

Editor's Note

While I had written in July that I would prepare an August newsletter, albeit thin, it ended up being so thin as to be nonexistent. I just didn't have the time to get it finished, printed, folded and stamped before I went on vacation. Now there are so many things for which you need to be updated that the newsletters will be full to overflowing for the next several months! However, I am keeping one of the promises I made in the July newsletter: "Memories of Hazel, Minnesota." I have made this a separate pullout section for your enjoyment.

Faye Auchenpaugh

Minutes of the Church Council

June 21, 2012

The St. Pauli Church Council held its monthly meeting on Thursday, June 21, 2012 at St. Pauli Church. Members present: Sharon Bergerson, Arlo Rude, Wahna Smith, Skip Swanson, Jodie Torkelson and Pastor Carl Hansen. Meeting called to order by President Rude at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Hansen opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Agenda

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

Secretary's Report

Torkelson distributed the minutes of the May 20th special congregational meeting and the May 29th regular meeting. Following review, Swanson made a motion to approve both minutes. Smith seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

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

Expenditures:	\$2,095.11
Income:	\$4,593.00
Checking account balance:	\$21,798.51
Savings account balance:	\$20,375.89
Edward Jones balance:	\$31,489.43
Memorial Fund balance:	<u>\$22,825.56</u>
Total as of May 31, 2012::	\$96,489.39

Cemetery Association balance was \$2,759.93.

The expenses and donations for the new hymnals were reviewed. There were expenses of \$3,539.27 and donations of \$3,050.00. Pursuant to the decision made at the annual meeting, \$489 will be transferred from the Memorial Fund to cover shipping, bookmarks, the Pastor's worship leader CD and the ceremonial binders.

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

Pastor's Report

Pastor Hansen will be available to lead worship on July 1, 8, 15 and 22. He and Pastor Mary are planning to be gone

for two weeks in August and he will let the council know the dates as soon as possible so pulpit supply can be arranged.

The July 8th worship service will be focused on the dedication of the new hymnals. Instead of a traditional sermon, Pastor Hansen will give a narrative on the ins and outs of the liturgy and why we do specific things in our worship service. He will also give an introduction to the contents of the ELW hymnal.

Pastor Hansen raised the issue of frequency of communion at St. Pauli. He said that traditionally up north in rural areas communion isn't every Sunday because churches need a pastor for communion and when this area was first settled, pastors were few and far between. The once a month communion schedule was a result of pastor availability. However, the once a month communion celebration eventually became the practice and norm even as the area grew and pastors were more plentiful.

The basic ELW liturgy is a communion liturgy and presupposes weekly communion. If the congregation chooses to offer a mixture of Sundays when communion is celebrated and others when it is not, the LEW has a "Service of the Word" liturgy which has different music than the ELW Setting 4 (which is the same as the Setting 2 that we've been using in the Lutheran Book of Worship). The ELW has a "Service of the Word" that can be used for those Sundays when communion is not celebrated.

The council agreed that the once per month communion was likely a remnant of the days when pastors were scarce and thought it would be a good idea to have communion twice per month on the 1st and 3rd Sundays beginning with July 1st.

Pastor Hansen brought forward a letter that was given to him by a member of the congregation and written by Pastor Brad Froslee of Calvary Lutheran Church in Minneapolis opposing the proposed constitutional amendment against same-sex marriage. The consensus of

the council was for the church to not officially take a stance pro or con on this issue.

Reports

Members in Sickness or Distress – Inez Mathson will soon have knee surgery. She will be in our thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery.

WELCA – Rude will meet with WELCA next Wednesday on the plans for improvements to the basement to make sure WELCA is in agreement on what is to be done.

Board of Education – a letter was sent to families of Sunday School age children asking if they planned on attending St. Pauli Sunday School this Fall. The Board of Education will report back on the responses.

Men's Group – no plans to meet until the Fall.

Old Business

Steeple Painting/Repair – Rude spent five days building stairs to the steeple and then made repairs to the interior that have been needed for many years. He researched the bell and found that it was made by Cincinnati Bell at the turn of the century. It's a cast iron, 40" diameter bell and weighs 800 lbs. (1300 lbs. with framing). It needs to be lifted somehow in order to repair the base.

Rain Gutters – installation should start next week.

Basement Remodel – Rude will meet with WELCA.

Gideon Donations – Dave Rodahl, the Gideon who was at St. Pauli a few weeks ago, informed Rude that the St. Pauli congregation donated \$344 to the Gideon's during his visit.

Zion Church Partnership – Rude talked with Connie Hamre to express our concerns about a partnership at this time that would result in an 11:30 a.m. worship service. Zion will contact us in the future if they have any changes that would allow for an earlier worship service at St. Pauli. In the meantime, Pastor Hansen has agreed to extend his interim service with St. Pauli until September 30, 2012.

Hymnal Dedication – WELCA will organize the potluck picnic. Swanson will get a large canopy for the west side of the church.

New Business

Credit Application for Pro Build – Rude requested that a credit application be submitted to Pro Build so that the materials could be charged for the basement renovation.

Torkelson made a motion to authorize the Council President and Treasurer to submit a credit application to Pro Build. Smith seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodie Torkelson, Church Council Secretary

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Constitution of St. Pauli Church

At the May 20, 2012 Special Congregation Meeting, Council President Arlo Rude proposed a committee of seven to review and recommend changes to the church constitution and bylaws. Motion was made and seconded that 2 council members, 1 WELCA member, 1 men's group member, 1 Board of Education member, and 2 at-large representatives be selected to complete this review by the end of November, after which the suggested modifications would be sent to every member, a congregational meeting be held, and final approval be given at the annual meeting.

In the interests of this decision, the original constitution is hereby printed on the following pages.

Written in Norwegian, the *Menighedens Constitutien* was transcribed by Marisa (Johnson) Benson and then translated by Inger Nillson of Uppsala, Sweden. Unlike modern Norwegian, the language was very formal and was similar in spelling and grammar to Danish.

The English translation appears here. To view it in its original language, go to the link on our website: historicstpauli.org/documents/constitution.1894.html

Constitution: 1894 (*Menighedens Constitusien*)

§ 1.

The name of our congregation shall be: St. Pauli Norwegian Evangelical-Lutheran Congregation, Pennington Co., Minnesota.

§ 2.

This congregation recognizes the Holy Word of God, as it is revealed in the Old and New Testaments canonical books, as the only source, rule and guide for faith, teaching and learning.

§ 3.

We will in everything stay true to the genuine, old evangelical-Lutheran faith, because it emanates from the clear fountain of God's word.

§ 4.

The congregation professes itself adherent of the symbolical books of the Lutheran church, because these offer a true and unadulterated presentation of the teaching contained in the word of God.

These symbolical books are:

1. The Apostles' Creed
2. The Nicean Confession
3. The Athenasian Confession
4. The Confession of Augsburg, or the confession that was delivered to Emperor Charles V at the Convention in Augsburg in the year 1530
5. The Apologia of the Confession of Augsburg
6. The Schmalkaldian articles
7. Dr. Martin Luther's shorter catechism
8. Dr. Martin Luther's greater catechism
9. The Concordance formula

§ 5.

This congregation will not appoint or employ anyone as pastor or spiritual guide, unless this person is legally tried, in good order called, and initiated according to the Church into the spiritual office, or unless he has committed himself to all the canonical books of the Holy Scriptures as the manifest word of God, and to the symbolical books, listed in paragraph 4. Above all he must obey our doctrine mentioned above, and profess and also endeavour to set the congregation a good example, and to be faithful in his duties both to great and small.

§ 6.

The divine service actions in the congregation shall be performed according to the ritual of the Church of Norway dated 1685, and Altarbook of 1688. However, these may be modified as the congregation, owing to the circumstances, may find it suitable to decide.

§7.

Whoever wants to join the congregation will apply to its pastor, who will acquire and inform about the relevant particulars.

For the admission of an adult the following is required:

- a. that the person concerned must be christened in a Christian baptismal rite
- b. at least have as much knowledge in Scripture as is required from a confirmer
- c. not be guilty of any apparent sin, but strive to live according to Christian morals
- d. adopt the fundamental rules of the congregation, and follow what is decided by the congregation, provided that this is not contrary to the word of God, and allow himself in brotherly love to be admonished, should he have done wrong.

The pastor of the congregation will present the application at the next service or meeting, and at the first congregational meeting after the application, the applicant shall be admitted into the congregation if he is present and willing to follow the fundamental rules of the congregation. On being asked about these rules the applicant shall answer a distinct "*Ja*". Thereupon is voted with ordinary acclamation.

Thereupon the pastor shall wish him welcome and briefly direct to him and the congregation some admonitory words about Christian conviviality and work in faith and love. Should it, at the accepting of new members of the congregation, become apparent or come about, that there is not agreement, then the admission of the person concerned shall be postponed until a later meeting.

§8.

The duties of a member of the congregation are:

- a. By the Grace of God to beware of sin and offence, on the other hand to endeavour to live according to Christian morals.
- b. With devotion and diligence to use the holy (measures? standards?) for the awakening and augmenting of faith and the confirming of love.
- c. Take part in the meetings of the congregation and thereby promote further religious edification of the congregation
- d. From confirmation onwards, according to his ability, contribute to the expenses of the congregation and to the preservation and propagation of the Church of God as the Lord has taught us to pray: "Thy Kingdom come".
- e. To work so that a brotherly love and confidence can exist between pastor and congregation and between the members of the congregation, in that everybody helps with his particular ability.

§ 9.

The congregation shall every year hold its annual congregational meeting for the election of trustees and other officials. The trustees of the congregation shall deal with its economical matters, in the way that the congregation has instructed them.

§ 10.

Besides the annual meeting mentioned, the congregation can also hold meetings as often as it finds suitable. Summons to these meetings will be announced by the parish pastor at the preceding service or by a proclamation signed by him.

§ 11.

If a majority of trustees or ten voting members of the congregation in writing to the pastor request that a congregational meeting be held on a certain mentioned day, the pastor is under obligation to summon to the meeting. If then the Pastor fails or refuses to assemble the meeting, one of the trustees can in writing demand the meeting called for.

If, in absence of the pastor, a matter that cannot be postponed demands to be settled by a meeting of the congregation, it can be convened by a majority of trustees. This paragraph applies only on condition that the meeting can not be held until after the lapse of three days following that the summons has reached all the members entitled to vote in the congregation.

§ 12.

The congregation's meetings are as a rule presided over by the pastor as a chairman. In case of the pastor's absence or when special circumstances make it desirable, the members can elect another chairman.

§ 13.

The power of the congregation is [*illegible*] in external and internal management of clerical and congregational matters. The congregation has no right, however, to arrange or decide anything whatsoever against the word of God's symbolical books. If it does so, then all actions and resolutions are invalid.

§ 14.

The right to speak and vote at congregational meetings only belongs to the male members of the congregation, who

- a) are 21 years old,
- b) annually contribute to the expenses of the congregation, unless they are exempt from it by the congregation. He, who has not for a whole year contributed anything to the congregation has thereby lost his right to vote,
- c) has not been taken in ("*tukl*" can mean either to be disciplined or to live respectably) by the congregation,
- d) is not according to decisions of the congregation from other reasons deprived of his right to vote.

§ 15.

It is the duty of the members of the congregation to take part in their meetings. Whoever does not appear cannot exercise his right to vote, but shall have to accept the decisions of the congregation.

§ 16.

Special matters or matters of conscience can not be decided upon by voting, but only according to the word of God, the symbolical books of our Church.

§ 17.

Two thirds of the votes are necessary

- a) on election of pastor or schoolteacher, after the congregation first have agreed upon candidates to be elected,
- b) on receiving or initiating speech or voting rights,
- c) on changing or adding to the congregation's order.

In difficult cases the congregation should seek advice from experienced and pious brethren in the faith. Moreover other matters are settled by direct voting, and should both sides be equal, after all together with the chairman have voted, then one person whom the chairman chooses, blindfolded picks out one ballot, and the other ballots are re-counted again.

§ 18.

To be trustees and other positions of trust, can only be elected such persons of the congregation who are capable both in practical and Christian confession, such men who show fervour and zeal for the word of God, and are regular in hearing the public preaching of the word and take part in the Lord's Supper.

§ 19.

All officials of the congregation can in Christian order be removed or discharged from his position. Well-founded reasons for dismissing a pastor or school teacher are stubborn and despite warning instance of false teachings, offensive behaviour or continuous unfaithfulness in his office.

§ 20.

It is in the duty of everyone confirmed member of the congregation, according to his capacity, to contribute to the maintenance of church and school, and help to settle the debt in case the congregation has one. If any person during one year does not contribute to the expenses of the congregation, and has not been exempt by the congregation owing to poverty, then he shall be admonished in a brotherly way.

§ 21.

If a member, in accordance with the word of God, is suspended from the congregation, then such a person shall have no rights in the congregation, and shall lose all right to the property of the congregation, and the same shall apply to whoever resigns from the congregation.

§ 22.

Should, the grace of God forbid, a disruption arise in this congregation, then shall the property of the congregation, personal or real [literally "movables and fixtures"] belong to the party which, besides being loyal to the rules of this congregation, remains true to the word of God and the symbolical books, and demands that pastor and schoolteacher commit themselves to these. While dealing with such matters, that are mentioned in this paragraph, majority of those present is not valid, but there may be a majority of all the voting members of the congregation.

§ 23.

Of these paragraphs the following shall remain immutable: 2-3-4-5-13-16-19-21-22 and this paragraph. Remaining paragraphs may be changed or new ones added, such changes or additions may, however, never conflict with any of the immutable paragraphs, nor be decided upon other than on the regular annual meetings or after a proposal about it has been presented in writing at a conducted service at least two months earlier.

§ 24.

These congregational regulation shall take effect as from it has been accepted.

The end.

Copied by P.T

Secretary

Historic Minutes of the St. Pauli Congregation

9 December 1899

(Editor's note: The date of this annual meeting is December and the next annual meeting was not held until January 1901. One can only speculate as to why it was held the beginning of December 1899 rather than January of 1900.)

St. Pauli Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation held its annual meeting in Braaten's school house on December 9th 1899.

The meeting was opened with song, reading from the Scripture and prayer by Pastor I. T. Aastad as chairman. Then the report of the secretary from the last meeting was read and accepted without changes. After that the report of the treasurer was read and accepted unanimously.

Thereupon Mr. John Sjerva asked permission to speak and said that because of change of residence he could no longer remain in the congregation, and thanked them for the time together so far and urged everybody to live a true Christian life. And he informed that he had gathered about eleven dollars for the church and that he would send it over as soon as the church was started on. Finally he wished the congregation and its members a good and prosperous future. Whereupon Pastor Aastad answered with a few and well chosen words and thanked him for what he had performed for the congregation and wished him the best in his new situation.

Thereafter were elected officials in the congregation: Mr. Peter Nilson was re-elected as trustee for three years, Halvor Torstvet re-elected as treasurer for one year, likewise Jacob Amundson as secretary, all unanimously accepted.

It was proposed and supported to hold a discussion meeting about the Christian brotherly punishment. It was unanimously accepted that the following committee was instructed to negotiate with those who have turned out to be in debt to the congregation: Pastor I. T. Aastad and Pete Simonsen. Unanimously accepted.

It was proposed and supported that the subscriptions committee as soon as possible shall begin its collection for the church. Unanimously accepted.

Thereafter Mr. Andrew Odegaard informed on behalf of the trustees that he had received the deed for the church lot, but that it had not yet been put on record. To fill the vacancy in the subscription committee after John Sjerva, was elected Pete Simonsen. On proposal the meeting was brought to and end with the Lord's prayer by the chairman.

The officials of the congregation are as follows:

Trustees were elected:

Andrew Odegaard, 1901

Tollef Erickson, 1902

Peter Nilson, 1903

Halvor Torstvet, treasurer 1 year

Jacob Amundson, secretary 1 year

Jacob Amundson, the secretary of the congregation

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LABOR DAY

To many Americans, Labor Day marks the end of the summer, a day off from work and school, and one last chance to relax. But Labor Day is much more than just a day off. It represents a very important victory for laborers everywhere. The holiday is a celebration of the social and economic achievements of American workers.

Fighting for Change

More than a century ago, workers were forced to deal with harsh conditions. They were paid very little, and they often worked 10- to 12-hour days. Men, women and even small children were forced to work even when they were sick. Tired of long hours and dangerous conditions, workers began organizing themselves into labor unions. On top of fighting for higher pay and shorter workdays, they also fought for the rights of children. The workers wanted employers to place limits on the age of their workers so that small children were not overworked or hurt in factories.

A Holiday for Workers

A New York City carpenter named Peter McGuire is credited for coming up the idea for Labor Day. In 1872, after working many long hours under poor conditions, McGuire rallied 100,000 workers to go on strike. The workers marched through the streets of New York City, demanding a better work environment.



McGuire spent a decade fighting for worker's rights. In 1882, he proposed the idea to create a special holiday for workers. On Tuesday, September 5, 1882, more than 10,000 workers hit the streets of New York City for the first ever Labor Day parade. Two years later the celebration was moved to the first Monday in September. And in 1894, Congress passed a law making Labor Day a national holiday.

A Relaxing Celebration

Americans celebrated the first Labor Day holiday with a parade, picnics and fireworks. Today, many people hit the road to enjoy the last of their summer vacation. Others enjoy the long weekend with picnics, backyard barbecues or just rest and relaxation. However you spend Labor Day, remember that the holiday is a time to pay tribute to the workers who have made America what it is today.

Peter McGuire is often called the "father" of Labor Day. He came up with the idea for the holiday in 1882.

St. Pauli News in Detail



Greeting and Ushering

- Sept. 2 Dennis Nelson
- Sept. 9 Keith Nelson
- Sept. 16 Randy Rasmussen
- Sept. 23 Staci Reay
- Sept. 30 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: Evie Johnson (Sept. 2 & 16)

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August & September Milestones

Birthdays

- August 6 Chad Torstveit
- August 17 Faye Auchenpaugh
- Sept. 16 Sally Torkelson
- Sept. 17 Bruce Mathson
- Sept. 19 Wally Torkelson



Anniversaries

Sept. 3 Ken & Cindy Cedergren

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



Harvest Festival

**DATE CHANGE
for
FALL SUPPER**

**Sunday, October 28th
Serving 4:00-7:00 pm**

Due to all of the remodeling going on in our church basement and conflicts with other events and church suppers, the date for our Fall Supper has been changed to the LAST Sunday in October.

We will be advertising as much as we can, but please do your part in letting all of your friends know about this change of date.

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Rally SUNDAY

**September 9th
9:30 am**

Classes begin Sunday, September 16th

The Back Page

God's Voice Mail

Most of us have now learned to live with voice mail as a necessary part of our lives. Have you ever wondered what it would be like if God decided to install voice mail? Imagine praying and hearing the following:

Thank you for calling heaven.

For English press 1

For Spanish press 2

For all other languages, press 3

Please select one of the following options:

Press 1 for requests

Press 2 for thanksgiving

Press 3 for complaints

Press 4 for all others

I am sorry, all of our Angels and Saints are busy helping other sinners right now. However, your prayer *is* important to us and we will answer it in the order it was received. Please stay on the line.

If you would like to speak to:

God, press 1

Jesus, press 2

Holy Spirit, press 3

To find a loved one that has been assigned to heaven, press 5, then enter his social security # followed by the pound sign. (If you receive a negative response, please hang up and dial area code 666.)

For reservations to heaven, please enter JOHN followed by the numbers, 3: 16.

For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, life and other planets, please wait until you arrive in heaven for the specifics.

Our computers show that you have already been prayed for today, please hang up and call again tomorrow.

The office is now closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday.

If you are calling after hours and need emergency assistance, please contact your local pastor.

Thank you and have a heavenly day.

Memories of Hazel, MN 1932-1945

by Otto Wedul

Busy Bee Hazel School - 1939



B: Dorothy Sjolsvold, Cleo Alberg, LaVerne Borgie, Eileen or Elaine Prestby, Hanlon Prestby, Alton Bremseth (behind), 2 unknown, Betty Urdahl,

B-M: Mae Belle Alberg, space, Betty June Bremseth (head turned), Mae Odegaard, Unknown

M-F: Otto Wedul, JoAnn Urdahl or Carol Peterson, Donalda Weckwerth, David Urdahl, Unknown

F: Eugene Borgie, Dennis Urdahl, Maynard Wedul, Duane Odegaard, Unknown

Memories of Hazel, Minnesota

1932-1945

by Otto Wedul

My first memories of life are from my early years living in Hazel. Our living quarters were in the same building as the store my parents operated. In fact, our living room was the store. As soon as a customer came in the morning and when the last one left – those were our store hours. Our living room furniture was mainly used when we listened to radio programs: Bob Hope, Jack Benny, Fibber McGee & Molly, Tom Mix, and the broadcast of United Lutheran Church in Grand Forks [ND] when St. Pauli services were canceled because of a snow storm, and the Grand Ol' Oprey. The store was where we lived.



Interior of Wedul Store - 1942 - Arnt Wedul holding Glenn Wedul, Berit Wedul, Martin Wedul with Maynard Wedul in front, Otto Wedul with Arvid Wedul in front, Anna (Wedul) Waale, Hazel Wedul, Marilyn & Trudy Waale

Already Hazel was a “has-been” in many respects, when I came along. I heard about the lumber yard that used to be south of the elevator. On explorations I could never find a trace of it. The hotel had been made into two residences by my time – Pete, Gina and Gladys Nelson lived in the back, while the Seelands – Oscar, Elsie, Mabel, Ruth and son Oscar – lived in the front and had the upstairs rooms. After their move, the new Soo Line section foreman – Pete and Albina Gerard – lived where the Seelands vacated.

The dance hall was made into a residence where Carl and Dorothy Prestby lived with family – Edna, Phyllis, Floyd and Lucille. The bank had closed when so many failed and it was the home of Oscar, Thelma, Mae, Duane, Shirley, young Oscar, and Gary Odegaard.



Citizens State Bank

In operation, when I was aware of circumstances, were two general stores – Odegaard's and Wedul's – the post office (in back of Odegaard's store – Ole Odegaard was the postmaster), the creamery with Martin K. Ellingson employed as the buttermaker most of my years, the Busy Bee School, the Soo Line depot with Adrian Anderson as agent, the blacksmith shop where Charlie Walz performed his skills, plus the elevator.

I recall the day Carl Prestby died of his heart attack. His rural route was combined with Ted Johnson's. Our P.O. box was number 38, oddly enough I do not remember the combination to the lock! Mail came in by 8:30 AM and 3:30 PM. All these years first class postage was \$.03 for the first ounce and indeed, there was the "penny postcard" in those days.



Two general stores in Hazel: Ole Odegaard and Paul Borgie in front of one on left; store on right operated by Mrs. Oline Magnusson

Mother did most of the work with the store. With the groceries standing on the counter, she would point with the pencil and very quickly add up the total, all in her head. She could have a short fuse, never with more certainty than when someone questioned her unwritten total! For a large grocery order, she would always give an appreciation token – a piece of candy to each child, a few cookies, or a couple of oranges. But if she had been challenged on the total, there was only a "thank you" – in Norwegian or English – for the business.

Eggs were often brought in for grocery trade. During the summer there were customers who would find nests of eggs in the crate. She knew which ones might sneak in rotten eggs. I would stand by for the nod; that means this case had to be candled. If there were rotten eggs, they were returned in fillers in the bottom of the case. The size of the case was usually twelve or fifteen dozen, sometimes it was thirty dozen eggs.

Saturday afternoons about three o'clock, Dad would return from Land O' Lakes in Thief River Falls, during the summer months, with three gallons of ice cream. Many would be waiting for him to arrive with the ice cream; Martin Ellingson was usually first in line. There was a weekly ritual that went on as Dad removed the top layer of ice and rock salt.

"What flavor did you get this week, Arnt?" Martin would ask.

"Oh, this week I got vanilla," Dad would reply.

"No," Martin would chide, "You got vanilla last week, this must be plain this time," Martin would correct him.

"Yes, I'll have to remember to get white next week," Dad would reply and by that time Martin would be wrapping his tongue around his cone. Every Saturday there was ice cream, and there was the rotation of flavors – plain, white, or vanilla!

When the Soo Line "Flyer" came through Hazel about four o'clock on Sunday mornings, a bundle of Minneapolis Sunday Tribunes would be thrown off. The first item on the agenda for whoever got up first would be to go out and find the Sunday papers. The train was going full speed when the bundle was hurled to the side. Depending on the weather, it was an easy or difficult job finding them. Soaked or not, they all sold by the time we left for Sunday School and church.



We had a St. Hilaire telephone from my earliest memories. It was on the wall in the back of the store, next to the kitchen door. It was used a lot by customers, too. I remember conversations Mother and Dad had about the merits of also getting a Thief River Falls phone. They finally decided to make the leap; it was installed in the kitchen. That phone also brought in a lot of business. A person who came to use the telephone would always buy something in the store.

Dad's first love was trucking. As years passed by, the business grew. There were times that he and two and three other men were working trucks full time. Mother always had a hired girl helping with the store and household. Axel Rasmussen worked for Dad for years; he had room and board with us and moved with us to Thief River Falls. He was a brother of Dorothy Prestby. Others who worked were Julian Stennes, Eidor Urdahl, Armand Lian, and most anyone available who would be willing to wrestle cattle or the strenuous work of shoveling four yards of gravel. It was hard work!



Some of the women who worked for Mother were Phoebe and May Anderson (daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Anderson), Hazel Nelson (who became my aunt when she married Uncle Martin Wedul), Gladys Skallat, and Doris Johnson.

There were many hobos who rode the Soo Line during the summers. It was around the elevator, it was suspected, that they headquartered. Many would come to the store to ask for food. For fear of being on their communication line,

Wedul Truckline

Top of truck: Otto, Maynard, Kenneth, Arvid, & Glen Wedul, Front: Arnt & Berit Wedul

the request was seldom honored. I remember once Mother felt in a generous mood and asked a hobo to sit on the porch in front of the store while she prepared a lunch. While this was during the time of cheese rationing, she must have felt in a generous mood. She used some of the Jung's Bakery bread we sold. With the coffee there was a cheese sandwich, a banana, and a couple of cookies.

As soon as he got the plate in his lap, he peeled back the top slice of bread, screwed up his nose and said, "Cheese!"

"What's the matter, don't you like cheese?" she asked.

"It binds me up," was his reply. The cheese was left on the plate; he ate the rest.

Sounds of Hazel I recall include: Harvey Odegaard practicing his trumpet in their front porch (no one had a set of drums!), Grandpa Peterson (Amanda Odegaard's father) starting his Model T Ford coupe, Pete Nelson driving his 1937 Chevrolet on the clutch with the motor roaring at full speed – when he let the clutch out all the way, the gravel flew in a heavy cloud in every direction, and Gladys Nelson playing their roller piano during the summer when windows and doors were open.



Gina (Hestikind) and Pete Nelson with daughter Gladys

Sights of Hazel I recall include: the statement painted in blue on the north of the garage where the bank had been – "Time is money." With the living quarters of our residence facing the Soo Line, I loved the growing clarity of the light of the night-time approaching trains (we didn't have shades until World War II when we got black-out shades).



Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Anderson
(Adrian was section boss)

Tastes of Hazel I fondly remember include: the most delicious plums I have tasted at the Pete Nelson home, and Gina Nelson was generous in sharing if only we would ask (she didn't appreciate our stealing them). Mrs. Adrian Anderson made the most delicious cookies – spritz, ice box cookies, and breads, too (there was often a treat when we would go there to get a pail of water.)

Busy Bee Hazel School – 1931

B: Raynard Nelson, Walter Odegaard, Hazel Nelson, Arlene Knutson, Joyce Roese, Myrtle Nelson, Unknown
B-M: Naomi Johnson, Edna Prestby, Rueben Odegaard, Lillian Alberg,
F-M: Harvey Odegaard, Omar Seeland, Stanley Roese, Floyd Prestby, Gladys Alberg, Evalin Nelson
(Not all persons are named; if you can identify any, please email info@historicstpauli.org)



Brother Maynard at age eleven could back a semi truck and put it right where it should go. I still can't do it! Consequently, he worked with Dad with trucks and I assisted Mother in the store.

People from Hazel with whom I've had contact through the years include: Marie Gustafson; May (Anderson); and Thule Norman (when we lived near San Francisco, they did, and now we are at opposite ends of Phoenix, Arizona); Edna Prestby Bolten now in Bloomington, Minnesota (our mothers corresponded and, when they were no longer able to do so, we kept in touch); Ruth Seeland Williams and Mabel Russell who lived in Seal Beach, California where brother Kenneth lives. Ruth is now deceased, but Mabel last winter visited my church here in Sun City; and Betty Ellingson Pray who lives in New Brighton, Minnesota.

When we were moving to Thief River Falls, Dad really wondered whether or not we could afford a house. Mother was persistent about making the purchase. When the time came to pay for the house they selected, she produced the \$4,000 which she had saved through the years in fruit jars buried in the garage floor! Had Dad known about it, she rationalized, it would have gone for trucks. This was money she had saved from her store! She must have been an early "women's libber!" That was the cost of the house.

On a Cattle Chute – Top: Otto Wedul, Maynard Wedul, Glenn Wedul
In front: Kenneth Wedul & Arvid Wedul



Arnt and Berit Wedul

Where did the buildings go that had been in Hazel? I know about some. Our store was sold to a business and it was moved across from the Soo Depot in Thief River Falls. The garage and ice house under which the money was buried was purchased by the Tollef Erickson sons, Ullrick and Henry, and moved to their farm northeast of Hazel. The folks purchased the dance hall and made it into a garage for trucks, and it was moved to Thief River Falls on land north of Highway 59 which the folks purchased where K-Mart and other large stores now are doing business. Some just deteriorated, sadly.

The biggest coincidence of all happened when the elevator was moved to St. Hilaire. Because the old bridge was then over the river in St. Hilaire, it was moved through Thief River Falls. The movers turned off Highway 59 and came up Tindolph Avenue. It was a two-day move. The elevator stood overnight right in front of our home at 124 South Tindolph! Chief, the German Shepherd dog we had the last eleven years in Hazel, was still living. He was nearly wild that night; Chief remembered the elevator.

During the years 1962 through 1979, we made a trip back home every other year from Santa Rosa, California. Each trip included a tour of Hazel. Every two years, the "frontier" was moving in more and more until 1987 when we were back for the fortieth reunion of my high school class, we found only a little white shed on a wagon standing in the road across from the former Anderson residence. The grass and weeds were so high, one couldn't think of driving in from the north. We went around past where the creamery had been to come in by Odegaard's and the blacksmith shop. There was a large hole in the road now narrowed by the growth around it – so large that time, we didn't venture to the railroad track to again walk the rails!

Hazel, Minnesota is still indicated on the last Minnesota map I picked up. I guess all that remains are the memories of home some of us still possess. But it is where I lived from age three until fifteen. There was lots of love and support from people and, after all, could one have richer memories?



Maynard and Otto Wedul

Otto Wedul was confirmed on 11 JUNE 1944 at St. Pauli Church. He became an ordained Lutheran pastor and wrote these memories several years ago. They were given to us by his brother, Maynard, and as far as we know, Otto and his wife are still residing in Sun City West, AZ.

From *Pennington County History* (1976)

Mr. and Mrs. Arnt Wedul arrived in Minneapolis in 1928 after a three weeks boat trip from Oslo, Norway. The boat landed in England and after a four day stop there, they sailed on to Quebec. From Quebec, they took a train to Winnipeg and another train from there to Thief River Falls on August 9th.

Arnt was born in Norway to Mr. and Mrs. Ole Wedul and came to Minnesota with his parents when 2 years old. He made a trip back to Norway to visit relatives and remained for two years, where he met his wife, Berit Gimse, who was born in Hoston Trondelag and was 32 years old when she arrived in Minnesota. They were married in Norway.

Early Photos of Hazel, MN



Looking southeast from the Busy Bee School



Looking northwest from the top of the elevator, Busy Bee School in far distance at right, Soo Line depot in foreground.