

St. Pauli News in Detail

NOVEMBER



Greeting and Ushering

Nov. 1 Bruce Mathson
Nov. 8 Dennis Nelson
Nov. 15 Keith Nelson
Nov. 22 Staci Reay
Nov. 29 No Services

Altar Preparation: Kathy Alberg

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“How to live to 103: The Story of Great Aunt Olive”

Presented by Eric Bergeson

**Sunday, November 22nd
2:00 pm**

In place of our Fall Supper this year, we will have a program for the community featuring Eric Bergeson. Eric is a favorite speaker in our region and wrote a weekly column for many years in which he often wrote about his Great Aunt Olive. Freewill Offering, homemade pie and coffee, lefse for sale!

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Family Day!

Sunday, December 6, 2014

An afternoon of music with

Al and Tammy Kiesow

**Potluck dinner following services.
Program to begin at 1:00 pm.**

November is “Special Offering” Month

It has been our custom to donate almost all of the proceeds from our Fall Supper to charities. WELCA is asking the congregation to donate generously as a Special Offering during November, in lieu of the Fall Supper, to ensure that these worthy charities receive our continued support. You may place your donations in the offering plate during worship services or give them to Sharon Bugge, WELCA treasurer. Make checks payable to WELCA. If donating cash, please place in an envelope with WELCA written on it.

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Thanksgiving Services



**Wednesday
November 25th**

7:00 pm

**Trinity Lutheran
Church**

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November Milestones

Birthdays

Nov. 7 Blaine Torstveit
Nov. 16 Barb Nelson
Nov. 16 Jonathan (JD) Torstveit
Nov. 28 Wahna Smith



Anniversaries

Nov. 26 Dennis and Sharon McCollough

Minutes of the Church Council

JULY 14, 2015

The St. Pauli Church Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, July 14, 2015 at 7 p.m. at St. Pauli Church. Members present: Arlo Rude, Cindy Cedergren, Kathy Alberg, Ron Anderson, Andrew Halvorson, and Pastor Carl Hansen.

The meeting was called to order by Arlo Rude. Pastor Hansen opened with prayer.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was amended to include two additional items.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the June 17, 2015 meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was approved as presented. Halvorson noted that a \$270 donation had been sent to the Thief River Falls Area Food Shelf from the congregation's contributions during April.

General Fund Expenses	\$ (2,769.54)
General Fund Income	<u>2,629.20</u>
Checking Account Balance:	\$21,205.27
Investor Savings	\$35,865.69
Edward Jones Investments	\$41,539.58
Memorial Fund Balance	\$11,265.96
Mission Grant Fund	\$ 1,001.29
St. Pauli Cemetery Association	\$25,475.13

Pastor's Report: Pastor Hansen reported that he truly appreciates the unity in Christ shared by the area ELCA congregations. Zion Lutheran Church graciously offered its facilities for the funeral of Meribeth Dicken on July 10. The joint Thanksgiving worship and the Wednesday Lenten series are further illustrations of the mutual support that we share.

He reported that this is proving out to be a "retiring year" for pastors in our Thief River Falls Conference. Pastor Mark Helgeland will retire as Senior Pastor of Redeemer-Black River Parish on Sept. 1 and Pastor Bob Dahlen will retire as pastor of the Goodridge Parish at Christmas. The Helgeland's and Dahlen's will continue to live in the community, and may be available for substituting.

Pastor Hansen reported he plans to journey to Texas after Christmas and return in late January, prior to the annual meeting.

Reports of Members in sickness or distress: Council members shared prayer concerns of members.

New Members or Interest in Membership: No report.

Reports:

- WELCA - No new items to report.
- Board of Education – Board will meet on July 19 at 9:15 am

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Rude shared information about the cost of acquiring high speed internet through Sjoberg's Cable TV. There would be no cost to bring it into the building, as the fiber optic cable has been installed already. There are various prices and speeds to select from, ranging from as low as \$26.95 per month to \$136.95 per month. Rude recommended that WELCA and Sunday School leaders be asked to identify whether internet service would be beneficial to conduct their activities, and what types of usage would be desired. If internet service is deemed necessary or desired, the cost would need to be built into the 2016 budget.
- Congregational Picnic will be August 9; Kari Torkelson will present a program on her recent mission trips; Screen and projector are needed upstairs.
- It was recommended by a council member that when any event is held at the church, there should be someone in attendance who is familiar with the facilities. This was a concern regarding the fact that the basement light must be on for water usage in the restroom. A note will be placed in the restroom as a reminder for those unfamiliar with that procedure, and efforts will be made to have someone here at all events.
- Organist Compensation: Council discussed reimbursing the organist for time spent recording music for services. This item was tabled and will be discussed during 2016 budget development.

The Lord's Prayer was prayed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Cedergren
St. Pauli Church Council Secretary

Historic Minutes of the St. Pauli Congregation

14 December 1925

St. Pauli congregation held its annual meeting in the church on Dec. 14, 1925.

The meeting was opened by Pastor Grimsrud with hymn song and prayer.

Then he informed that there had been held services as before and that the Ladies Aid had had a good year, and that the youth's club had held more meetings this year than before.

After this, the report of the secretary was read and accepted. Then the report of the treasurer was read and accepted.

Then the following officials were elected: As Secretary O. J. Snetting one year; as treasurer T. Stene one year; as treasurer Martin Helgeson three years. As sexton Joe Torstveit.

It was proposed and supported that the salary of the sexton be raised from sixteen dollars a year to twenty-five dollars a year.

As apportionments committee the same as before, namely Ole Pederson, Joe Torstveit and Kornelius Oien.

As school committee the following were elected: Ole Odegaard, Ole Valsvig and Nils Nelson. Then Ole Pederson, Emil Thune and Helge Helgeson volunteered to collect to the different accounts.

The chairman Pastor Grimsrud expressed his wish that the congregation should express its gratitude to the Ladies Aid and the youths' club for loyal work to take care of having the debt of the church paid.

It was left to the trustees to buy wood for the church.

Then Ole Valsvig, Ed. Vigen, Emil Thune and O. J. Snetting volunteered to clear away the brush by the church.

Proposed and accepted to allow \$375.00 for the expenses of the congregation.

On proposal the meeting was ended.

Olaf Snetting, Secretary

WELCA Minutes

SEPTEMBER 23, 2015

The St. Pauli Women of the ELCA met on September 23, 2015 at 7 pm with eight members present.

President Faye Auchenpaugh opened the meeting with devotions and prayer.

Secretary's report for August was approved as read.

Treasurer Sharon Bugge presented the Treasurer's report as follows: Checking account balance \$1,571.80; Savings Account balance \$2,758.27; Certificate of Deposit balance \$5,979.79. She reported that an anonymous gift of \$500 had been received this month, designated to be used for fall activities, items needed by WELCA, or to be used toward stewardship projects. Last month's income totaled \$786, including the donation. Expenses totaled \$154.18. Report was approved as read.

Education Report: It was noted that Education Secretaries (Kathy Alberg and Wahna Smith) are responsible for securing the program for the Christmas Family Day, scheduled on Dec. 6. Virginia Anderson volunteered to contact Barb Geer for a possible program, as she was aware that Barb and her daughter Breanna Helm were presenting programs in the area. Jeff Liden is another potential program for a future date.

Stewardship Report: Virginia Anderson reported we have school supplies for 16 kits, but we need more people to sew backpacks for them. She delivered the Linus blankets to Pennington County Social Services for distribution to children as needed. Discussion was held on the need to sew diapers for the baby care kits. Cindy Cedergren volunteered to take an inventory of the baby items collected to date to determine which items are still needed to complete the kits for shipment on November 7th.

Council Report: No report as Church Council did not meet in September.

Old Business:

Virginia Anderson reported on the cabinet subcommittee progress, and noted there are differing ideas among the members on what should be built and how it should be arranged. A brief discussion was held. The subcommittee will continue to discuss the options and needs of WELCA and the storage of Sunday School materials.

Virginia Anderson shared a summary of the N.W. Minnesota Synodical Women's Convention, with the theme "But the Fruit of the Spirit is Joy". She noted there were eight recipients of the Mary Magdalene Awards, including Kari Torkelson. Virginia reported on the Fall Cluster Gathering held in

September, with the theme "Don't Worry About the Years, Grow Closer to the Lord". She reported the programs and speakers were very good.

It was decided to leave the fall cleaning schedule as planned (October 12-17) even though the fall supper is no longer scheduled on October 18.

New Business:

Election of officers – The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers for 2016:

President – Faye Auchenpaugh
Vice President – Jan Strandlie
Secretary – Cindy Cedergren
Treasurer – Sharon Bugge
Education Secretaries – Kathy Alberg & Wahna Smith
Stewardship Secretaries – Virginia Anderson & Evie Johnson

The slate of officers was approved as presented. There was no change in the slate of officers from 2015, as all officers agreed to serve in their roles in 2016.

Naming of New Circle: From a list of about 12 names submitted for consideration, members voted on their favorite, and the name "Lydia" received the most votes. Faye Auchenpaugh will write a history of the person who bears this name, in the history of the St. Pauli Church, in a future newsletter (Lydia Palm-Finstad). The selection of a chair and stewardship chair for the Lydia Circle was tabled. Deone Cerny will contact Green Leaf Assisting Living to check on a possible meeting space for some Circle meetings, since Eunice Grove now resides there.

Results of Congregational Survey: Faye Auchenpaugh shared the votes and comments in the surveys completed and submitted to Jan Strandlie, regarding alternative ways to raise charitable funds and to get the congregation and the community involved, as the fall supper has done for many years. Some ideas were discussed briefly, but no decisions were made. It was determined that Faye Auchenpaugh would include an article in the newsletter and on the St. Pauli website, indicating that the fall supper had been suspended for this year due to lack of workers.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer, sharing of Prayer Partners, and Table Grace. Kathy Alberg served as hostess.

Next meeting: October 14, Faye Auchenpaugh, hostess.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Cedergren, WELCA Secretary

Historic Minutes
St. Pauli Lutheran Church Women
(L.C.W.)

3 February 1966

The regular meeting of the LCW met at the Gust Gustafson home on Thursday afternoon, February 3. Hostesses: Beatrice Rude and Marie Gustafson.

Meeting opened with the hymn, "Praise to the Lord the Almighty."

Scripture and Prayer: Pastor Winter

Business opened. A letter was read by Mrs. Bjorge on selling note cards.

Secretary's report read and accepted. Treasurer's report read and accepted. Report on the executive board meeting was read and accepted. Stewardship report by Ellen Torkelson.

Inez mentioned we had been offered to serve at the Consumer's Annual Meeting in March. Majority voted we do serve for it.

A Thank You was read by Anna from Gerald Nelson for the gift he had received for Christmas. Bonnie also gave thanks from Sig for the book he had received when he was in the hospital.

Next meeting to be held February 17 at the Jesse Skaaren home. Business meeting closed.

Program opened with Beatrice Rude in charge.

Hymn: "Open Mine Eyes"

Bible Study: Pastor Winter

Closing Hymn: "Oh That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

Worship Offering: Marie Gustafson

Lord's Prayer prayed and Table Blessing sung.

Gladys Nelson, Secretary

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8 February 1966

The Executive Board met at the Clayton Mathson home on Tuesday, February 8, to decide about the lunch to be served at Consumer's Co-Op meeting.

Present were Inez, Ellen, Miranda, Thelma and Beatrice.

It was decided to serve baked beans, meat sandwiches, cupcakes, and Dixie cups. Amount was 10 to bring baked beans, 2 gallons each; 12 to bring 3-1/2 dozen sandwiches each; and 6 to bring 7 dozen cupcakes each.

Lydia group, minus one to bring beans; Esther group to bring sandwiches; and Ruth group plus one from Lydia to bring cupcakes.

We were going to buy the Dixie cups. Consumers to furnish paper plates, cups and plastic forks.

Lunch was served by Inez.

Mrs. Norman Nelson, Secretary

Historic Minutes of the St. Pauli Young People's Society and Luther League

17 July 1927

The St. Pauli Young People's Society held its last meeting at the church Sunday evening, July 17, 1927.

The meeting was called to order by Gust Gustafson.

The following program was rendered:

Reading by Robert Nettelund.

Song by confirmation class

Recitation by Loyal Gryting

Song by confirmation class.

A motion was made and seconded that the next meeting be held in two weeks. The following program committee was elected for the next meeting: Gilma Helgerson, Martin Finstad and Oscar Odegaard.

The secretary's report was read and accepted as read.

Song by audience: Hymn no. 238

The meeting adjourned. Lunch was served by the Young People's Society. The proceeds were \$7.00.

Oscar Odegaard, Secretary

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27 June 1954

The St. Pauli Luther League met at Valhall on Sunday evening, June 27.

The meeting opened with the congregation singing "My Jesus, I Love Thee." Scripture and prayer was then given by Loretta Weckwerth.

The title of the program was "Time on Your Hands." Those taking part were Melba Gustafson, Ila Belange, Beverly Rolandson and Connie Alberg.

A solo was then sung by Mrs. Omar Lian. The congregation sang the hymn "My Faith Looks Up to Thee."

The business meeting opened with the minutes of the last meeting, which were accepted as read.

A motion was then made and seconded that we send a \$35 contribution to Youth In Action. Another motion was made and seconded that we give a \$50 donation to the church for repair expenses.

The meeting closed with the Doxology and Lord's Prayer.

Servers were: Omar Lian, Orville Rolandson, Willard Johnson and Albert Froseth families. Proceeds: \$15.00

Pat Torkelson, Secretary

All Saint's Day

November 1, 2015



All Saints' Day is the day on which churches glorify God for all God's saints, known and unknown. It has been celebrated on November 1st in the West since Pope Gregory IV ordered its church-wide observance in 837. Its origin lies earlier in the common commemorations of martyrs who died in groups or whose names were unknown, which were held on various days in different parts of the Church. Over time, these celebrations came to include not only the martyrs but all saints.

Remembering those who lived their Christian faith and served God with all their hearts, even to the point of giving their lives, provides inspiration and perseverance for those who still remain.

On All Saints Day, we give thanks for the lives of all who have gone before us in the faith. This year, we remember the following baptized members of St. Pauli who have died since All Saints Day 2014 and who now rest in God's eternal care with all the saints:

Meribeth Dicken
JoAnn Hurst
Arlene Thune

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A THANKSGIVING MESSAGE

It will soon be Thanksgiving Day. Some of us will have been planning and preparing for this day for weeks.

And yet, I wonder how thankful we could be, if this morning we woke up in a homeless shelter with no job, no education, and no idea where my next meal would come from? I wonder how thankful we could be, if a cyclone, or an earthquake, or a fire, in the briefest of moments wiped out our livelihood, our home, and perhaps even members of our family? I wonder how thankful we could be, if we knew that today, thousands of miles away in a foreign land our loved ones would be without us and we without them?

It is when we are without, that we miss most that which we so easily take for granted. How many days since last Thanksgiving did any of us upon arising from sleep utter as our first spoken words: "Thank you, God?"

I like to think of Thanksgiving as a moment which clearly puts life into perspective. Jesus in the form of a parable asks all of us to reflect on a very important question: What would happen if this very night, your life should be required of you? [Luke 12:19]

On days like Thanksgiving, I look at so many other lives, and see how very fortunate I am. Some of us may rightly think of ourselves as quite blessed on Thanksgiving morning. And yet...Some of us have lost something or someone most precious that we took for granted as a blessing, assuming that we would surely be grateful again this year. Next year at this time, we may regret our distractions, our pettiness, and our wasted opportunities of treasuring a blessed moment that will be with us no more.

An unknown author helps us to remember and be thankful today and tomorrow for:

- The teenager who is complaining about doing the dishes, because that means she is at home and not on the streets.
- The taxes we pay because it means that we are employed.
- The clothes that fit a little too snug because it means we have more than enough to eat.
- A lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning, and gutters that need fixing because it means we have a home.
- The space we find at the far end of the parking lot because it means we are capable of walking.
- Our huge heating bill because it means we are warm.
- Weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day because it means we have been productive.
- The alarm that goes off in the early morning hour because it means that God has given us another day of life.

So, when we sit around our Thanksgiving tables later this month, laden with turkey and trimmings, perhaps we may sit for a moment, with a smile on the brink of tears, knowing that we are safe and content, when so many cannot be.

And when that necessary moment passes, we should do well to ponder "how rich we are in the sight of God," for we have hope, not fear; we have freedom, not oppression; we have opportunity, not despair.

This Thanksgiving, let us become more deeply aware that God can awaken within us a new perspective on the lives we lead. It is around this Table where we are gathered as one people – a rich diversity of language, culture, and heritage – yet sharing a common unity in Christ, giving thanks to his Father, for all that we are, and all that we have been given.



St. Pauli Church

Presents

Eric Bergeson

"How to live to 103: The story of Great Aunt Olive"

Eric is a born storyteller, international traveller, columnist, author, nurseryman and speaker.

**Sunday, November 22, 2015
2:00 p.m.**

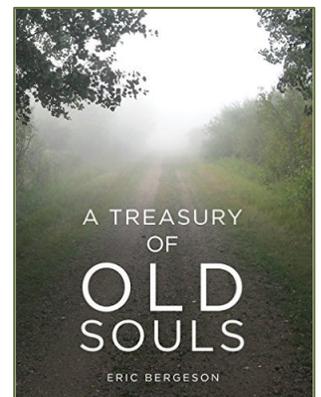
**Freewill Offering
Homemade Pie and Coffee following program
Lefse for Sale**

To watch Eric interact with the elderly is to witness a love story in action. Lacking any hint of condescension, Eric's greatest gift is his down-to-earth and heartfelt approach to his relationships with the elderly. Eric is completely without guile or affectation, and those seasoned with wisdom immediately feel his warmth, humor and considerable intelligence.

The elderly do not suffer fools gladly, and Eric is just the personality to capture their attention, their spirits, and their affection. Nor does Eric suffer fools gladly, so the elderly are his peer group of choice. It's a perfect fit. More than his considerable intellect, kindness is the essence of Eric's lifelong love affair with the elderly. If every old person had the same kind of relationship Eric had with Aunt Olive, we would wipe out the crisis of eldercare in one loving heartbeat.

Eric will also have copies for sale of his latest book,
"A Treasury of Old Souls,"

a collection of engaging stories his lifetime spent amongst Fertile, MN's aging population. Even as a young child, Eric found himself in friendships with people in their golden years. This book comes straight from the heart, and Eric's genuine and lifelong love of the elderly is evident in each story and on every page.



Kari Torkelson is given Mary Magdalene Award



At the 28th Annual NW MN Synodical WELCA convention held in Moorhead on September 12, Kari Torkelson was given the Mary Magdalene Award. She was selected to receive this honor among those nominated from Cluster 2.

John tells us that after the resurrection, Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene and instructed her to “Go to my brothers and tell them” (John 20:17). In response, Mary Magdalene went to the Disciples with the news: I HAVE SEEN THE LORD! And she told them that He had said these things to her (John 20:18).

The St. Pauli WELCA ladies had received the materials which read, “Do you know a woman who has been faithful to Jesus’ command to ‘GO and TELL’? If so, please nominate her for this award.”



The seven award recipients from the NW MN Synod

The WELCA ladies voted to nominate Kari; the following is the narrative we submitted.

Dr. Kari Torkelson demonstrates “Go and Tell” in so many ways. First and foremost, she has traveled to Tanzania, Jamaica and Ecuador in the last two years to provide eye exams to the underserved as part of the Minnesota chapter of Volunteer Optometric Services to the Handicapped (VOSH-MN). As a result of her first visit to Tanzania, St. Pauli church set up an annual mission grant of \$1,000 to help assist Kari and other church members in their mission work. Kari has spoken of her mission work at various church and cluster events.

In addition, Kari serves on the Red River Valley Habitat for Humanity board and volunteers on building projects. She is also a past president of the North Dakota School for the Blind Foundation.

Even though Kari lives in Grand Forks, she continues to be active in our St. Pauli church in rural Thief River Falls where she has been a lifelong member. She has been president of our Board of Education since 2010, and also teaches Sunday School, is a frequent lector, and leads worship services when our pastor is absent. She is also active at United Lutheran in Grand Forks, singing with the worship team and choir on occasion and serving on their stewardship committee.

She is a member of the Lions Club and was recently award the Helen Keller Sight Award for her volunteer service on behalf of sight. She is a very active alumna of UMC (University of Minnesota Crookston). In fact, she was the first and only UMC alumni recipient of the University of Minnesota Alumni Service Award in 2011 for her volunteer service to community and the University.

Kari is an amazing young woman and well deserving of the Mary Magdalene award.



St. Pauli ladies attending the Convention:
Wahna Smith, Virginia Anderson, Kari Torkelson,
Shelley Mathson, Jan Strandlie

Award winners were also given a monetary gift for the charity of their choice. Kari’s choice: ELCA’s Malaria Campaign.

“The Church is the Church only when it exists for others... not dominating, but helping and serving. It must tell men of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others.”

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The Back Page

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know ' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That 's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country.

"Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend.

The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

"Reverend," said the young man, "I 'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip."

The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It 's the same in my business."

There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news.

The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new gym - fellowship hall building program.

The bad news is, it 's still out there in your pockets."

People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the center of attention.

"Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world.

There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it 's morning."

While driving in Pennsylvania , a family caught up to an Amish carriage.

The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign...

"Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question,

"Boys and girls, what do we know about God?"

A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy.

"Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked.

"You know - Our Father, who does art in Heaven... "

Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about.

The daughter answered, "Don 't be scared, you 'll get your quilt."

Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed.

Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning 's Sunday School lesson was about.

He said "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."