

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

April 2024 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 Worship Schedule

9:00 am: EAST worship (coffee always after church)

10:00 am: BOTH have JAM at West church

11:00 am: WEST worship (coffee before church at 10:00 am)

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,



"Christ is Risen!" pastors proclaim at the beginning of Easter worship. "He is risen indeed!" the congregation responds. We Christians proclaim life in a world of death. We proclaim joy in a world of sorrow. We proclaim peace in a world of conflict. We proclaim the opposite of whatever the world throws at us. because we proclaim the Risen Christ in the face of the world of sin that killed him, and yet failed to keep him dead.

Easter makes clear, even if nothing else does, that we Christians run the opposite of the world. We do not do what the powerful and influential tell us, but what our Lord and Savior tells us. We do not value the things the world values--money, power, domination, control--but what Jesus valued: generosity; mercy; grace; and love.

I hope to see you all Easter Sunday morning. After what I've experienced the last few months, I love life more than I ever have. I hope, by the grace of God, to be able to inspire in you the same love of life, and the same trust in God who is the Giver of Life.

I've missed you all in my absence. I thank all of you who've sent me cards and good wishes in my absence. That kind of love and support heals just as much as medicine and scalpels. The Jesus who can heal all wounds, who can bind up the most broken of hearts, and who can put life into those who stare death in the face is the Jesus who can bind up and heal all your wounds, and make you live,

In Gods peace,

Pastor Paul Thompson

Membership Updates, WELCA News and More

MEMBERSHIP INFO

No updates at this time.

EVENTS AT EAST

- 2 10:00 Quilting/Sack Lunch 6:00PM Council Meeting
- 9 10:00 Quilting/Sack Lunch
- 10:00 WELCA Meeting 13
- 14 Family BINGO & Pizza Night at EAST for West & East. family, and friends!!!
- 10:00 Quilting/Sack Lunch 16 23 10:00 Quilting/Sack Lunch
- 10:00 Quilting/Sack Lunch 30

WEST WELCA NEWS

We have enjoyed a mild winter but look forward to spring as a time of renewal. We pray for some rain to replenish our soil and pray the farmers can get their planting done. This is a busy season for everyone but take time to enjoy the beautiful spring days.

Graduations will soon be upon us. At West we will honor five seniors with a special recognition coffee on Sunday, April 21 at 10 AM. Our seniors are Joey Arett, Adam Glynn, Nicholas Larsen, Landon Steinfadt, & Greer Tiegen. Church services are at 11 AM. Please mark your calendars and come to coffee to show our seniors how proud we are of them and wish them well.

The Zumbro River Conference is April 18th at St. John's in Kasson. The speaker is Dan Fifield from The Landing in Rochester. This is a shelter for the homeless and their many needs are listed on page 7. Please consider giving an item and place it in the box by April 14th. We will bring it to St. John's on the 18th. The cost of the conference is \$15. and includes supper. Please register and give your checks (made out to SE MN Synod WELCA) to Nancy or Sheryl by April 4th if you would like to attend. If you would like to car pool, meet at the chapel at 4:30. This is the conference West hosted

last spring. We hope to have several attend when the conference is so close to us.

Thank you to Sheryl Wohlers for being our chairperson in March and Mary Brandt and Sandy Iverson for serving on altar guild. Thank you to Carma for leading us in Bible study. Mary Brandt and Nancy Peterson are the April chairpersons and Jane Estby and Sheryl are on altar guild. Our next WELCA meeting is April 10 at 1 PM. Pastor Paul will introduce our new Bible study called "What Happens When Women Say Yes to God". Hostess is Darlene Hanson. Please join us.

God bless you. Sharon and Nancy



WEST COFFEE TO HONOR OUR GRADUATES!

Join us to honor this vear's West graduates at our Senior Recognition Coffee for our five high school seniors on Sunday, April 21, during the 10:00 am coffee hour (hosted by WELCA). Seniors are: Joey Arett, Adam Glynn, Nicholas Larsen, Landon Steinfadt & Greer Tiegen.



SERVING SCHEDULES

APRIL at WEST

Ushers: Pete D. organizes volunteers

Deacon: Deb Schuck

Altar Guild: Jane Estby and Sheryl Wohlers

Stewardship:

1st Sun. – Luth. League 2nd Sun. – Board of Ed. 3rd Sun. – WELCA

4th Sun. – Council

5th Sun. - Council

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APRIL at EAST

Acolytes: Ushers fill-in Altar Guild: Darlene Myhre and Sonya Mansfield **Deacon:** Jane Williams

Typical Weekly Servers for East Coffee & Fellowship:

1st Sunday — *Sarah Circle* 2nd Sunday — *Quilting Sisters* 3rd Sunday — *OPEN. contact* Marylin to volunteer 4th Sunday — Circle 4 5th Sunday — SS group during school year, Church

council in summer



WEST ST. OLAF: 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 West St. Olaf 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.

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







All East & West families &friends are invited to East for



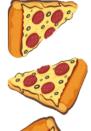




















Family Fun Only, No Money Needed (Free Will Donation for Pizza Welcomed)

Come and Eat Dinner with us. Decorate your own cookie for dessert. Then play BINGO!

Prizes Galore! Bring Friends and Family along!























EAST WELCA UPDATE:

The East St. Olaf Women met on Saturday, March 9. The finishing touches were made on the WELCA Booklet. These are completed, copied, and will be mailed out to members of ESO by the end of the month. *Our goal next year is to get this out earlier*. East WELCA is looking into the possibility of hosting a modified Lutefisk Dinner this fall. Preliminary discussions include manpower, number of dinners to be served, and availability of supplies. This is a tradition that we stopped due to COVID and has been difficult to start again. *Watch for more information on this, as our committee digs into possibilities*.

There are two events coming up for members to be aware of: 1st) A Church-wide Garage Sale that is going to coincide with Bryon Good Neighbor Days - this will take place on July 19-21. And 2nd) East will be hosting a Holiday Palooza! Tables for vendors will be rented out, a quilt sale and lunch will be offered that day as well. All family and friends are invited to rent a table and sell their wares. We welcome anyone at any time to join in and serve the congregation along with us. Blessings to you all!



The Quilting Sisters of East St.
Olaf have made 23 quilts this year for Olmsted County!

UPCOMING EVENTS EAST ST. OLAF THIS YEAR...

East Congregational Treasure Sale: July 19, 20, 21

Be part of this Giant Rummage Sale that will take place during Byron's Good Neighbor Days. Think ahead and sort your spring cleaning and remember us. We will accept donated items and consignment items (10%). More information will be coming... watch newsletters/church bulletins for more info.



East Holíday Palooza December 7

East Women will be hosting a craft and goods sale at the church. There will be food served from the kitchen throughout the day.

Anyone can rent a table and sell their goods.

Vendors from local areas are welcome to join in. Friends and family's all welcome.

Advertising for the event will be provided.

Look for more information to come in upcoming newsletters, or church bulletins.

And we will have "Vendors Packages" available in the office and on line.

If you have any questions on these events, please contact one of the East co-presidents or an officer, for information.



St. Olaf Kid's Corner: April

Bible Story of the Month:

When Jesus was on earth, He worked hard to tell people about his Father in Heaven. Lots of people followed him and listened to him. He called them disciples.

After about a year, Jesus decided he needed "helpers". These special friends had to be willing to travel all over the land and teach others about God too.

So Jesus prayed to God to help him find the right people for this job. It says in the Bible that after He prayed for God's help, He chose 12 men to stay with him and learn from him.

God knows how important it is to have good friends. He wants you to have good friends too. Pray for your friends. Listen to God and ask him to help you find friends who are kind and helpful... and you be a kind and helpful friend to people.

Jesus's apostles were not perfect. They sometimes fought with each other. They made mistakes, but Jesus helped them learn what is right, and how God wants them to be. Jesus reminded them that the most important commandment of all was to love one another.

Bible Verses

Dear God,
Please help me
to choose good
friends. Those
who will be
helpful and
kind. Help me
to be a good
friend to them.
Amen.

Bible Verses

¹² One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. ¹³ When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: Luke 6:12-13

Can you find the 12?

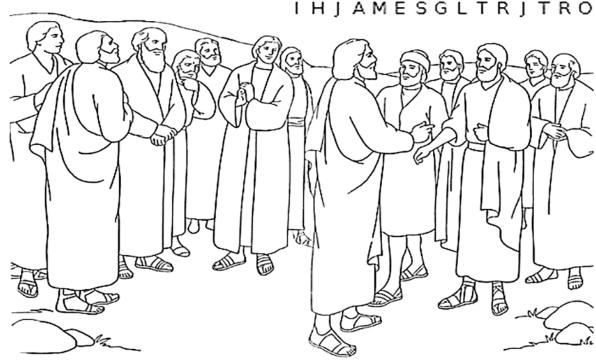
¹⁴ Peter and his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholmew,

¹⁵ Matthew, Thomas, James..., Simon...,

¹⁶ Judas..., and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor."

(Look for First Names)

VSEGSLUEMEJQDAO QLPFIGPEPQWZYFL VOYQMICLKESWHYP RGWJOUZLWBTBQTA SFTXNEDQEHDEKCN JTCHHHYJMSEJRJD TQHUORAOAVGUCUDE PFYVFLANTYKASAW HNOCFNGSHBFSUSR IXMSKUFVETJIYYU LJNYELYKWSJHPDU LJNYELYKWSJHPDU ITXTBARTHOLOMEW PTXJDHZTFJAMESI IHJAMESGLTRJTRO





Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	9:00am-Noon Pastor office	10:00 am East Quilting/sack lunch	7:00 pm BOTH at West: Confirmation	9:00am-Noon Pastor office	Pastor: day-off	
		6:00 pm East Council meeting	7:30 pm Deadline for bulletin info	West deadline to pay for women's synod conf.		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:00 am EAST Worship/Comm Coffee after church 10:00 am Both have JAM at West Coffee at West 11:00 am WEST Worship/Comm,	9:00am-Noon Pastor office BOTH: Today is Signup deadline for synod's spring women's conference 7:00 pm West Council meeting	10:00 am East Quilting/sack lunch	1:00 pm WEST WELCA meeting Host- Darlene H. Study-Pastor Paul 7:00 pm BOTH at West: Confirmation 7:30 pm Deadline for bulletin info	9:00am-Noon Pastor office, then at 10am Kasson Ministerial Mtg. WEST is being toured by the Dodge County Historical Society	Pastor: day-off	10:00 am East WELCA meeting in the church basement.
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:00 am EAST Worship Coffee after church 10:00 am Both have JAM at West Coffee at West 11:00 am WEST Worship 5:30-7:30 pm BOTH at EAST, a BINGO & PIZZA PARTY for all!!! (see ad on pg. 3)	9:00am-Noon Pastor office	10:00 am East Quilting/sack lunch	7:00 pm BOTH at West: Confirmation 7:30 pm Deadline for bulletin info	9:00am-Noon Pastor office BOTH at Kasson St. John's Luth., the Spring Women's Synod Conference: 4:30 sign-in 5:15 dinner 6:15 progam	Pastor: day-off	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00 am EAST Worship Coffee after church 10:00 am Both have JAM at West Senior Recognition coffee at West 11:00 am WEST Worship	9:00am-Noon Pastor office NOON: DEADLINE to submit info for next newsletter	10:00 am East Quilting/sack lunch	7:00 pm BOTH at West: Confirmation 7:30 pm Deadline for bulletin info	9:00am-Noon Pastor office	Pastor day-off	
28	29	30	31			
9:00 am EAST Worship/Comm Coffee after church 10:00 am Both have JAM at West Coffee at West 11:00 am WEST Worship/Comm,	9:00am-Noon Pastor office	10:00 am East Quilting/sack lunch NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEER DAY 9:10 print 9:30 fold 9:45 collate/tape	7:00 pm BOTH at West: Confirmation 7:30 pm Deadline for bulletin info			

BOTH East & West:

ELCA Women's Zumbro River Spring Conference April 18 (register by the 8th)



All East & West women are invited to the "Rise Up to Faith" Women's conference to be held April 18, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Kasson. <u>Talk to your WELCA leader for registration instructions</u> (and please register by April 8, to help the synod is planning the event). On the day of the conference, check-in will begin at 4:30 pm, dinner at 5:15 pm, followed by Speaker Dan Fifield from The Landing, in Rochester, at 6:15 pm.

<u>WEST church is collecting in-kind donations for them.</u> Here is a list of items needed: Bottled water, non-perishable single-serve food items, toothbrushes, deodorant, shaving cream, clothing for men: jeans, sweatpants, NEW socks and underwear (boxer and boxer briefs only), shoes (work boots and sneakers), t-shirts only, hoodies. <u>West St. Olaf - Please bring donations by April 14 to the church or chapel</u>. Thank you.

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank You East St. Olaf

Thank you to all of East St. Olaf and my friends who have sent me cards and good messages during my recent health issues. ~ Rita Distad ~

Thank You East & West Councils

Thank you to East and West councils for your caring and generous hearts in handling the new Minnesota Safe & Sick Time mandated by the state. I <u>hope</u> to not need to use it... or at least not need to use it much! ~ *Gina Moser* ~

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 Fierstad
- 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

EAST Offerings/Contributions:

(03/03/2024 and 03/10/2024) Current \$2,764.

(03/17/2024) Current \$425, Women's Shelter \$67, In memory of Carol Severson \$45 Undesignated, and Cemetery \$20.

EAST St. Olaf Council Minutes: March 5, 2024

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

Members present: Bruce Peterson, Lori Peterson, Gary Kearns, Danny Zieman, Jane Williams,

Tara Stewart.

Opening prayer: Waived in lieu of joint council meeting.

Pastors report: No report as Pastor Paul is on medical leave.

Secretary's report: Reviewed and approved.

Financial secretary's report: No report.

Treasurer's report: January and February reports reviewed. There was increased year end offerings.

Deacon's report: New television sets will be installed in April—date to be determined.

WELCA is considering doing a rummage sale during the Byron Good Neighbor

Days festival.

Books for baptized children were ordered from the Christian book store.

Jane Williams will help with Deacon for a 3rd term. Deacons will meet 3/7/24 to plan yearly calendar.

There will be a Bingo and pizza night held on April 14th from 5:30-7:30 (for both).

Trustees report: Nothing to report.

Old business: No old business.

New business: Discussion regarding getting rid of communion cards in pews and switching to a

book that would be signed once and have communed. Tara motioned to adopt this

method, Lori seconded motion. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Jane to give \$2650 to Synod for 2025, Danny seconded, motion

passed.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned. Lord's prayer waived in lieu of joint meeting.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 2nd at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tara Stewart.

JOINT COUNCIL Minutes: March 5, 2024

Call to Order: Bruce Peterson at 7 p.m.

Members Present: East: Bruce Peterson, Lori Peterson, Jane Williams, Gary Kearns, Danny Zieman,

Tara Stewart. **West:** Chad Thompson, Will Laxen, Del Senjem, Sheryl Wohlers, Dave Peterson, Carma Bjornson, Sandy Iverson, Cindy Stoppel, Jenny Twaddle.

Devotions: Jane Williams gave the opening prayer.

Pastor's Report: No Report. Pastor Paul is on medical leave.

Secretary's Report: Read by Cindy Stoppel and approved with corrections to the following: Maundy Thursday service at East at 7:00 p.m., Good Friday service at West at 7:00 p.m.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Gina will be on vacation June 6th to July 2nd. Someone will need to help with her duties during this time. Minnesota Safe and Sick time brought forward. This is state mandated time off that can be used for various reasons. 48 hours per year are required and can be rolled over yearly up to a maximum of 80 hours. For bookkeeping purposes, Jane motioned to bank 80 hours up front, Will seconded motion. Motion carried.

Summer worship dates discussed. Dates are 3rd Sundays in June, July, and August. Tentative dates: June 16th 10:00 at East, July 21st 10:00 at West, August 18th at 10:00 at East.

The joint mailing list has gotten very lengthy with many previous pastors, other churches on the list. A request was made to go through the list and clean it up to avoid return postage, paper, label cost. Approval from joint councils was given to do this.

There is a need for someone to play and sing during the Wednesday night Lenten services. Bruce and Will to contact Cathy to discuss.

Adjournment: Motion made to adjourn. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

Joint council meeting will be Monday, June 10th at West with individual councils meeting at 6 p.m. & joint meeting at 7 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tara Stewart

WEST St. Olaf Council Minutes: March 5, 2024

Attendance (P = Present)

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

Meeting called to order by Will Laxen. Devotion was skipped due to Pastor's absence.

Agenda: Motion made to approve agenda by Sandy and seconded by Sheryl, motion carried.

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

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

Board of Education Report: SS singing in church Palm Sunday. Luther League will fill eggs and help with a Palm Sunday egg hunt. VBS will be Sat./Sun. August 24-25, 2024, at East. The theme is to be determined. The cookie sale had a great turn out. Thank you to all who supported the event.

Deacon's Report: Cards sent to Pastor Paul and Jerry Nelson. Thank you to Carma for being the February deacon. Gina was notified that Boyd & Gloria moved and asked that we keep them in our prayers. Lenten services by Kathy Chatelaine with special music by Sarah and Beth has been great. It is sad to see the low attendance of the suppers. The council is responsible for the 3/24 coffee hour. Will and Carma volunteered to serve. There will be no coffee hour on Easter Sunday 3/31. Reminder of the Holy Week schedule Maundy Thursday 7pm at East with communion, Good Friday 7pm at West, Easter Sunday 8:30am at East and 10am at West. There will be no breakfast. Recognition of graduates is scheduled for April 21st during the coffee hour at 10am and the church service at 11am.

Trustees Report: Nothing to report.

Old Business: The newsletter mailing list will be brought up for discussion at the joint meeting tonight. West council will recommend removing area churches and former pastors. To maintain the bulk mailing rate, 200 newsletters need to be mailed. The new MN Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST) law needs to be put into place for Gina. Will gave us a hand-out about the options to handle the ESST hours. Review and discussion of the options occurred. It will also be discussed with East at the joint meeting. West recommends to front load the 80 hours. Will made a phone call to Becky and had a good conversation.

New Business: Gina gave notification of an upcoming vacation from 6/6-7/1, returning on 7/2. Gina can only do so much work in advance so assistance will be needed during her absence. Discussion about various maintenance issues in both the church and chapel. The church basement and bathrooms are not in use, it was suggested to remove the sign. The trustees will start a list for the council. Chad asked about the tree planting. It was confirmed that 2 rows of pine will be planted the entire length to replace the trees that were removed. Any other questions can be brought up with Gene and/or Hans.

Motion to adjourn: Motion to adjourn made and approved. Closed with the Lord's prayer.

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

Next Meeting: April 8, 2024 at 7pm



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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PERMIT NO. 5

HAPPENINGS

Living in God's amazing grace since 1856