

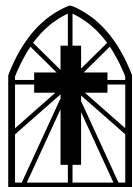


May 2024 HAPPENINGS

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



May Worship Schedule

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

10:00 am: BOTH have JAM at West church (*last day is May 19*)

11:00 am: EAST 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,



John Seligman’s book *Authentic Happiness* describes lawyers as having the best-paid careers in the U.S., but they are also the least happy of any profession. Going by how they speak of themselves, lawyers say they are unhappy with their jobs, depressed, and have higher rates of alcoholism, drug abuse and marital breakdown. Pessimism is one of their main problems. In almost every other career, the more optimistic you are the more you achieve. But law needs lawyers to be pessimistic. They need to foresee the worst possible outcomes, and make preparations for that possibility. When you are pessimistic all the time, happiness gets buried in unhappiness.

The Church is in the happiest of seasons, Easter. The resurrection of Jesus turns all our fears, all our angers, and all our frustrations inside out. God has won! God has already conquered the worst that the world has to dish out. Christmas is a happy time as we celebrate that God is here among us. Easter is a happy time as we see the result of Jesus being among us: good has come out above evil. God's good will eventually comes out on top.

Our calling is to announce the happiness God brings into the world in the midst of the unhappiness we create. Crime, war, and death dominate the evening news. Love, peace, and joy dominate the message of scripture. No matter what troubles God’s people have faced, drought, famine, war, domination, what have you, God’s presence with them has meant life and hope. Even in the darkest hour, God has brought and continues to bring life.

In the joy of God’s presence,
Pastor Paul Thompson

Membership Updates, WELCA News and More

MEMBERSHIP INFO

No updates at this time.

MAY EVENTS AT EAST

- 7 10:00 Quilting/Sack Lunch
6:00PM Council Meeting at East
- 11 10:00 WELCA Meeting
- 12 Mother's Day Dinner after church
- 14 10:00 Quilting/Sack Lunch
- 19 Graduation Recognition after church
- 21 10:00 Quilting/Sack Lunch
- 26 Holy Trinity Sunday
- 28 10:00 Quilting/Sack Lunch

WEST WELCA NEWS

Welcome spring! Another busy season is upon us with planting fields, gardens, flowers, yard work and graduation parties. We are thankful if we are blessed to be able to do this spring work. We know our creator is at work when we see everything come back to life again.

Thank you to all who have served this past month. Mary Brandt and Nancy Peterson planned a graduation recognition coffee for our 5 graduates; Joey Arett, Adam Glynn, Nic Larsen, Landon Steinfeldt, and Greer Tiegen. Jane and Sheryl served on altar guild. **Our May chairpersons** are Margaret S. and Cindy S.; **May altar guild servers** are Mary B. and Sandy I. Thank you to Pastor Paul for leading us in our new Bible study.

Several of us enjoyed going to St. John's in Kasson for the Zumbro River spring conference. We enjoyed a good meal and fellowship. Our interesting guest speaker was Molly Fifield from The Landing, a homeless shelter in Rochester. Nancy P. applied for a Thrivent Action Team funds for this mission to help purchase supplies. Thank you to all who donated much needed supplies for this worthy cause.

Our next WELCA meeting is on May 8 at 1 PM. Our hostess is Katie Masching and bible study leader is to be

determined. Other May events are SE MN Synod Assembly in Mankato on May 11. **Memorial Day is May 27 with Sharon G. as chairperson – the Hayfield Legion will be at West at 8:15 am, to do a Memorial Day service (and we will serve coffee and goodies this year).** Sheryl will apply for Thrivent Action Team funds and donations will be given to the Hayfield American Legion for ongoing projects.

Happy Mother's Day!
Sharon and Nancy



WEST ST. OLAF Cemetery Care

Donations to West Cemetery Care Fund are greatly appreciated, as it takes a lot to maintain our beautiful burial grounds.

We've included an envelope addressed to Gene Gulbransen (stapled to this page), if you wish to make a donation. Please note "cemetery fund" on the memo line of your check and mail it to Gene. Thank you!

West St. Olaf Cemetery Perpetual Care Committee



SERVING SCHEDULES

MAY at WEST

Ushers: Pete D. organizes volunteers
Deacon: Sheryl Wohlers
Altar Guild: Mary Brandt & Sandy Iverson
Stewardship:
 1st Sun. – Luth. League
 2nd Sun. – Board of Ed.
 3rd Sun. – WELCA
 4th Sun. – Council
 5th Sun. – Council

=====

MAY at EAST

Acolytes: Ushers fill-in
Altar Guild: Darlene Myhre & Sonya Mansfield
Deacon: Lori Peterson

Typical Weekly Servers for East Coffee & Fellowship:

- 1st Sunday — Sarah Circle
- 2nd Sunday — Quilting Sisters
- 3rd Sunday — OPEN, contact Marilyn to volunteer
- 4th Sunday — Circle 4
- 5^h 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

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 7:00 pm BOTH at West: Confirmation (memory work) 7:30 pm Deadline for bulletin info	2 <i>National Day of Prayer</i> 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	3 <u>Pastor: day-off</u>	4
5  9:00 am WEST Worship/Comm 10:00 am Both have JAM at West Coffee at West 11:00 am EAST Worship/Comm Coffee after church	6	7 10:00 am East Quilting/sack lunch  6:00 pm East Council meeting	8 1:00 pm WEST WELCA meeting Host- Katie M. Study-TBD 7:00 pm BOTH at West: Confirmation (memory work) 7:30 pm Deadline for bulletin info	9 9:00am-Noon Pastor office, then at 10am Kasson Ministerial Mtg.	10 <u>Pastor: day-off</u>	11 SEM N SYNOD ASSEMBLY at Mankato Mayo Event Center (9am-5:30 pm) 10:00 am East WELCA meeting in the church basement.
12 9:00 am WEST Worship 10:00 am Both have JAM at West Coffee at West 11:00 am EAST Worship EAST Mother's Day Dinner after church	13 9:00am-Noon Pastor office  7:00 pm West Council meeting	14 10:00 am East Quilting/sack lunch	15 7:30 pm Deadline for bulletin info	16 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	17 <u>Pastor: day-off</u>	18
19 9:00 am WEST Worship 10:00 am LAST day of JAM classes Coffee at West 11:00 am  EAST Worship After church: EAST Graduate Recognition Coffee (all are welcome)	20 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	21 10:00 am East Quilting/sack lunch NOON: DEADLINE to submit info for next newsletter	22 7:30 pm Deadline for bulletin info	23 9:00am-Noon Pastor office	24 <u>Pastor day-off</u>	25
26  9:00 am WEST Worship/Comm 10:00 am Coffee at West 11:00 am EAST Worship/Comm Coffee after church	27 OFFICE CLOSED for Memorial Day 8:15 am WEST has a Memorial Day service by Hayfield Legion [We will serve coffee & goodies this year.]	28 10:00 am East Quilting/sack lunch	29 7:30 pm Deadline for bulletin info	30 NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEER DAY 9:10 print 9:30 fold 9:45 collate/tape	31	

East St. Olaf WELCA Update



Women of East Meeting Minutes April 13, 2024: Amy and Rosie called the meeting to order. Jane provided devotions. The updated WELCA booklet with upcoming events and dates have been sent out to East Members. If you did not receive one, it may be because we have a couple that were returned with the wrong address on them. *Please contact Jane Williams (507-271-2272) and request one. You can talk, text, or leave a message.* Mother's Day Dinner will be served by the Men's Club on Sunday, May 12. Scalloped potatoes and Ham Dinner. All in East are welcome. The church-wide garage sale will take place July 18 (set up) 19, and 20. This coincides with Good Neighbor Days in Byron. The Holiday Palooza will take place on Dec. 7. *If you are interested, please mark your calendars and sign up for a table to sell your wares! All vendors are invited.* The possibility of a Lutefisk Dinner is being discussed. Many options are on the table, and finding help to support the effort is the first item to tackle. East St Olaf is known for the Lutefisk Dinner, and many people have been asking about it. Other churches have found ways to provide dinners like this on a smaller scale. Our group is looking towards the future, and trying to honor the past. The future of East St. Olaf is in God's power and our hands. Please consider lending a hand in any endeavor that you feel a call to do. Everyone is extremely important in our congregation.

East St. Olaf Food Drive: The Need to Feed over Summer Break!

Summer Food for Kids



During the month of May, we will be collecting food donations and money donations for the local food shelf. *Summer is coming and free school lunches disappear during June, July, and August. East St Olaf is concentrating on collecting food that is easy for children to fix.* Financial donations are also accepted, as the food shelf has extra buying power (more than our individual buying power). Please stop by the church narthex and drop off donations. Lock Box available... or mail donations to: East St. Olaf Food Donations 6200 CR#3 Byron, MN 55920 (please write "Kid's Food" on the memo line of your check).



East St. Olaf Mother's Day Dinner: May 12

Join us for worship on Sunday, May 12 at 11:00 AM, then stay for the Mother's Day Dinner at noon. We will be serving Scalloped Potatoes and Ham, along with lettuce salad, veggies, fruit, and dessert. All women who have ever supported a child along life's journey are welcome. The Men's Club will be serving this day, as they should (GRIN).

Isaiah 66:13 "As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you."

DATE to Save: June 23 for Father's Day brunch—women serving, as they should (GRIN).



Reception to Honor High School Graduates: May 19

Join us after church on Sunday, May 19 for a reception to honor our 2024 high school graduates. All East church family is welcome.



East St. Olaf Congregation-Wide Garage "Treasure" Sale: July 19-20

Save up your treasures, or when you are Spring Cleaning, think of this sale! *Currently we are looking to use the Salem Town Hall during the Byron Good Neighbor Days weekend. There will be two rooms. One room will be items donated to the church. Whatever we sell them for, the church keeps.* At the end of the sale, if these items do not sell, you can pick them up or we can donate them to Goodwill. The other room will be consignment. There will be a 25% consignment fee, but the other 75% will be yours. At the end of the sale, you pick your unsold items back up. All items are welcome. Clothing, furniture, home décor, crafts, farm items. If you are planning to sell a large item, please contact Jane Williams before June 15 so we can get that listed in our advertisement. *If any questions, call Marilyn Carlson.*

Creation Story: Genesis May St. Olaf Kid's Corner

Creation



Free Bible Story
Printables from
www.BibleStoryPrintables.com



And God said,
"Let there be light,"
and there was light.



And God said,
"Let there be an
expanse between the
waters to separate
water from water."



And God said,
"Let the water under
the sky be gathered
to one place, and
let dry ground appear."
(...) Let the land
produce vegetation (...)



And God said,
"Let there be lights in
the expanse of the sky
(...) God made two
great lights—the
greater light to govern
the day and the lesser
light to govern the night.
He also made the stars.



And God said,
"Let the water teem with
living creatures, and let
birds fly above the
earth across the
expanse of the sky."

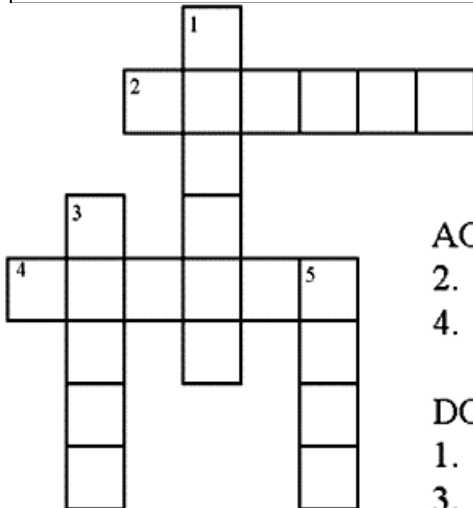


And God said,
"Let the land produce
living creatures
according to their kinds
(...) Then God said,
"Let us make man
in our image,



God saw all that he
had made, and it was
very good. And there
was evening, and
there was morning
—the sixth day.

Creation Crossword



ACROSS

2. On the _____ day God made the sky.
4. God separated the _____ from the sky.

DOWN

1. He called the sky _____
3. He called the land _____
5. He called the waters _____

Bible Verse

*"In the beginning
God created the
heavens and the
earth."*

Genesis 1:1



Thank You Notes:



A Special Thank You to Greg Brandt (of West), Pete Exe, Kurt and Triston Koehler, Gary Kearns, Randy and Trace Robinson, Dave Schwarz, and Dan and Zach Williams for installing the TVs and connecting cables for the sanctuary. Please come and check out the screens! Also thank you to the WELCA ladies who put on a potluck lunch for the installers. Funding for the visual projection project was given by WELCA, and the audio update was funded by the Andreason donation. Blessings to all who contributed to this upgrade to enhance our worship experience at East St Olaf.

Dear East St Olaf, Thank you so much for hosting the Pizza Bingo Night. We had so much fun, and the pizza was tasty! The prizes were fantastic! Everyone had fun decorating cookies and playing the games. I hope this event continues. I appreciated seeing East and West members together. ~ *A Grateful Member* ~

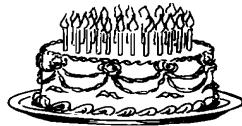
Dear East Members, Thank you for your visits and your cards while I was in the hospital. It certainly brightens up the spirits. Your thoughtfulness gives me strength. God Bless you all! ~ *Orillie Iverson* ~

Dear East St. Olaf Quilting Sisters, Thank you for making such beautiful blankets for us. We really appreciate your partnership in this community project. When Olmsted County received the material, we wanted to see it "come alive" and go back into the community – which you have made happen. Thank you for sharing your skills, sewing and the love you put into this project. ~ *Olmsted County Volunteer Services* ~

May Birthdays: East

- 2 Janet Anderson
- 3 Greg Moore
- 4 Alysia Rud
- 7 Carl Yngsdal
- 8 Nickoli Schneckloth
- 13 Deb DeCook
- 13 Hunter Rud
- 13 Owen Pyfferoen
- 16 Diane Boysen
- 19 Grace Senjem
- 20 Karen Yngsdal
- 20 Lori Peterson
- 22 Heidi Herness

Happy Birthday!



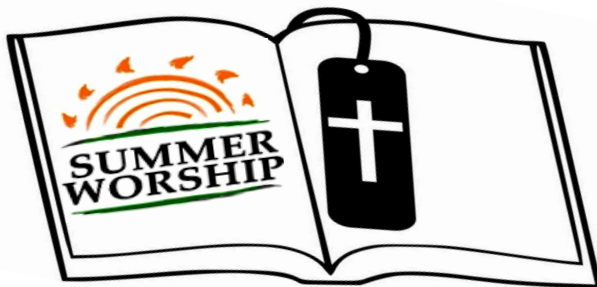
- 24 Nicole Moore
- 24 Shelby Jorgenson
- 25 Dale Boelter, Jr.
- 27 Carol Anderson
- 29 Payton Koehler
- 30 Sandra Nelson
- 31 Jaedyn Quinn

May Birthdays: West

- 3 Amber Haley
- 3 Paige Johnson
- 4 Susan Hyland
- 8 Cooper Beyer
- 11 Virginia Hyland
- 12 Myranda Martin
- 13 Roxann Weinmann
- 14 Brian Daleske
- 14 Scott Morris
- 14 Camryn Dahle
- 16 Patrick Boyum
- 16 Felix Laxen
- 17 Corey Morris
- 17 Daryn McGowan

- 18 Erika Smith
- 18 Alexis Glynn
- 20 Beth Connelly
- 21 Rosalie Steele
- 23 Nancy Danielson
- 24 Cathy Hovda
- 24 Kaitlyn Borland
- 25 Jacob Iverson
- 27 Olivia Larson
- 27 Alexander Phenix
- 27 Bradley Schuck
- 28 Dale Roe
- 28 William Bamlet
- 29 Lori Aasen
- 30 Daniel West
- 31 Russel Skov

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! JOINT SUMMER HAPPENINGS!



Plus, dates to save for "Taste of Norway" & Vacation Bible School

JUNE 2024

Regular services: East 8:30 am, West 10:00 am
JOINT SERVICE June 16 at EAST at 10:00am

JULY 2024

Regular services: West 8:30 am, East 10:00 am
JOINT SERVICE July 21 at WEST at 10:00am

AUGUST 2024

Regular services: East 8:30 am, West 10:00 am
 "Taste of Norway" August 11 at East church (2-4pm)

JOINT SERVICE August 18 at EAST at 10:00am

VBS August 24 & 25—Will be held at EAST and the theme will be Jonah & the Whale

EAST: SPECIAL MAY EVENTS:

Sun., May 12: Mother's Day dinner after the church service—all are invited.

Sun., May 19: We will have Graduate Recognition with a reception after church—all are invited.

EAST Offerings/Contributions:

(March 28, 29, & 31 of 2024) Current \$2,025. Benevolence \$2,056.

(04/07/24) Current \$ \$1,907.

(04/14/2024) Current \$1,116.

(04/21/2024 and 04/28/2024) Current \$1,528.

EAST St. Olaf Council Minutes: April 2, 2024

Call to Order: Bruce Peterson at 6:00 pm

Members Present: Bruce Peterson, Lori Peterson, Pastor Paul Thompson, Randy Robinson, Mary Madsen, Bryan DeCook, Danny Zieman, Tara Stewart.

Devotions: Pastor Paul read Psalm 147 and gave opening prayer.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Paul returned 3/31/24 from medical leave. Nothing to report.

Secretary's Report: Reviewed and approved.

Financial Secretary's Report: 4 months reviewed, December 2023 through March 2024. All reports reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed and approved.

Deacon's Report: There will be a Pizza and Bingo night on April 14th at East St. Olaf.

Trustee's Report: Nothing to report.

Old Business: Synod assembly donation of \$100 will be sent with attending members.

Communion cards located in pews will be discontinued in favor of a communion book that communing members will sign once each year. Lori will purchase the book.

New Business: East St. Olaf Senior recognition Sunday will be held on May 19th with a reception to follow church service.

Pastor Paul stated that some confirmands are behind on sermon notes. Pastor Paul has set aside time for these confirmands to catch up. He also mentioned that there are some of his past sermons on You Tube from Covid era that can also be used to take sermon notes.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

Next council meeting: Tuesday, May 7th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Tara Stewart

WEST St. Olaf Council Minutes: April 8, 2024

Attendance (P = Present)

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

May 27: WEST Memorial Day service by the Hayfield Legion at 8:15 am at West St. Olaf. We will also serve coffee and goodies this year.

Meeting called to order by Will Laxen. Devotion lead by Pastor.

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

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

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

Pastors Report: Thank you to everyone for all your support over the last months. Confirmation classes are going well. Currently, no one has volunteered to attend the Synod assembly (5/11) in Mankato. If interested registration needs to be turned in by April 15.

Boad of Education Report: Palm Sunday singing went well. May 19 will be the last day of Sunday School. VBS will be Sat/Sun August 24-25, 2024, at EAST. The theme is Jonah and the Whale. BOE asked to trade serving for coffee hour from 8/11 to 8/25 and the council agreed to switch Sundays.

Deacon's Report: Cards sent to Ralph Kylo for Birthday and Sharon Gulbransen due to hospitalization. Easter Sunday was extra special having both Pastor Paul and Pat with us! A question raised, should we send a Thank You to the Synod office to show our appreciation for sending pastor coverage during the Lenten season? Rev. Joe Smith, Rev and Mrs. Rushton, Kathy Chatelaine, & Rev. Matt Larson – Council agreed, Will plans to send the thank you. Thank You to BOE and Luther League for serving Lenten suppers. Thank You to Gina for extra work and help during the Pastor's medical leave. Thank You JAM students for singing Palm Sunday and Luther League for organizing Easter Egg Hunt. Need volunteers from council to serve coffee Sunday April 28th – Sandy and Mary plan to serve. Thank you to all that cleaned the church grounds! Recognition of graduating seniors is scheduled for April 21st Bibles will be given at the 11am church service.

Trustees Report: Shingles are missing on both the church and chapel roofs. Information about new shingle products was reviewed. Requesting the insurance company to come out and look at the damage again. Chapel upstairs bathroom towel dispenser has been removed with holes needing repair. A picture has been hung to cover for now.

Old Business: Gina upcoming vacation from 6/6-7/1, returning on 7/2. Clarey's came and checked the fire extinguishers and updated them. During that visit, the Clarey employee suggested putting an AED in the church.

New Business: None

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: May 13, 2024, at 7pm

May 27: WEST Memorial Day service by the Hayfield Legion at 8:15 am at West St. Olaf. We will also serve coffee and goodies this year.

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

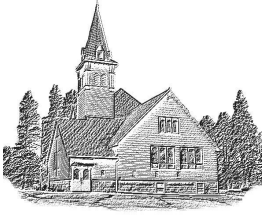
Church Office Hours: 9:00 am - Noon

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



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