

Minutes of the Church Council

DECEMBER 15, 2011

The St. Pauli Church Council held its monthly meeting on Thursday, December 15, 2011 at St. Pauli Church. Members present: Faye Auchenpaugh, Arlo Rude, Wahna Smith, Jodie Torkelson and Pastor Carl Hansen. Meeting was called to order by Council President Smith at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Carl Hansen opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary's Report

Torkelson distributed the Minutes of the November 17th meeting. After they were read, Auchenpaugh made a motion to approve the Minutes. Rude seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Auchenpaugh presented the Treasurer's report for November 2011. Expenditures were \$1,203.60 and Income was \$2,804.00. The checking account balance as of November 30th was \$11,447.45 and the savings account balance was \$20,348.55. Total assets were \$80,120.61.

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

Pastor's Report

Pastor Hansen distributed a copy of a Christmas Eve service that he used previously which incorporated Christmas carols, the Christmas texts and candlelight and asked if there were any other suggestions for the Christmas Eve service. The council thanked him for the effort he makes to honor our traditions.

Pursuant to the council's agreement at last month's meeting, Pastor Hansen notified the Ministerial Association that he will be a substitute clergy for the nursing home and for the one-minute devotions on the radio.

Pastor Hansen suggested that the council add the "Northern Lights" newsletter of the synod to our reading lists. Because it is available online, Auchenpaugh will see if a link can be added to the www.historicstpauli.org website.

Old Business

Last month the council decided it would try to find pulpits for the January 1st church services but if no pastor or lay pastor could be found, services would be canceled. No pastor or lay pastor was available for New Year's Day services and therefore they will be canceled.

New Business

Interim Pastor Agreement Extension – Pastor Hansen indicated his willingness to extend the agreement with St. Pauli while we continue to work on a long-term arrangement with another church. The agreement was signed and will be forwarded to the synod for approval.

Long-Term Pastoral Services – Rude and Torkelson recapped the conversation they, Cindy Cedergren and Chad Torstveit had with Zion Church's pastors, council president and treasurer the previous week about a partnership between the two churches. Pastor Steve Peterson from the synod was also at the meeting. Zion indicated their interest in working out an agreement with St. Pauli and will send a proposal to our council for review. In the meantime, a meeting has also been set up with Trinity. Redeemer has been contacted but has not responded as of this date.

Nominating Committee – Edna Rondorf, Wally Torkelson and Sharon Bergerson all agreed to serve on the nominating committee. Arlo Rude agreed to serve another term so they will only need to find someone willing to serve as Treasurer. Auchenpaugh reiterated that the bookkeeping does not have to be done on a computer and that she would be willing to help the new treasurer.

Rude made a motion to accept the nominating committee membership. Auchenpaugh seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

2012 Church Year Calendar was reviewed. Because we are no longer part of a parish, there were several questions about the calendar that the council was asked to resolve.

- 1) Lenten services – will be held at 7:00 p.m. but there will be no meal served prior to the service.
- 2) Easter services – will be held at 7:00 a.m.
- 3) Church picnic - will not be scheduled now but, should there be interest in one, it can be added later.
- 4) Rally Sunday – will continue as in the past.
- 5) Christmas Eve/Christmas Day services – bell ringing at 4:30 p.m. followed by 5:00 p.m. candlelight services. Because Christmas Day is on a Tuesday in 2012, there will be no services held that day.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodie Torkelson, Church Council Secretary

(In accordance with our Annual Meeting to be held Sunday, January 29, 2012, we publish the minutes from the first annual meeting of the St. Pauli church. The minutes were, of course, written in Norwegian, a practice that continued until 1939, but the English translation is provided below.)

3 January 1895

The annual meeting of the St. Pauli Norwegian-Lutheran congregation was held in the school-house on January 3rd 1895. At the meeting Pastor Evensen acted as chairman and Pete Paulson as secretary.

Mr. A. A. Odegaard with wife and four children were admitted as members of the congregation. The constitution was read by the chairman and accepted by the congregation of St. Pauli congregation. Sponsors from Thief River Falls congregation admitted.

As trustees the following were elected:

- A. A. Odegaard, trustee for 3 years
- Gilbert Skjerva, trustee for 2 years
- Pete Paulsen, secretary for 1 year
- Ole Pedersen, treasurer for 1 year

John Skjerva church singer [*kirkesanger*] for indeterminate time proposed that the regular annual meeting shall be held in early December. Before the end of December the pastor's salary shall be paid to the trustees and this was unanimously accepted. Proposed that every home-owning member of the congregation, or family breadwinner, shall pay annually \$ 3.00 towards the pastor's salary. This was accepted.

A. A. Odegaard is nominated to allot gravesites for the congregation, unless the grave site is distributed in lots to families belonging to the congregation. But for those not belonging to the congregation, who wish to bury theirs, but demand 50 cents for every grave. This was unanimously accepted.

Upon proposal the meeting was ended.

P. Paulsen, secretary

Copied by Pete Semonson

Altar Furnishings Given in Memory

St. Pauli church is fortunate to have received many memorial gifts over the years.

In December 2011, this beautiful set of candelabra were given by Skip, Pat and Brad Swanson in memory of their son and brother Kevin to replace those stolen from the church in the early 1970s. It was particularly fitting that they were lit for the first time on Christmas Eve, the time when we celebrate the coming of God's light through the birth of His Only Son, Jesus Christ.



Candelabra given in memory of Kevin Swanson



St. Pauli News in Detail



ANNUAL MEETING

January 29, 2012
11:30 am
after worship services
Potluck dinner to follow

Sunday, January 8
10:30 am

Jim and Jan Strandlie will serve as lay speakers and will talk and show pictures about their October 2011 trip to Europe.



IMPORTANT: Designated persons must submit their organizational reports to Jodie Torkelson no later than January 15th for inclusion in the St. Pauli Annual Report.

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January Milestones

Birthdays

Jan. 3 Dolly Davidson

Anniversaries

Jan. 2 Pastors Carl and Mary Hansen

Jan. 3 Jim and Jan Strandlie

Note: We are still missing birthdays of some of our men and children, and anniversaries of some of our couples. Please contact Faye.

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Greeting and Ushering

Jan. 1	No worship services
Jan. 8	Keith Nelson
Jan. 15	Randy Rasmussen
Jan. 22	Staci Reay
Jan. 29	Edna Rondorf

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: Sharon Bergerson

St. Pauli Handbook



The 2012 handbooks have been completed. Printed copies are in your church mailboxes.

St. Pauli Sunday School Christmas Program December 18, 2011

Processional Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

J.D.: In the Advent wreath, a purple candle for hope and longing is lit for the 1st, 2nd, and fourth Sundays of Advent and a pink candle for joy on the third Sunday of Advent. On Christmas Day, we will light a white candle in the center of the wreath for the purity of Christ.

Opening Prayer:

Kari: Lord, the symbolism of Christmas is full of many secular symbols, all of which point to You. You are the Beginning and the End, the Word made flesh, God in a manger. Help us, Lord, to imitate your lowliness and humility so that we can serve You well. Amen.

The Symbols of Christmas

Christmas Tree:

Chad: Many pagan cultures worshipped evergreens, saw them as symbols of immortality, and used them to ward off evil spirits.

Devin: In the 15th century, Christians began to put up trees in their homes on December 24, the feast day of Adam and Eve.

J.D.: About the year 1500, Martin Luther brought a small tree indoors and decorated it with candles in honor of Jesus's birth.

Dawson: By the 18th century, the custom of decorating a Christmas tree was being done throughout Germany, France and Austria.

Blaine: Our Christmas tree is an evergreen tree. Its branches are green all year round.

Rylan: That tells us that God is always with us.

Mason: The top of our tree points to heaven.

Lainey: Some day we will be in heaven with Jesus.

Lights:

J.D.: Before electricity, people used candles to light their houses and to decorate their Christmas trees. (turns lights on)

Blaine: Today, electric lights have replaced the candles.

Dawson: The lights on our Christmas tree remind us of Jesus.

Rylan: Jesus was born to be the Light of the world.

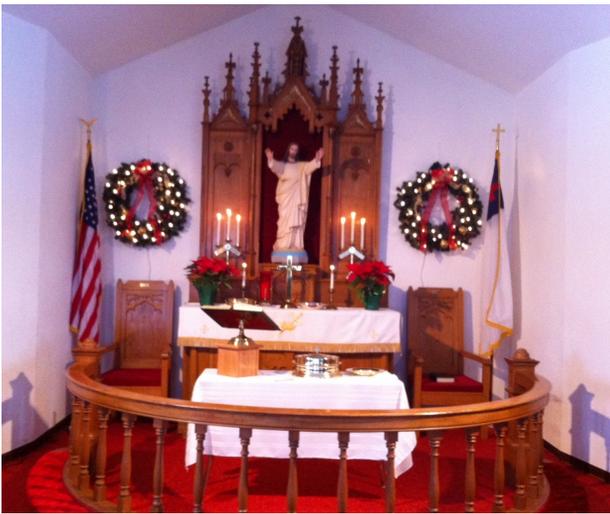
Mason: Jesus was born to be a light for each one of us.

Devin: Candles and Christmas lights remind us that we are to be a light to others – to show them the way to Christ.

Sunday School song: "This Little Light of Mine"

Ornaments:

Chad: Angels came to the shepherds in the field singing praises to God and telling them to hurry to Bethlehem to see the baby that had just



Have you looked closely at the altar furnishings lately? Looking at the wonderful light emanating from the new candelabra prompted us to look more closely at some of the other furnishings. (Look to future newsletters for further information on memorial gifts).



Christ candle given in "loving memory of Gust A. Gustafson 1896-1982 given by his family."

Bible/missal stand given "in memory of brother Edward Finstad 1925-56."



Communion set given "in memory of August Thune by Alma, Inga and Emil."

been born. (hangs angel on tree)
 Rylan: Church bells ring joyfully to announce that Jesus is born. (hangs bell on tree)
 Mason: Gold ornaments stand for the gifts the Wise Men gave. (hangs gold ornament on tree)
 Lainey: We bring Jesus precious gifts, too: faith, hope and love. (hangs gold ornament on tree)
 Dawson: Candy canes are shaped like a shepherd's crook, reminding us that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, came into our world at Christmas. (hangs candy cane on tree)
 Devin: A legend tells of a poor family who wanted to decorate a Christmas tree in honor of the Christ Child, but they had no money for decorations.
 J.D.: In the night, spiders came and spun webs across the tree. Then the Christ Child, honoring the family's faith, turned the threads into silver. (J.D. & Devin hang tinsel)
 Blaine: The wisemen followed the Star to Bethlehem to see the king who had just been born. (turns light on star tree topper)

Wreaths:

J.D.: Wreaths combine several Christmas symbols including holly, fruit, evergreens and others. (hangs wreath on tree)
 Chad: Holly grows in all 50 states of the United States and on every continent except Antarctica and Australia. (hangs holly on tree)
 Devin: The sharp edges of its leaves remind us of the crown of thorns the soldiers put on Jesus to mock him. (hangs holly on tree)
 Mason: The red berries represent Christ's blood, shed for all people. (hangs holly on tree)
 Lainey: Long ago, good children would get their only orange of the year as a Christmas gift. (hangs orange on tree—if it can be found. If not, will substitute another fruit)
 Rylan: At Christmas, fruit reminds us of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. (hangs fruit on tree)
 Dawson: The wreath's circle symbolizes eternity, the circle of life, and endless hope. (hangs wreath on tree)
 Blaine: Because it has no beginning and no end, it symbolizes God himself. (hangs wreath on tree)

Song (Congregation): "O Christmas Tree"

Gifts: (all place gifts under tree after speaking)

Dawson: Wisemen brought the first gifts to the Baby Jesus: frankincense, gold and myrrh.
 Lainey: We put presents under our tree, too.
 Devin: We share gifts at Christmas to remind each other of Jesus our Savior – the greatest gift of all.
 Rylan: Jesus shows us how much God loves us.
 Mason: We love him because he first loved us.
 J.D.: God loves us so much that He sent his Son into the world that whoever believes in Him would not perish but have everlasting life.

Blaine: Thanks be to God for his great gift to us: Jesus, our Savior.

Hymn "Joy to the World"

Offering of our Gifts

Hymn "O Come Little Children, O Come One and All"

The Nativity:

Mary: Lainey Dicken
 Joseph: J.D. Torstveit
 Shepherds: Blaine Torstveit, Devin Haugen
 Wise Men: Mason Haugen, Rylan Torstveit, Dawson Haugen
 Scripture Reader (Luke 2): Kari Torkelson
 Scripture Response: Pastor Carl Hansen

Prayer of the Day (Pastor Hansen)

Lord, give us an evergreen faith! May we love and trust You no matter what harshness is battering us. May we see Christmas trees as a sign of undying hope. We thank You, Lord, for turning the tree of Adam and Eve's sin into the tree of life through the cross of Christ. Because of the tree on which Christ died, You have given us the promise of eternal life.

*Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.***

Lord, whether or not we have a good singing voice or a poor one, help us to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" at this holy time of year.

*Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.***

Lord, we are just a few people in one small place in this world. But we give ourselves to You to do whatever You wish with us. Accept our humble gifts, for we give them in love.

*Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.***

Lord, be our Light in the darkness and help us to be a light to others, to show them the way to you. When all seems hopeless, help us to remember that the darkness cannot overcome Your Light. You are the eternal Brilliance of God.

*Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.***

Lord, make us to be instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love. For it is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen.

Hymn: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Soloist Mason Haugen

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Benediction: Pastor Carl

May God bless your Christmas celebrations!

What is the Meaning and Use of Liturgical Colors?

In the Christian tradition colors are used for vestments and paraments, but a unified system of colors developed only gradually and haphazardly until and through the Middle Ages. Today, the ELCA provides a system of colors for use by its congregations; for the most part, the same system is also used by Roman and Anglican churches, at least in the United States; and by many churches around the world, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

The colors serve to adorn the worship space, and to call attention to the nature of the season or festival being celebrated. A brief summary of their usage, according to the church year, follows.

Advent

Blue is used for its references to hope.

It originated in Scandinavia, probably because purple dye was too expensive for churches to use. The alternate color for Advent is purple, the royal color of the coming King (note that this is a different meaning than when it is used in Lent; see below). *Advent ends at sundown on Christmas Eve.*

Christmas

White is used, as a reference to the purity of the newborn Christ, and to our light and joy in him.

Epiphany of Our Lord

White (see Christmas).

Baptism of Our Lord

White (see Christmas).

Sundays after the Epiphany

Green is used for its symbolism of our growth in Christ. Green, in a sense, is a "neutral color," used when more festive or more somber color is not appointed.

Transfiguration of Our Lord

White (see Christmas).

Ash Wednesday

Black is the preferred color, since it is the color of the ashes to which we will all return. Purple is the alternate color for this first day of Lent.

Lent

Purple is indicated, as the stark color of repentance and solemnity.

Sunday of the Passion

Scarlet is the preferred color of this first day of Holy Week, as it suggests the deep color of blood. *(Scarlet is to be distinguished from the brighter color of red, which is appointed for the*

Day of Pentecost, martyrs' days, and certain church celebrations). If a parish does not have scarlet vestments, purple may be used.

Days of Holy Week

Scarlet or purple may be used for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday (fourth day of Holy Week)

For this day, celebrated as the institution of the Lord's Supper, scarlet or white is used.

Good Friday

No vestments or paraments are used, after the stripping of the altar on Maundy Thursday night.

Vigil of Easter

White as the color of joy in the Resurrection is used on this night.

Easter Day

On this one day of the church year, gold may be used. White is the alternate, perhaps with gold running through it. The gold color indicates that this day is the "queen of feasts," unique in the entire church year.

Sundays of Easter

White (see Vigil of Easter).

Day of Pentecost

Red as the color of fire is used on this day when we remember the tongues of fire descended on the crowd in Jerusalem. In contrast to the color of scarlet, Pentecost's red is a bright color.

The Holy Trinity

White is appointed, the expression of joy in the mystery of the Triune God.

Other Sundays after Pentecost

Green is used, to indicate our growth in faith as we follow the teachings and ministry of Christ.

Christ the King

The final day of the church year uses white, a festive color of light, joy, and the celebration of our Lord.

Lesser festivals and commemorations

are white, unless a martyr is celebrated, in which case bright red is used.

Source:

www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Worship/Learning-Center/FAQs/Liturgical-Colors.asp

(In case you missed this from the
“Christmas Memories” section of the
Dec. 21, 2011 edition of *The Times*...)

By Shirley Johnson

An old Christmas tradition at our rural church was the ringing of the steeple bell for a half hour in the early evening of Christmas eve. On a clear still evening, there were times we could hear it at our home well over a mile away. The bell always has rung for worship and now the holiday tradition, for awhile dropped, has been revived and the beautiful old bell rings again at St. Pauli church on Christmas Eve.

There weren't so many gifts for anyone in those depression days but I remember well the Christmas, when I was in high school, that my parents gave me a wrist watch! I was so happy and used it for years.

School and church Christmas programs were an exciting part of the holidays and we had better be sure that we had memorized well our “pieces” that we had to “speak” at our programs, as well as the songs, all dressed in our one good dress. The reward of the evening was a little bag of an apple, some peanuts and hard candy and a chocolate drop.

The holidays at all times of the year were a time of family gatherings with aunts, uncles, cousins and anyone who might be alone, and that meant lots of good food; at Christmas and New Years the traditional Scandinavian foods and baking, and a time for games and visiting. What a special time for treasured memories, now that families are scattered.

Be prosperous in the New Year.

Prosperity centers in on the health and wholeness of your spirit and soul. Make this year a year that you center in on how healthy you are spiritually and emotionally. Instead of getting into more debt where that brings anxiety to your heart, work on getting out of debt. Instead of taking on a second job just so you can have more toys, work on becoming content with what you have so you can spend more time with your children. Instead of taking a job that makes you work nights just so you can get a promotion, how about thinking outside the box and get your promotion at home by being the greatest spouse, parent, neighbor you can be?

Family Day 2011

If you weren't able to attend our traditional “Family Day” held every first Sunday in December, you missed a rollicking good time this year.



Fallcreek

Fallcreek, a quartet from Grand Forks, provided the entertainment – and they were good!! Not only was their singing and harmony topnotch, but so was their sense of humor as evident in the photo below.



New Year's Resolution

This year how about making a resolution that you are going to say random words of kindness to one person every day, that you will bless or compliment someone just because you can. Whether it be your spouse, your child, your neighbor, or the stranger standing in front of you in the grocery store, you are going to find one person every day that you can bless with words of kindness and mercy.

CAIN & ABEL

the story of
TWO BROTHERS

(Genesis 4.1-16)



So God sent Adam and Eve out of the garden.

Now they were going to have to work hard for their food and their clothes. And because of their sin, so would every one who ever lives.

God loves us more than we will ever know, and his blessings are always with us. But there will always be trouble in our lives too, sometimes little, and sometimes big - because sin is in the world now.

Sin always brings trouble.

But even though Adam and Eve had sinned, God still loved them as much as he ever did. And soon he blessed them with a baby - the first baby ever born! That must have been exciting. Of course, there wasn't a hospital to go to. And there weren't any doctors or nurses around (because they hadn't been born yet!). So God must have helped them.

They named their first baby Cain. And after that they had another baby, Cain's little brother, and they named him Abel.

They had other children after Cain and Abel, too, and their children had children, and their children's children had children. And that is how the world began to be filled with people.

When Cain got older he became a farmer. He grew things from the ground. And when Abel grew up he became a shepherd. He took care of the sheep.

So it happened one day that Cain and Abel brought gifts to God to thank him for all the good things he had done for them. They built an altar for a sacrifice.

A sacrifice is when you give something to God that you would have liked to keep for yourself. You give him your very best.

Cain brought some of the things he had grown. He

brought some wheat, and grapes and figs and things like that, and he burned them on the altar to give to God. Abel brought the first lamb born to one of his sheep.

God was happy with Abel's gift, because he saw that Abel really wanted to please God and always do what God wanted.

But God knew that Cain wasn't so sure he wanted to do what God wanted. So God wasn't happy with Cain's gift.

That made Cain mad.

God loved Cain, and he said to him, "Why are you scowling? If you always do what is right, you will be happy. But be careful. Bad thoughts will ruin your life. Learn to control them."

But Cain didn't listen to God.

Instead he blamed his brother.

And even though God loved both brothers as much as anyone could ever be loved, Cain thought God loved Abel more than him. So from that day on, Cain began to think mean things about his younger brother.

He kept thinking them and thinking them. And the more he thought them, the harder it was to stop. And the more he thought them, the meaner his thoughts became. Until one day he planned a terrible thing.

He said to his brother on a bright, sunny morning, "Abel, come with me out into the fields."

"Sure," Abel said, because he loved his big brother, and trusted him. And so he walked with his brother out into the fields. And when Cain got Abel out where nobody could see or hear them, he took a rock and he killed his brother Abel.

Later that day God found Cain working in the hot sun. God said to him, "Where is your brother Abel?"

"How should I know?" Cain said. "Am I supposed to take care of my brother?"

But God knew the terrible thing Cain had done.

God said to him, "I see your brother's blood on the ground! Because you have spilled your brother's blood into the ground, the ground won't grow your crops for you anymore. From now on you will have to wander in far away places to find your food."

"Lord, the punishment is too hard for me!" Cain said. "My relatives will try to kill me when they hear what I have done. I will always be running."

So God put a mark on Cain to protect him. When anyone saw it they would know not to kill him because God was watching.

Then on a sad, sad day, Cain left his only home and family. Because of the evil thing Cain had done, Adam

and Eve lost not just one son, but two. And Cain lost his family. But worse than that, God would not be with him anymore. That would be the hardest thing of all.

So Cain went away and lived in the land of Nod.

If only he had listened to God.

Next time...

"OLD DUDES"

Recipe for a Happy Year

Take **12** fine, full-grown months; see that these are thoroughly cleansed from all old memories of bitterness, hate, and jealousy.

Cut these months into **30** or **31** equal parts. (This batch will keep for one year. Do not attempt to make more than one batch at a time – many people spoil the entire lot in this way.)

Prepare one day at a time as follows. Into each day, put:

- **12** parts of faith,
- **11** parts of patience,
- **10** parts of courage,
- **9** parts of work (some people omit this ingredient and spoil the flavor of the rest),
- **8** parts of hope,
- **7** parts of fidelity,
- **6** parts of open-mindedness,
- **5** parts of kindness,
- **4** parts of rest (leaving this out is like leaving the oil out of the salad, "don't do it"),
- **3** parts of prayer,
- **2** parts of meditation,
- and **1** well-selected resolution.

If you have no conscientious scruples,
add a teaspoonful of good spirits,
a dash of fun,
a pinch of folly,
a sprinkling of play,
and a heaping cupful of good humor.

Pour love liberally into the whole, and mix with strength.

Cook thoroughly in a warming heat.

Garnish with a few smiles and a sprig of joy; then serve with quietness, unselfishness, and cheerfulness.

A Happy New Year is a certainty.

The Back Page

This Weather Won't Stop Us Northern Minnesotans!

60 above zero:

Floridians turn on the heat.
People in Minnesota plant gardens.

50 above zero:

Californians shiver uncontrollably.
People in Duluth sunbathe.

40 above zero:

Italian and English cars won't start.
People in Minnesota drive with the windows open.

30 above zero:

Distilled water freezes.
The water in Bemidji gets thicker.

20 above zero:

Floridians don coats, thermal underwear,
gloves, wool hats.
People in Minnesota throw on a flannel shirt.

15 above zero:

New York landlords finally turn up the heat.
People in Minnesota have the last cookout
before it gets cold.

Zero:

People in Miami all die.
Minnesotans close the windows.

10 below zero:

Californians fly away to Mexico.
People in Minnesota get out their winter coats.

25 below zero:

Hollywood disintegrates.
Girls Scouts in Minnesota are selling cookies door to door.

40 below zero:

Washington D.C. runs out of hot air.
People in Minnesota let the dogs sleep indoors.

100 below zero:

Santa Claus abandons the North Pole.
Minnesotans are upset because they can't start the
minivan.

460 below zero:

ALL atomic motion stops (absolute zero on
the Kelvin scale).
People in Minnesota start saying, "Cold 'nuff fer ya?"

500 below zero:

Hell freezes over.
Minnesota public schools will start two hours late.

