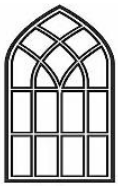
West St. Olaf Lutheran Church East St. Olaf Lutheran Church

NOVEMBER 2026 HAPPENINGS

Pastor Paul Thompson Cell: 507-273-8504 (call before driving to office) **Email:** pthomp821@gmail.com
Websites: eaststolaf.org ...OR.... weststolaf.org
Gina Moser, Secretary: Email: eastwest@kmtel.com Office: 365-8222 Cell: 507-951-4964



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



November Worship Schedule

WEST EARLY at 9:00 am for Nov.
JAM at 10:00 am at West (*also West coffee*)
EAST LATE at 11:00 am for Nov. (*East coffee after church*)

>> NOTE: Retirement Dinners for Pastor Paul & Jana: WEST on Nov. 8, and EAST on Nov. 15 <<

OFFERINGS: Our congregational councils ask you to prayerfully continue your financial support for church. Please be sure to make your check out to "West St. Olaf Church" or "East St. Olaf 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,



Martin Luther once pointed out, in politics we have idols where we place confidence in human power in the place of God's power. Certainly, we must never idolize human power when we should be relying on God's power. The state and politicians can become idols when we attribute powers to them that belong to God alone. If we believe that the state can create justice and peace, and save us from anything that threatens us, we are giving them the status of a god or an idol. As Proverbs 29:26 says: "Many seek the favor of a ruler, but it is from the LORD that one gets justice."

As Christian people, we know enough not to treat our elected leaders as godlike, though we may pray that they be godly. We know going into the voting booths November 3 that those who receive our votes are flawed human beings, who will sometimes do right, and sometimes do wrong. As we mark our ballots, let us pray that they be godly enough to do right in God's eyes. Let us pray that they will fight injustice and protect the poor and weak. Let us pray that they resist the temptation to listen only to those with the deepest pockets. Let us pray they lead us to be an example to the world of the power of people over the power of wealth and material might.

Of course, many of us will not vote. It's similar to church: it's the right place to be to make the world a better place. But many will choose not to go. I can't say either political party, nor any candidates are God's party or God's candidate, but I can say that the votes of ordinary people can change the course of our nation, and therefore, of history.

God bless you all, Pastor Paul Thompson

NOVEMBER 2026 at East & West St. Olaf

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **9:00 am** West worsh, Communion, then Voting-meeting on parsonage **10:00 am** JAM, also **Birthday Coffee for Larry Himle 10am!** **11:00 am** East worsh Communion, then Voting-meeting on parsonage	**2**	**3** **10:00 am** East Quilt/sack lunch **6:00 pm** East Council Meeting	**4** **7:00 pm** BOTH: Conf. class @ West	**5**	**6** Pastor's day-off	**7**
8 *Chapel Reserved* **9:00 am** West worsh, **then WEST Appreciation Dinner for Pastor Paul & Jana!** **10:00 am** JAM, & West coffee **11:00 am** East worsh, then coffee & East WELCA meeting	**9** **7:00 pm** West Council Meeting	**10** **9:00 am** West Quilt/sack lunch **10:00 am** East Quilt/sack lunch	**11** **9:00 am** West Quilt/sack lunch **1:00 pm** West WELCA meeting Host-Denise Kyllo Study- Pastor Paul **7:00 pm** BOTH: Conf. class @ West	**12**	**13** Pastor's day-off	**14**
15 *Chapel Reserved* **9:00 am** West worsh, Communion **10:00 am** JAM, & West coffee **11:00 am** East worsh Communion, **then after church – EAST Retirement Lunch for Pastor Paul & Jana** **1:00-4:00 pm West Chapel ~ Birthday Party for Joy B.!**	**16**	**17** **10:00 am** East Quilt/sack lunch **7:00 pm DEADLINE** to submit info for next newsletter	**18** **7:00 pm** BOTH: Conf. class @ West	**19**	**20** Pastor's day-off	**21**
22 **9:00am** West worsh **10:00 am** JAM, & West appreciation coffee, and decorate church for Christmas **11:00am** East worsh, coffee, then decorate church for Christmas	**23**	**24** **10:00 am** East Quilt/sack lunch **NEWSLETTER DAY at Office** 9:10- print 9:25– fold 9:35– collate	**25** **NO CLASS for** *Conf. (holiday)*	**26** **OFFICE CLOSED** Happy Thanksgiving!	**27** Pastor's day-off **9:00 am** West decorates chapel for Christmas	**28**
28 **9:00am** West worsh **10:00 am** JAM, & West coffee **11:00am** East worsh	**30**					

Holiday Palooza

CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR

East St. Olaf Lutheran Church

6200 County Rd 3 SW Byron, MN 55920

Saturday, December 5, 2026

9:00am – 2:00pm: All welcome!

Local Crafters & Vendors!

Baked Goods, Candles, Flower arrangements,
Christmas Items, Cookbooks & more!

If you would like to sell your wares, tables are $30.
Contact Amy Schwarz if interested: amy.jorgenson23@gmail.com

Lunch Menu:

Hotdishes, dinner rolls,
coffee, & hot cocoa bar
Price: Free will donation

Membership Updates, WELCA News, & More on Following Pages!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES



CONFIRMATION / AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM
God's blessing to our Confirmands who Affirmed their Faith Sunday, October 25 at East St. Olaf and West St. Olaf:
EAST: Adyson Pyfferoen
WEST: Reese Hazelman, Benjamin Laxen, Lauralee Olson, Kaleb Palmersheim, and Cole Twaddle.

WEST MEMBER MARRIGAGE
Jenny LaVonneTwaddle (member) and Andrew James Milligan (non-member)
Date: October 16, 2026 in Owatonna, MN.
Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Andrew & Jenny Milligan.

WOMEN OF EAST

The Women of East met on Sunday, Oct 11, after Fellowship. President Marylin Carlson called the meeting to order. The group went over the calendar of events for November and December.

Sunday October 18 is the Informational Meeting by the Council, our service is at 9:00, so the meeting will be around 10:00am. We decided to provide a coffee bar with donuts so people can eat and listen.

There is no communion on this third Sunday, as Confirmation is next week, and communion will be served then.

October 26 is Confirmation Sunday, *and Sarah Circle will serve a regular Fellowship, as we celebrated Ady's Confirmation on Oct. 11*. Congrats to Adyson!!

November 1 is the Congregational Vote. The Council is sending out postcards to members announcing this, so there may be more people than normal, which would be great!!!! Service in November is at 11:00am, and Fellowship will follow, by Quilting Sisters.

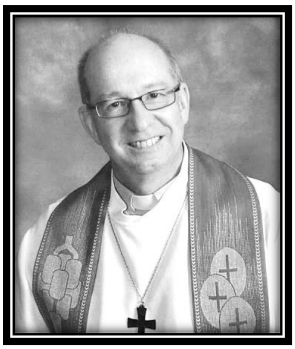
Sunday, November 8 will be our WELCA meeting after church. The December Palooza will be on Saturday, Dec. 5. Amy Schwarz is heading up that event, so that will be the main item in discussion.

Pastor Paul and Jana are retiring! And we are hosting the East Celebration for them on Nov. 15. Gleasons will be catering this event, so that we can ALL enjoy some time with them. The cards and gifts have been ordered.

November 22 (Thanksgiving week) is hosted by Circle 4 for Fellowship. Christmas Decorating will be after church that day. Finally, **November 29** is the fifth Sunday, and the Council will be providing for Fellowship. It has been a whirl-wind of events at East St Olaf. Thank you to all who have taken part in planning, baking, running, and working these events. Thank you also to all our members who attend them. We need both!

East Holiday Palooza Craft & Vendor Fair will be Sat., Dec. 5 – See ad in this newsletter!
NOTE: East Meatball Dinner is moved out to February. The East Raffle Fundraiser will be in late April.
Every Tuesday: Quilting in the church basement/sack lunch

EAST Celebrating Pastor Paul (and Jana's) Retirement Dinner on November 15 for East Members & guests



Come and celebrate Pastor Paul's last 10 years with us, as he gets ready to move into another chapter of his life! Retirement! Service is at 11:00am, and Dinner and Reception is at Noon. The meal is catered by Gleasons, and includes Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Bean Casserole, 7-Layer Salad, and Cake for dessert. All East members and their guests are welcome!
God Bless Pastor and Jana on their new adventures!



East St. Olaf Christmas Decorating: November 22

Come and decorate God's House for the birth of his Son! We need all hands to get our church ready!

The Vikings play the San Francisco 49'ers at 7:20pm that day, so the afternoon is free! Join God's Team after church, and pray some more at 7:20. Circle 4 will be serving Fellowship. We look forward to seeing you!

SERVING SCHEDULES

WEST—NOVEMBER

Ushers: Pete D. organizes
Deacon: Sheryl W. covering
Altar Guild: Mary B., Sandy I.
Acolytes: check online sched.
Stewardship:
1st Sun.— Luther League
2nd Sun.— JAM or B.O.E.
3rd Sun.— WELCA
4th Sun.— Church council
5th Sun.— Church council

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EAST—NOVEMBER

Acolytes: Ushers covering
Altar Guild: Meghan Ohman
Deacon: Meghan Ohman
Coffee Servers:
1st Sun.— Quilting Sisters
2nd Sun.— Sarah Circle
3rd Sun.— Circle 4
4th Sun. — OPEN: *Contact Marylin Carlson, if willing*
5th Sun.— S.S. or Council

VOTING-MEETING REGARDING OUR PARSONAGE



<u>On Sunday, November 1</u>, there will be a brief "voting-meeting" at each church regarding our parsonage and what we will do with it (<u>right after each church's worship service</u>). ***<u>Voting will be by ballot, and per our constitutional requirements for eligible voters (see below)</u>* – *PLEASE <u>be sure to sign the communion book at your church on Oct. 25 or Nov. 5 communion services (if you have not signed yet this year).</u>***

***<u>WEST Bylaw C8.02c</u>: Members shall be classified as follows**: c. Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this Congregation.*

***<u>EAST Bylaw C8.02c</u>: Members shall be classified as follows**: c. Voting members are confirmed members, who, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this Congregation.*

BEAUTIFYING OUR SANCTUARY

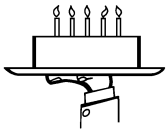


If you'd like to donate a poinsettia, we will recognize it in the Christmas Eve bulletin. **<u>Please inform one of the following people by Mon. Dec. 14</u> (*<u>specify who the plant is from and whom it's in memory-of</u>*).**

<u>WEST</u>: *Sheryl Wohlers (365-8816 or 259-5974)*

<u>EAST or WEST</u>: *Email Gina at <u>eastwest@kmtel.com</u>*

80th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION (Sun., Nov. 1)



Come help us celebrate Larry Himle's 80th birthday, during West's 10am coffee hour on next Sun., November 1. Larry is requesting that there be no cards/no gifts. Birthday cake and accompaniments will be provided. *Hosted by Larry's family.*



95th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION (Sun., Nov. 15)



Join Us in celebrating
Joy's 95th Birthday!
Sunday, November 15, 2026
1:00-4:00 p.m. **West St. Olaf Chapel**

WEST APPRECIATION COFFEE & DECORATING WEST CHURCH



And on Sunday , November 22 West is celebrating Volunteer Appreciation Day! Thank you to people of all ages who volunteer at West St. Olaf to get things done.

Enjoy a special coffee hour as we THANK YOU for another wonderful year! Church at 9:00am, JAM, coffee hour **and church decorating for the Christmas season at 10:00am.**



West WELCA Decorating Chapel: November 27

West WELCA will decorate the Chapel for Advent and Christmas! We will decorate at 9:00 am on Friday, November 27. Men will be welcome helpers too!

WEST ST. OLAF ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT



Advent by Candlelight will be Sun., December 6 at West St. Olaf, beginning at 5:00 pm for punch and fellowship, followed by the service at 6:00 pm, then dinner immediately following. ***Sign-up sheets are in the back of the church for hostesses, food committee, and other volunteers needed. Please sign up!***

WEST WELCA NEWS

It is the time of the year for us to be thankful for all of God's blessings that we have been granted. We have certainly been blessed with good weather for the harvest. We are so thankful for our church family and friends that support us. God is good!

Please join us for a very special event in our church to show our appreciation to Pastor Paul and Jana for the ten years they have served our two churches. **There will be a West St. Olaf congregational dinner on Sunday, November 8. Service is at 9:00, Coffee hour at 10:00, Dinner to follow.** All are welcome!

Our Christmas mission will support a family at Families First again this year. We asked for a family of 4 children and the adults in the household. We have not been assigned a family yet but there will be a tree in the entrance of the church with tags with the needs and wishes of this family as soon as we get the information. Please consider helping this family if you are able. You have given so generously in the past.

Thank you to Margaret S. and Sandy I. who were chairpersons in October and organized the nice lunch to honor our confirmands. Thank you to those who brought food and worked. Chairperson for November is

Nancy Gulbransen. Thank you to Jane and Sheryl who served on altar guild in October. Altar guild servers for November are Mary B. and Sandy I.

Our last quilting session until January will be November 10 and 11. We will have a WELCA meeting on the 11th at 1 PM with Pastor Paul doing the Bible study and Denise Kyllo as hostess.

We will decorate the chapel for Christmas on Nov. 27 at 9 AM. It does not take too long if we have many willing hands. We appreciate men's help too!

The WELCA board will meet during coffee hour on November 29 to distribute funds to various missions.

Advent by Candlelight is December 6. Please sign up if you are hosting a table or wish to attend.

Happy Thanksgiving!
Nancy & Sharon

LUTHER LEAGUE EVENTS!!!		
November	**December**	**January**
Hayfield Food Pantry Packaging Thanksgiving meal kits + ice cream at Uncle Mony's 	**Christmas Party!** Wrapping gifts for our adopted families + pizza party + holiday games 	**Air Insanity Trampoline Park** 

EAST OFFERINGS

(Sept. 13, 20, & 27 of 2026) Current $3,719.
(Oct. 4 & Oct. 11, 2026) Current $2,079 and Benevolence $125.

EAST ST. OLAF COUNCIL MINUTES October 8, 2026 (6:00PM)

Call to Order: President Randy Robinson called the Meeting to Order at 6:00PM
Members Present: Randy Robinson, Pastor Paul Thompson, Gary Kearns, Jane Williams, Terri Zieman,
Devotions: Led by Pastor Paul
Pastor's Report: Pastor shared his duties for the month, along with preaching at Prairie Meadows and Field Crest Nursing homes. A Fall Theology Conference is Oct 11-13.
Pastor reminded the council of getting ready to set a budget. We need this for the interim preacher. Pastor Paul presented Adyson Pyfferoen for confirmation, and council approved.
Secretary's Report: September minutes were read and approved.

Financial Secretary's Report: Brian DeCook provided our income of $17,196.00, this includes the $10,000 that was donated for the parking lot. It was noted that the area looks great!

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report from September was read and approved. Income was $17,196.00. Expenses were $6,681.06, the bill for the parking lot will be paid in October. The biggest expense this month was Church Insurance, $1,416.80. Utilities for the church and parsonage, along with salaries for Pastor and Secretary were also paid.

Deacon's Report: Readers are signed up for October, thank you very much to our volunteers. A card was sent out to a member, but we know there are many others out there who deserve a card. Please contact the church office, or send an email if you would like a card, or a visit. Please let us know of someone who could benefit from a note as well.

Trustees Report: It was pointed out to the church that our steel roof has screws coming up. The roof is about 20 years old, however, there is a lifetime guarantee. Gary brought the information to contact the company. Pete will look into this.

Education Report: Sunday School has started. Rally Sunday was last month.

Old Business: The gutters on the parsonage were cleaned out. Hans Esby had a friend who volunteered to do this for free. That job is completed. While he was up there, he had a view of the East Church roof, and let the church know about screws coming up. This was addressed in the Trustees report. A thank you note will be sent to this gentleman.

New Business: WELCA will postpone its meatball supper till February and the Raffle Auction till April. *The Sundays in October and November have been taken. Information regarding the change of dates was in the October newsletter, Pastor's announcements, bulletin boards, and emailed to those who are on the e-mail list.* Randy accepted Mel Schultz's retirement from the Parsonage Committee, and reflected on the number of years and the wonderful work that he has done for the congregation over the years. The deacons will send a card thanking Mel for all his dedication and years of service.

Parsonage Report: There will be an informational meeting at East given by Randy Robinson and at West given by Greg Brandt Oct. 18 on three options for the parsonage.

There will be a congregational vote November 1. *As per the Bylaws, members who have taken communion and contributed to the church during this calendar year are eligible to vote*. It was decided to send out a post card to all East Members telling them of the vote and the Eligibility requirements. Pastor's Retirement Celebration will also be on the card. Gary will get the addresses printed out, Jane Williams will put the post cards together and mail them.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Randy Robinson and seconded by Gary Kearns. The meeting ended with The Lord's Prayer.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday NOVEMBER 2 at 6:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Jane Williams, subbing for Jen Briske

West St. Olaf Council Meeting Minutes September 1, 2026

Attendance (P = Present)

Pastor Paul	P	Deb Schuck	P	Ben Horejsi	P		
Greg Brandt	P	Sheryl Wohlers	P	Clay Hazelmann			
Dave Peterson	P	Mary Brandt		Hans Estby	P		
Cindy Stoppel	P	Sue Hyland	P	Chad Thompson	P		
Jenny Twaddle	P	Carma Bjornson		Del Senjem	P		

Meeting called to order by Greg Brandt.

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

Pastor's Report: To be reviewed at joint meeting.

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

Financial Secretary: Report reviewed and discussed. Motion made to approve by Sue and seconded by Chad, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Report reviewed and discussed. Motion made to approve by Cindy and seconded by Deb, motion carried.

Boad of Education Report: Nothing to report.

Deacon's Report: Cards sent: Thinking of you to Carma Bjornson, Dudley Davis, and Judy Jones.

Plans are being made for the congregational dinner Sunday September 20th at 11:00 to celebrate rally day & new member.

WELCA completed a successful school kit mission. Thank you to those that donated school items, sewed backpacks, and deliver to Lutheran World Relief.

New quilting session begins next week. Wednesday September 9 Pastor Paul will lead us in Bible study at 1:00pm.

Plans are being made for the annual Fall Bazaar on October 24 from 9-11:30. Come for brunch, crafts, quilts, baking, and join the fun.

November 8th will be an appreciation dinner at West for Pastor & Jana. More details to follow.

Thank you Sue for being August deacon and thank you to all volunteers that served coffee in August.

Trustees Report: No updates.

Old Business: LP contract was completed.

New Business: Chad made a motion to remove the financial & treasurer's reports from the monthly newsletter and seconded by Dave, motion carried.

The date to decorate the church for Christmas was se for November 22 after service.

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

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

Next Meeting: Next meeting will be Monday, October 12th at 7 pm.

West St. Olaf Council Adhoc Meeting Minutes: October 18, 2026

Attendance (P = Present)

Pastor Paul		Deb Schuck	P	Ben Horejsi			
Greg Brandt	P	Sheryl Wohlers	P	Clay Hazelmann			
Dave Peterson	P	Mary Brandt		Hans Estby			
Cindy Stoppel	P	Sue Hyland		Chad Thompson			
Jenny Twaddle		Carma Bjornson	P	Del Senjem	P		

Meeting called to order by Greg Brandt.

Greg checked into the questions raised at Monday's council meeting. Greg presented the revised interim pastor contract and additional discussion occurred. Dave made a motion to accept the revised pastor contract as outlined, Sheryl seconded and motion carried.

Motion to adjourn made by Carma and seconded by Cindy, motion carried.
Submitted by: Cindy Stoppel, West St. Olaf council secretary.

West St. Olaf Congregational Meeting – Parsonage Information

President Greg Brandt opened the meeting.

A handout titled "Parsonage informational meeting 10.18.2026" was handed out to attendees. Greg explained the distribution of duties, that he took responsibility for the interim Pastor work and East President Randy Robinson taking on the parsonage. He described that both he and Randy presented this information following East's service and Randy did a good job. Greg allowed Randy to review the information on the handout.

He began by stating the churches struggling financial situations brought up the question of the parsonage and the related expenses. Page 2 of the handout is a summary of the parsonage expenses. He went on to say the point of the meeting is to inform the congregation of the councils' proposal and drive conversations with the congregation. The councils are looking for direction from the congregations on how to move forward. The first step is to have the vote and no matter what the outcome will be, there is a process that will follow and take time to complete.

The three options the council voted to bring forth are:

1 – Tear parsonage down and create a usable green space or park area
- The most cost-effective way is to use an excavator which would cost about $31,000. There is currently about $19,000 in the parsonage account. This amount with spring rent and donations from church members it may be covered.

2 – Selling parsonage
- Based on a realtor appraisal it would be listed at about $325,000 depending on the final number of acres after splitting the land into parcels. This option gives the churches the largest financial benefit.
- Establishing parcels needs to be approved with the township and needs to consider the Log cabin as a separate parcel. There will be survey expenses with this work.

- This option means giving up some control with access and use of property as well as the selection of neighbors.

3 – Status quo and do nothing

- Would need to winterize the building by draining the boiler system and shut off heat and water. This would reduce the expense, but insurance would still need to be carried.

A reminder that an in-person vote will be held on November 1. He explained the voting requirements, per constitution, you need to have received communion and made a financial donation prior to or on the day of the vote (see bylaw listed in ad for voting meeting).

Randy opened for questions from the congregation.

Nancy Thoreson shared information she learned about. Related to option 2, there is such a thing as a pocket sale. This is a private method the realtor can use to approach and find interested parties. Related to option 3, she shared about potential funding opportunities for restoration or check with trade schools to see if the parsonage could be used for training of electricians. There may be other options available to help with future restoration of the building.

The question "If put on the market will there be a time limit for the sale"? Randy responded that is uncertain and had not been discussed yet, but the joint council will need to consider this when decisions are made, if this option is the outcome.

Norm Senjem requested to amend the wording of the options. Randy & Greg explained this is not an option as this is what the council approved. Norm also shared that he had a building inspection done last summer and the result is the building is structurally sound with no sagging issues. Greg has this report and is willing to share it with any member that would like to see it.

A question/comment about the "green space" for outdoor events. There would be no kitchen facilities or a lack of bathrooms and that seems like an issue for having events held there. Also, how would this affect the liability part of the insurance. Randy explained that different ideas have come forward but the council will have to make those decisions if this is the option that passed.

The question "If sold are there any designations for the funds (i.e special projects). Greg answered that this has not been thought about yet. Possibly the money could be put it into an endowment fund for future access.

It was pointed out that the options are to be considered high level and then further work can be addressed following the vote and will be based on the chosen option.

Is the heritage association interested in having the parsonage as a project? Response – it is possible but would need to be invited by the churches for involvement. A proposal or agreement would need to be established between the churches and the Heritage Association.

The question "Will the next pastor want to use the parsonage?" Greg responded that based on conversations with Pastor Streed from the Synod and past experience, this is very unlikely. No further questions or comments were raised and the meeting was closed.

Submitted by: Cindy Stoppel West St. Olaf Secretary

East & West St. Olaf
Lutheran ELCA
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Byron, MN 55920

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Office: 507-365-8222 Secretary:
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HAPPENINGS

