

St. Pauli News in Detail



Greeting and Ushering

Dec. 2	Craig Torkelson
Dec. 9	Jodie Torkelson
Dec. 16	Wallace Torkelson
Dec. 23	Chad Torstveit
Dec. 30	Val Torstveit

Sunday Service:

- Light altar candles before service and put out flames after church.
- Act as Greeters and hand out bulletins.
- Usher for offering and communion.
- Tidy up pews after church to make it ready for the next Sunday's services.

Altar Preparation: Virginia Anderson
(Dec. 2nd and 16th)

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December Milestones



Birthdays

Dec. 23	Jim Strandlie
Dec. 29	Neil Bugge

Anniversaries

None in December

(If we don't list your birthday or anniversary, it's because we don't have it. Email or call Faye.)



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

5:00 pm

Bell Ringing

4:30 pm



*Come, Worship and Adore Him,
Christ the King!*

* * * * *

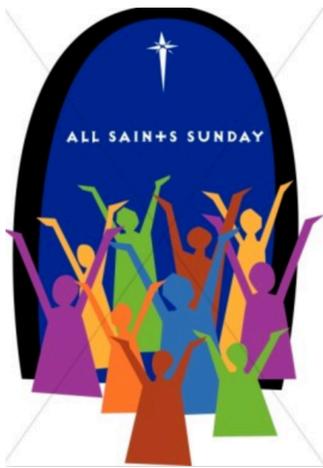
E-mail Addresses Needed for 2013 Church Handbook

Please share your e-mail address with Jan Strandlie so that she can list it in the 2013 church handbook.

It is so nice to be able to notify people via e-mail for announcements and other important communications.

Please e-mail Jan at:
janstrandlie@mncable.net

St. Pauli Cemetery Association Endowment Fund



In November, we wrote about beginning a tradition this year of making donations each All Saints Sunday to the St. Paul Cemetery Association endowment fund as a way of thinking of, honoring, and giving thanks for as many Christians from the past as we can remember, especially those whose lives and teaching

contributed something to ours.

Several people made contributions toward our endowment fund (see listing below). One of the best analogies for the value of an endowment appeared in the Northwest Minnesota Foundation's 2012 *Special Giving Edition*. The following is an adaptation of this article written by Caryl Turnow.

Apple trees have the longest life span of any fruit tree, averaging 80 years. There are published reports of apples still being produced from a 206-year-old tree in Dorset, England and another in Vancouver, Canada that has stood since 1809.

An endowment gift can be compared to giving an apple tree versus giving apples.

Giving apples each year is great! But who will provide those apples when you are no longer able? By giving an apple tree, the yearly gift is produced with little effort on your part. It means that every year there is a harvest of apples that may be used in a wide variety of ways – apples baked in a pie, apples pureed into butter or squeezed into cider, or just wonderful fresh apples to enjoy eating with a side of peanut butter.

Making a cemetery endowment gift is a new concept for many. An endowment gift is never spent, but is permanently invested. Only the earnings are used year after year.

An endowment is like the tree. Once established, it will provide a harvest of earnings that can provide

for the care of St. Pauli Cemetery in perpetuity. As the fund grows, just like the tree, it produces more and more – all from your initial investment. An endowment gift over the years will double, triple, and quadruple the value of the initial gift and still keep giving.

Is the principal gift ever spent? No, an endowment is considered permanent. Donors give endowment gifts intending it to do good work, forever. Spending the principal would prevent us from meeting that mission. It would be like cutting down the apple tree to use the wood for making a table. You would have the table, but would lose the annual benefit of the harvest.

Giving apples will always be important for the immediate needs of the church, but it is equally important to consider long-term gifts. So please think about following Johnny Appleseed's lead and plant an apple tree of your own, through a gift to the St. Pauli Cemetery Association's endowment fund.

Your gift will continue long after you are gone.

2012 Endowment Gifts

- Faye Auchenpaugh in memory of great-grandparents Ole and Ingrid Viken
- Sharon Bergerson in memory of husband Rod Bergerson and grandson Chris Bergerson
- Ken and Cindy Cedergren
- Bruce and Shelley Mathson in memory of Shelley's mother Delores Torkelson
- Skip Swanson
- Jodie Torkelson in memory of her mother Delores Torkelson and grandparents Adolph and Harda Hagen

Total: \$1,395.00

Minutes of the Church Council

October 18, 2012

The St. Pauli Church Council held its monthly meeting on Thursday, October 18, 2012 at St. Pauli Church. Members present: Sharon Bergerson, Arlo Rude, Wahna Smith, Skip Swanson, Jodie Torkelson and Pastor Carl Hansen. The meeting was called to order by Council President Rude at 7:00 pm.

Pastor Hansen opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Agenda

Swanson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Smith seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Secretary's Report

The Minutes for the September 20th meeting were presented and reviewed.

Swanson made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented. Bergerson seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The Minutes will be printed in the next monthly newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report for September 2012 was distributed and reviewed.

Expenditures: \$5,240.53

(includes steeple/basement expenses)

Income: \$3,713.80

Checking account balance: \$24,095.31

Savings account balance: \$20,386.64

Edward Jones balance: \$33,719.10

Memorial Fund balance: \$19,728.80

(includes \$1,000 memorial in memory of Marie Iverson from her family)

Total: \$97,929.85

Cemetery Association balance: \$3,514.93

(includes a \$100 contribution from Bruce Mathson)

The council was also presented with a summary of expenses for the steeple, basement and rain gutter projects to-date:

Steeple \$ 1,384.08

Basement \$ 2,584.38

Rain Gutters \$ 854.14

It should be noted that vast numbers of hours of labor have been donated to these projects.

Torkelson made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report for September. Swanson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Hansen reminded everyone of the upcoming Synod Fall Stewardship Event at Zion October 21st. Those from our congregation who will be attending are Arlo Rude, David Lee, Skip Swanson, Wahna Smith and Pastor Hansen.

There will be a Congregational Leadership Academy on evangelism, stewardship and worship. If members of the congregation are interested in any training, they should talk to Pastor Hansen for further information. Rude will also have copies of the materials available in the back of the church.

Pastor Hansen informed the council that St. Pauli has been taken off of the "congregations in call" list for the NW Synod. This was good news as it indicates that the Bishop has given approval for Pastor Hansen to continue as the interim Pastor at St. Pauli indefinitely. We will continue to approve 3-month extensions of his contract to allow either party the flexibility to terminate with reasonable notice should circumstances change.

Pastor Hansen shared the good news of his son's upcoming marriage in Texas after the Christmas holiday. He and Pastor Mary will travel there for the nuptials and we will get pulpit supply for those worship services.

Reports

Members in Sickness or Distress – Pastor Hansen provided communion at the Clayton Mathson home. Clayton continues to be in our thoughts and prayers. There were no other reports of members in sickness or distress.

WELCA – Cleaning for the fall church supper starts next Wednesday. Rude showed the council the steel shelving he purchased to be used for pies.

Sunday School/Board of Education – Sunday School seems to be doing well. A schedule of the lessons that will be taught was distributed to all the teachers and will be distributed to the parents as well. The council expressed thanks for those willing to serve as teachers this year.

Old Business

Renovations - Rude said he would start to put the trim on the steeple before the fall supper but no further activity will be done on the steeple until the spring. Except for the carpeting, the basement will be

done in time for the church supper. Three cheers from the council to those who worked so hard on this project that was led by Arlo Rude.

ELCA Disaster Response: individual members donated \$475. With the equal match from the church, a check for \$950 will be sent to the ELCA.

New Business

2013 Budget – The Council agreed to start the budget process at the November meeting. The congregation will be encouraged to submit suggestions for any proposed expenses.

Compliance with Food Handling Regulations – More than 20 people from St. Pauli attended the safe food handling training last month. We will serve this year's fall supper cafeteria style.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jodie Torkelson, Church Council Secretary

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Historic Minutes of the St. Pauli Congregation

11 January 1902

St. Pauli Scandinavian Lutheran congregation held its 8th annual meeting in Braaten's schoolhouse on January 11th 1902. [Note: the church has changed from a Norwegian Lutheran congregation to a Scandinavian Lutheran congregation.]

The meeting was opened by the chairman I. T. Aastad with reading from the Scriptures, prayer and hymn song after which the chairman declared the meeting opened.

The Secretary's report from the last annual meeting was thereafter read by the Secretary and also two special reports. These were put together into one, after which they were all unanimously accepted without changes.

After this the treasurer read his report, which was also unanimously accepted without changes.

Then the secretary for the building committee of the congregation read the last reports of the records of the building committee that showed what actions had been taken to build the church, and also informed about the financial status which was shown to be good. Thereafter it was unanimously accepted without changes.

Then the meeting proceeded to discuss the incorporation of the congregation and it was decided that the chairman should read the incorporation form which he had brought. This was done after which it was proposed to accept the incorporation articles one at a time. It was unanimously accepted after the articles of incorporation had been read and accepted one at a time. It was proposed and supported to accept the same as a whole, which was unanimously done.

These articles of incorporation say among other things that a trustee shall be elected within the congregation for a certain time, and that the congregation shall hold its annual meeting in December every year. After this officials were elected.

Members of Corporation:

I. T. Aastad, president

Trustee, member of Incorporation, 1904:

Andrew A. Odegaard, Vice President

Trustee, member of Incorporation, 1905:

Halvor J. Hostvet

Trustee, member of Incorporation, 1903:

Pete Nilson

This was unanimously accepted.

Proposed and supported to elect Ole Pederson as member of and chairman for the building committee instead of Hans Fredrickson who has resigned.

Unanimously accepted.

Proposed and supported to elect a religion school committee of three men. As members were elected Halvor Torstvet, Hans Fredrickson, Ole Pederson.

A. Odegaard and J. Amundson were elected to be Sunday school teachers.

Proposed and supported to settle for a sum of ca. sixty dollars as the pastor's salary for the year 1902. Unanimously accepted.

Proposed and supported that St. Pauli congregation will help to form a group for arranging district meetings. Unanimously accepted. Delegates were elected: Ole Pederson, J. Amundson. After which the meeting was ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Jacob Amundson, secretary

Fall Supper 2012 Summary

Number Served:	350 (including 43 take-outs)
Income:	\$ 3,547.00
Expenses:	\$ 1,074.18
Net Profit:	\$ 2,472.82

Profuse thanks to everyone for their hard work, especially the co-chairs Shirley Johnson and Jan Strandlie. Following the mandatory Minnesota food handling training that was attended by over a dozen church members, changes were made in how the food was served. Instead of serving the dishes "family style," we did a trial run and dished up the plates "buffet style." Another St. Pauli "wing-it" event.

At the November WELCA meeting, the men were asked to join the ladies following their business meeting to discuss what could be improved upon for next year and seven men showed up! Suggestions made were mostly related to logistics and methods, including added safety and added electrical wiring to make it easier and more efficient for our wonderful staff of volunteer workers.

Kevin Reich of Red Lake Electric had called President Arlo Rude to ask if he could take some pictures at the Fall Supper. Next year is the 75th Anniversary of the Cooperative and they want pictures of a couple of churches in their service area for an anniversary publication. They think St. Pauli will be a good choice for this anniversary issue, so Arlo instructed all of the church volunteers to "smile for the camera."

WELCA did their annual charity designations at the November meeting using the proceeds of the Fall Supper. The gifts were:

- Northland Rescue Mission in Grand Forks \$200
- Haiti Medical Missions \$200
- Salvation Army of Thief River Falls \$350
- ELCA Youth Scholarship to a church college \$250
- ELCA Good Gifts -- \$250 for a village well, sponsoring school for a girl \$40, bought an alpaca \$175 and a goat \$50

Total \$1,515.00

With all of the expenses involved with the church basement remodeling, the WELCA ladies voted to not give more than that right now, but determined that they will give more later after the bills are all paid.

Giving away the proceeds from all of the hard work that is done at the Fall Supper may, at first glance, seem strange. But one of the reasons God calls us to give *sacrificially* is that it strengthens our faith and helps us grow spiritually. We don't do the fall supper just as a fundraiser for our church, but as a way of not only providing fellowship and GREAT food to the community but of giving back to our community and the larger world. In addition, if we merely give out of our excess, we don't give God the opportunity to prove his faithfulness. That is like lifting a very light weight. It won't strengthen your muscles. When we give sacrificially, when we give to the point of it hurting a bit, we exercise our faith and we learn to trust in God by giving him a chance to prove himself trustworthy.

This is at the heart of the whole stewardship conversation: the issue of trust. Every piece of money minted in this country has the same four words printed on it: "In God we trust." That may very well be the biggest lie in America. If we are honest, we will admit that most of us put a lot more trust in the security of money than we do in the security of God's promises. There is a word for that: it is called *idolatry*. Money is probably the greatest idol in our culture. And nothing breaks the spell of material idolatry like proportionate, sacrificial stewardship.

While we may pat ourselves on the back for making these generous annual donations, our giving is not done for God's benefit nor is it for the church's benefit. Genuine giving benefits each of *us*. It strengthens our faith and protects us from idolatry. And generous giving never seems to make us poor.

Historic Minutes of the St. Pauli Luther League

The St. Pauli Luther League met on April 27, 1952 at the church.

Following baptism, the meeting was opened by president Fern Mathson. Two hymns were sung: "I Need Thee Every Hour" and the Luther League hymn, "Jesus Shall Reign Where E'er the Sun."

A playlet was given entitled "Luther League Clinic."

Another hymn was sung. A reading "Mother's Day" was given by Marjorie Lokken.

The program closed with a hymn and the Lord's Prayer.

The business meeting was opened with Fern Mathson reading the Luther League Constitution and the by-laws. A motion was made and seconded that they all be accepted.

A motion was made and seconded that we send a delegate to the District Luther League Conference in Duluth on May 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Fern Mathson was elected and Melba Gustafson as alternate. However, since neither of the girls could go, Connie Alberg was selected. The League voted to pay \$16 on the Delegate's expenses.

The meeting was adjourned.

Lunch was served by the following families: Martin Mathson, Anton Johnson, Iver Iverson and Louie Lokken. Proceeds: \$22.50

Secretary: Connie Alberg

So – who had been baptized on April 27, 1952?

The editor found the opening phrase "Following baptism" in the second paragraph of these Luther League minutes to be very intriguing. She looked at the St. Pauli website under "Historic Documents and Photos" and opened the baptismal records for 1908-1954. Baptized on April 27, 1952 was Gary Eldon Iverson! Son of Mr. and Mrs. Harley Iverson. Sponsors: Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Rondorf, Adeline Iverson, Seymour Iverson.

Congratulations, Erin and Jordan!



Erin Dahlen and Jordan Rondorf exchanged wedding vows at Zion Lutheran Church in Thief River Falls on Saturday, December 1st.

Jordan is the son of Jim and Roxane Rondorf. Erin is the daughter of Steve and Ladora Dahlen and Jeffery and Cammie Anderson. (Isn't this a great photo!)

Our congratulations and best wishes to Erin and Jordan!



Christmas Cactus dates back to Mrs. Peter Thune



After a phone conversation with Melba (Gustafson) Lundeen, the editor asked if she would please share a photo of her Christmas cactus.

Melba's mother was Marie (Peterson) Gustafson and there are slips in this plant that came from Marie's godmother, Mrs. Peter Thune. These slips are over 100 years old!

The plant was given by Melba's Grandma Peterson to her aunt, Evelyn Nelson. When Evelyn moved to the Hartz Apartments after her husband Edwin died, she had no room for it and Melba inherited the plant.

Melba says that this year she and her husband Erling kept count of the blooms and there were 323! It bloomed continuously from Christmas Day 2011 to the second week of April 2012.

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Granddaughter of Pastor M.L. Dahle Visits St. Pauli

In October, much to our surprise and our pleasure, we had visitors at Sunday worship services. Nan Dahle Kempert and her husband Jim drove up from Golden Valley, MN to visit St. Pauli and Calvary churches. Nan had been looking online for information about her grandfather, Rev. Dahle, and one of the first to show up on the search list was the St. Pauli website.

Nan would love to hear from anyone who might remember her grandfather and could pass on

reflections of what they remember about Rev. Dahle. According to our records, Edna Rondorf, Clayton Mathson, Shirley Johnson and Goldie Lambert were all confirmed by Pastor Dahle.

Nan's email address is: jkempert@comcast.net. Their mailing address is:

Jim and Nan Dahle Kempert
2520 Ensign Ave N
Golden Valley, MN 55427



Jim and Nan Dahle Kempert

Pastor M. L. Dahle



was born in Norway in 1874 and emigrated to the Red Wing, Minnesota area when he was seventeen. He was ordained in 1905 at Red Wing and began his ministry in a Chicago church where he served two years.

He was sent to Thief River Falls in 1907 to serve what is now Trinity Church. He then served churches in Eagle Bend, Minnesota and at Drayton, North Dakota before coming in 1928 to serve the St. Hilaire parish until 1941 when he retired due to ill health.

Pastor and Mrs. Dahle had four children.

He died in 1943 at Sauk Centre, Minnesota.

**Thief River Falls
Evangelical Free Church**
Presents

A Celtic Christmas Celebration



**SEASON
OF JOY**

Free Event Offered Two Evenings!
6 pm on Saturday, December 15
6 pm Sunday, December 16

211 Arnold Ave N.
Thief River Falls, MN
218.681.3855

Basement Project

From an email on 9/17/12: "Myles and I applied the primer today to the walls of the basement. I plan to apply the texture coat on Thursday. The next primer coat will be applied on Friday if the texture is dry." - Arlo

This was the mid-point of a project that began this summer to install drywall on the walls and lay new carpeting on the floor. As you can see, the walls were furred with 2x2s and the cavities filled with rigid foam insulation prior to hanging the drywall (photo 1).

The old kitchen was completely stripped of its cabinets (photo 2). If you're feeling nostalgic sometime, ask to visit Faye Auchenpaugh or David Lee. Each took one of the upper dish cabinets to use in their homes.



Photo 1. Arlo Rude



Photo 2. Old kitchen area and back door

Speaking of nostalgia, the editor took a photo of the ceiling next to the furnace room. Do you remember when the basement ceiling was this green-painted tin? (photo 3)

Arlo Rude, Myles Alberg and Skip Swanson did the majority of the work, with Arlo serving as lead. Ron and Virginia Anderson applied the two finish coats of paint to both walls and trim. (Only Arlo and Myles were present when these photos were taken.)



Photo 3. Old tin ceiling



Photo 4. Myles Alberg

We also had our Fall Supper to do in the midst of the remodeling. We decided to wait until after the supper to install the new carpeting and baseboards, but this meant setting up all of the tables and chairs and then taking them down again afterwards.

All of this hard work has paid off. Just see how great it looks now!

We are fortunate to have so many members of various professions who give very generously of their time and talents.

THANK YOU!!

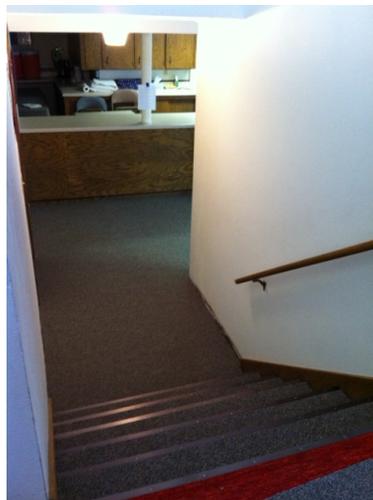


Photo 5. Newly carpeted stairs

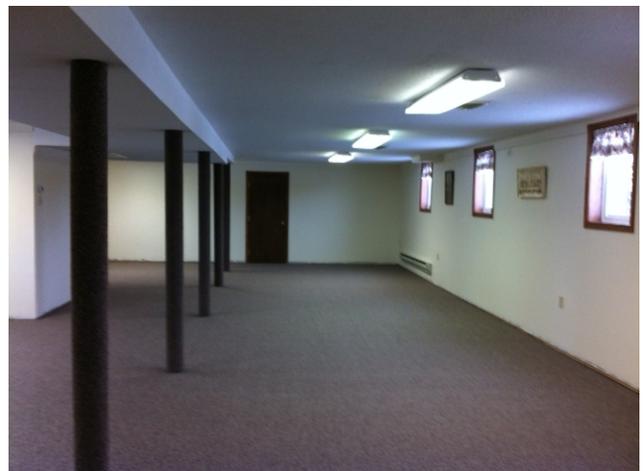


Photo 6. Our new, much warmer, much brighter basement!

The Back Page

Listening to Christmas



Have you ever heard snow?
Not the howling wind of a blizzard,
not the crackling of snow underfoot,
but the actual falling of snow?

We heard it one night in Wisconsin
quite unexpectedly
while walking up a hill
toward our cabin in the woods,
a soft whisper between footsteps.
We stopped, switched off our flashlights,
and just listened.

All around us in the darkness
we heard the gentle fall
of snow on snow.
No wind, no sound
but the snow.

Have you ever heard Christmas?
Not the traffic noises in the city,
not the bells and hymns and carols,
beautiful as they are,
not even the laughter of your children
as they open their presents –
but Christmas itself?

Have you been by yourself
and just sat and listened to the silence within,
patiently, without letting the mind
race to the next Christmas chore?



Perhaps if you have,
you felt the pulse of all humanity
beating in your own heart.

Perhaps you noticed
an outflowing of love
for all your brothers and sisters
on the earth,
a soft sense of Oneness
with all that lives.

In the silence of a snowy night,
listen intently, holding your breath,
and you may hear snow on snow.

Serene, alone,
undisturbed by thought,
listen to the silence in your heart,
and you may hear Christmas.

