 and Benevolence \$125.

(03/09/2025) Current \$ 1,251 and In-Memory of Dale Boelter: Undesignated \$25.

(03/16/2025) Current \$1,436 and Benevolence \$25.

EAST COUNCIL MINUTES March 4, 2025 6:00PM East St Olaf

Call to Order: President Randy Robinson called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Pastor Paul Thompson, Randy Robinson, Gary Kearns, Jane Williams, Mary Madson,

Meghan Oman, Danny Zieman, Pete Exe, Bruce Peterson

Devotions: Set Aside for the Joint Meeting at 7:00pm

Pastor's Report: Set Aside for the Joint Meeting at 7:00pm

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the January and February meetings were read and approved.

Financial Secretary's Report: No report.

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

The Contributions to the General Fund, as of Feb 25 was \$12,595.34

This included \$ 8,268.34 that was deposited from WELCA, \$500 from the Quilters, and \$ 3,827 from Current Giving.

Expenses for the month were \$10,124.02. The largest expenses this month included \$ 1,712.00 Benevolence Disbursement to Channel One and Women's Shelter,

Others... Office equipment repair, Pastor's and Gina's salary, fuel and electric bills.

Deacon's Report: Palms have been ordered and will be here for Palm Sunday. They will be delivered to Meghan's house and she will bring them to church. Terry lined up readers for March. They would like to try a sign-up sheet at church, on the back table for readers. Possibly two months at a time. Communion Helpers are lined up.

Trustees Report: Bruce and Danny are looking to adjust the bright lights in the back of the sanctuary. Pete will work with Tracy to fix the bent piece of siding on the west side of the church.

Old Business: Gina's laptop and office machines are working again. East and West shared the cost, and the bills have been paid.

New Business: President Randy Robinson proposed an idea for the parsonage, and shared it with the Council. We agreed he should share it at the Joint Meeting, as something needs to be done with the building soon. (See joint council minutes).

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned. The East Council met with the West Council for the Joint Meeting. Respectfully Submitted by Jane Williams, Council Secretary

EAST: SAVE THE DATE: Mother's Day Brunch at East May 11:

The Men's Group at East St Olaf will be serving our Moms on May 11. Please mark your calendar. Church is at 9:00AM and Brunch will be served at 10:00am following the service.

EAST: SAVE THE DATE: Graduation Celebrations at East May 18:

Please mark your calendars for your graduate to attend service and fellowship at East St Olaf on Sunday, May 18. Service is at 9:00am with Fellowship at 10:00am. There is a gift and cake! Invite your whole family! We are so proud of our young people and their accomplishments!

West Council Minutes: March 4, 2025

Attendance (P = Present, A = Absent)

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

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 minutes by Deb and seconded by Sheryl, motion carried.

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

Boad of Education Report: JAM lessons are going well, and we are trying to incorporate learning about using and navigating the Bible. Jam will serve Lenten supper on March 12. JAM will be singing in church on Palm Sunday. Continue to plan VBS for the summer. Luther League's (LL) February activity was an escape room. Six kids and 1 adult were involved, and they escaped with 4 seconds to spare. The March activity may be volunteering. LL will serve Lenten supper on March 25.

Deacon's Report: Graduation recognition scheduled for March 23rd (10am coffee, 11am church service). Spring cleaning of the chapel basement has begun. Gina has requested that information for the newsletter be sent to her by email for easier formatting to fit into allowed space. WELCA quilting March 11, 12, 25 & 26. Council to serve coffee hour on March 30th. Thank you Carma for work as February Deacon. March will be Sue Hyland and April is Mary.

Trustees Report: Nothing to report

Old Business: Information about Tithe.ly (a digital giving platform that helps churches manage donations) was shared. Will and Dave set it up a website and tested the donation process through the Tithe.ly app with a successful outcome.

New Business: None

Motion to adjourn: Motion to adjourn made by Dave, seconded by Cindy, motion carried. Closed with the Lord's prayer.

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

Next Meeting: Next meeting will be Monday April 14 at 7:00pm.

JOINT COUNCIL Minutes St. Olaf: March 4, 2025

Attendance: (P=Present)

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

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

Secretary's Report: Report from December Meeting was ready by Cindy Stopple. Motion to approve was made by Deb Schuck and seconded by Danny Zieman.

Pastor's Report: Pastor's Report was reviewed. Visiting shut ins was more difficult, as it is cold and flu season. Confirmation classes will not meet during Lent, but students are highly encouraged to attend Wednesday nights. There are 3 First Communion students coming up at West.

Education Report: VBS is planned as a sleep over at West on Saturday, August 23. JAM breakfast 24th.

Old Business: The computer systems are working well for our secretary.

New Business:

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

Shared Outdoor Summer Services will continue for June, July, and August. They will take place at 10:00am, on one Sunday per month. West will check with Greg (sound system) on the dates.

Organist Pat Nelson mentioned that if Pastor is gone, we could do a Lay Worship Sing-Along.

Printing issues have arisen with the newsletter as too many items are being submitted, and pages with too much ink are gumming up the copier. It was agreed that thank you notes will not be printed, and just shared within the groups. The St Olaf Kid's Page could be deleted, as it was thought no child is reading the newsletter. Also a request to not send in items that are already formatted, as Gina is having some format issues with her newest Microsoft Version. Just send in written (*typed*, *no format*) notes please.

Will introduced an app for Electronic Donations called Tithe.ly. The treasurer can set it up, and those who would like to donate can find it on the app. It can be a one-time thing, or monthly.

Parsonage Discussion:

The past options of selling or renting the parsonage are not feasible or desirable, but something needs to be done, as the building is far from code and current pastors are not interested in living there. The monthly cost of keeping the home heated and functioning is taking a toll on resources.

Randy Robinson put forth a proposal to sell the agricultural land, which nets us about \$3,000 a year. This money could fund the demolition of the parsonage to create a green park space that might better serve the people of East and West St Olaf. The cost for demolition would be approximately \$50,000.

Plus \$5,000 for reconstruction of an office space in the East basement and an update of the Pastor's Office. Any revenue from the land sale beyond those expenses would be shared by both East and West. It was noted that there are items in the house worth saving, and that would be part of the plan. The Joint Council decided the idea has merit and is interested in finding out more about this possible opportunity. Randy will meet with the Parsonage Committee and get their input. This is just a preliminary discussion, if this were to move forward, it would need approval by both Congregations.

Next JOINT MEETING: Monday, June 9, 2025 7:00PM at West St Olaf

Motion to adjourn: Motion made by Cindy Stoppel, seconded by Sheryl Wohlers. Closed with Lord's Prayer Submitted by Jane Williams, East St. Olaf Council Secretary

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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