

St. Pauli News in Detail



Greeting and Ushering

- Dec. 4 Jerod Haugen
- Dec. 11 Marc Haugen
- Dec. 18 Gary Iverson
- Dec. 24 Evie Johnson (5:00 Christmas Eve)
- Dec. 25 No services

Altar Preparation: Sharon Bugge
Jan Strandlie, Christmas Eve

* * * * *

Sunday School Program

Sunday, December 18th
10:30 am

Potluck Lunch
following program

* * * * *

WELCA 2017 Planning Meeting

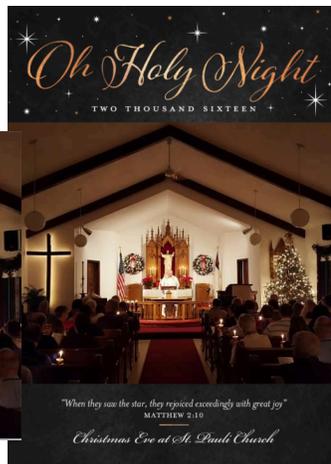
Thursday, December 8th
2:00 pm

Cindy Cedergren's home

* * * * *

St. Pauli Christmas Cards

WELCA has ordered 100 cards total in two styles, each featuring the photo of last year's Christmas Eve services. You may purchase them for \$1.25 each.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

5:00 pm

Bell Ringing
4:30 pm



Come, Worship and Adore Him, Christ the King!

* * * * *

No Christmas Day Services

Because Christmas Eve falls on Saturday this year, there will not be worship services on Sunday, Christmas Day.

* * * * *

December Milestones



Birthdays

- Dec. 5 Roxane Rondorf
- Dec. 23 Jim Strandlie
- Dec. 29 Neil Bugge
- Dec. 30 Richard Geske

Anniversaries

None in December

Minutes of the Church Council

OCTOBER 25, 2016

The St. Pauli Church Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 7 p.m. at St. Pauli Church. Members present: Arlo Rude, Cindy Cedergren, Gary Iverson, Kathy Alberg and Pastor Carl Hansen.

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

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the September 19, 2016 meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was approved as presented. An updated 2016 budget was reviewed, amended and approved.

General Fund:

Checking balance as of 9/1/16:	\$ 11,541.42
Expenses	(1,155.16)
Income	<u>2,807.97</u>
Checking balance as of 9/30/16:	\$ 13,194.23
Investor Savings balance 9/30/16	\$ 35,955.81
Certificates of Deposit	\$ 20,000.00
Edward Jones Investments 9/30/16	\$ 43,276.15
Memorial Fund Savings & CDs 9/30/16	\$ 11,292.60
Mission Grant Fund balance 9/30/16	\$ <u>2,023.02</u>
Total Church Funds:	\$125,741.81

Pastor's Report: Pastor Hansen reported that the Thief River Falls area ELCA congregations will hold a joint Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 23, 2016 at 7 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church.

There will be a First Communion orientation session held during the Sunday School hour on October 30 for 5th graders, and others who have not attended in the past. First Communion will be celebrated on All Saints Sunday, November 6th.

Pastor Kristin Ostercamp will begin her ministry as pastor of the Goodridge Lutheran Parish on Sunday, November 13. Please keep Pastor Ostercamp and the parish in your prayers.

Pastor Hansen stated his trip to Texas was delightful. As an unbiased member of the audience, he could definitely say that his granddaughter, Chelsea, was a hit playing the role of Belle in Beauty and the Beast. Chelsea is planning to try out for more plays, so Grandpa may occasionally disappear from TRF over the next 20 months. He will be leaving for Texas again on December 25, and plans to return to TRF in time for worship on either January 22 or January 29.

He asked for input on changing the liturgy setting this fall, and the Council recommended postponing the change until the Lenten season, since the pastor will not be here for the month of January to assist the congregation in learning a new liturgy.

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

New Members or Interest in Membership: At the family's request, Pastor Hansen will meet with a family regarding their interest in membership.

Reports:

- 1) WELCA - Cedergren and Alberg reported on the September WELCA meeting and the October 16th Fall Event with Marilyn Hagerty. No financial report on the event was available at the time of this meeting.
- 2) Board of Education – Iverson reported there are 13 students attending Sunday School this fall. He stated that the new Confirmation class of 5 students is going well. It appears that Confirmation Sunday will be delayed until spring, due to incomplete work of some students.

Old Business:

- 1) Constitution and By-Laws: Rude reported he contacted Calvary Church and they are searching their records for the most recent Constitution, as well as the IRS letter that cannot be found in the St. Pauli records.
- 2) Follow-up on Oct. 2 Special Congregational Meeting: Rude will provide Gale Schmitz the information he'll need to get the appropriate accounts set up so they are ready for January 1st start-up. Rude will research options for a security system of some kind for church property. As a result of the fireplace project being voted down, Rude asked for recommendations on what to do with the old piano that has been stored for a few years and was proposed for use with the fireplace. After discussion, it was recommended that WELCA be asked for recommendations as well.
- 3) Steeple Repair: Rude reported on progress made on this project.

New Business:

- 1) Pathways Lutheran Outdoor Ministries: Pastor Hansen shared a letter from Pathways, seeking congregational support for their ministries. This may be considered at budget development time.
- 2) Lutheran Disaster Relief: It was decided to contribute \$540 remaining from the general fund line item for disaster relief to victims of Hurricane Matthew. The congregation will be asked to add to this donation, through worship service offerings taken from October 30-November 13. A notice will be published in the bulletins.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 17, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Cedergren
St. Pauli Church Council Secretary

St. Pauli Cemetery Association Board of Directors Meeting

SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

The St. Pauli Cemetery Association Board of Directors met on September 19, 2016 at 8:15 pm at St. Pauli Church with the following members present: Arlo Rude, Kathy Alberg, Gary Iverson, and Cindy Cedergren.

Chairman Arlo Rude opened the meeting. The agenda was approved as printed.

New Business:

1) Additional cost to set Vigen monument: Rude reported that Roger Porter had been contracted to repair and reset the Vigen monument. However, he was only able to complete part of the project, due to the weight of the monument. Rude contacted Tim Calhoun, a contractor who could use a lift to reset the monument. Rude asked

for approval to hire Calhoun at a cost of approximately \$150. Alberg made the motion, Cedergren seconded, to hire Tim Calhoun to complete this project for approximately \$150. Motion carried.

No other business was conducted at this meeting.
Next meeting: Tuesday October 25, following the 7 pm St. Pauli Council meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Cedergren

St. Pauli Cemetery Association Board of Directors
Secretary

* * * * *

WELCA Business Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2016

The St. Pauli Women of the ELCA met on October 26, 2016 at 7 pm with nine members present.

President Faye Auchenpaugh opened the meeting with devotions and prayer.

Secretary's Report: The secretary's report for September was approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was approved as read.

Income	\$ 2,787.00
Expenses	\$ 266.39
Checking account balance	\$ 2,704.47
Savings Account balance	\$ 2,161.44
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 5,999.31

Fall Event Report: Income: \$2,317 (includes \$240 from pie sales); Expenses: Marilyn Hagerty Honorarium \$100; Advertising, outstanding bill of \$30 expected; Misc. serving supplies, \$30. Approximately 60 people attended the event. We received about 39 pies from members, to serve and to sell. We had several pies left over after the event, many of which were purchased by WELCA members and some were frozen for later use this fall.

Stewardship Report: Virginia Anderson reported there are 27 school bags filled and 15 baby care kits will be assembled tonight.

Education Report: None.

Old Business:

Convention Reports: Virginia Anderson shared more information from the synod convention, regarding scholarships, the Mary Magdalene Award recipients, and program highlights.

Fall Cleaning: Faye Auchenpaugh thanked everyone who cleaned during Cleaning Week of October 10-15 and the evening of October 11. She thanked Virginia Anderson for painting the front doors.

Other: Cindy Cedergren reported on a couple of items forwarded from the Council. The Council is seeking recommendations on what to do with the old piano that was being saved for use with the proposed fireplace, since the fireplace project was voted down at the Special Congregational meeting on October 23. Virginia Anderson expressed interest in the piano and will inform the Council if she wishes to acquire it.

Another item brought up by the Council was the whereabouts of the small bookshelf and its contents that was formerly located in the narthex. No one in attendance was aware that they were missing, or of its whereabouts.

Christmas Eve Photo: Faye Auchenpaugh will research costs involved in making greeting cards with the photo taken by Arlo Rude at last year's Christmas Eve candlelight service. She will look into Christmas cards with imprinting, and smaller blank notecards.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer, Prayer Partners, and Table Grace. Volunteers served as hostesses in Sue Kotz's absence. Following the meeting, several members assembled the baby care kits for the Lutheran World Relief shipment.

Next meeting is November 16th, with Sharon Bugge serving as hostess.

Cindy Cedergren
WELCA Secretary

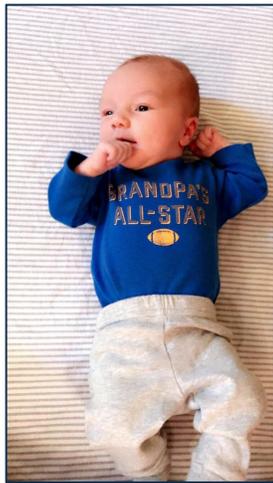
WELCA Stewardship Items Shipped in 2016

15 Quilts
 33 Personal Care Kits (Lent collection included)
 27 Baby Care Kits
 34 School Kits
 3 Blankets
 1 Quilt to local fire victims
 8 Filled Purses to Someplace Safe, women's shelters in a 9-county service area

* * * * *

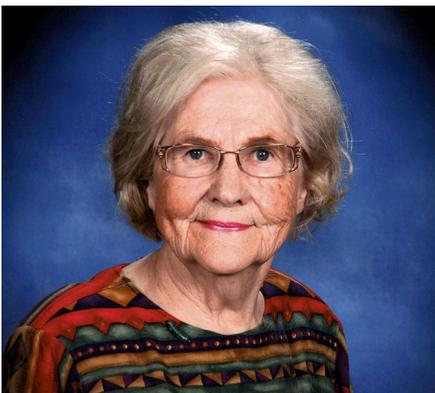
A Birth Announcement!

Kylan James Rondorf was born October 14, 2016 at 12:05 p.m., weighing 7 lbs 7 oz, and measuring 21 in. long. He is healthy and doing great.



Parents Jordan and Erin, big sister Ella Jae, Aunt Rachael, Grandpa Jim, Grandma Roxie, and Great-Grandma Edna are all thrilled to welcome him, as is our entire congregation.

* * * * *



Marilyn Hagerty to write article on St. Pauli Church

Marilyn Hagerty, our Fall Event featured speaker, thought the St. Pauli church building was one of the most beautiful she had seen. At the time, she mentioned writing about our church in one of her December columns, but then contacted us right before Thanksgiving to arrange a time for her and a photographer to come to the church in preparation for a larger piece.



Church Cross Installed on Steeple

A cross has been installed as part of the steeple work and restoration.

Lighting will be added at a later date.

Be watching the *Grand Forks Herald* for this

article.

* * * * *

Holiday Train December 12th 7:30 pm

As in years past, two trains will operate coast-to-coast under the Holiday Train banner, with approximately 150 shows held in November and December. "We are very excited about this year's CP Holiday Train and are encouraging all event attendees to bring healthy, nutritious food items to the shows," said Pam Jolliffe, Interim Executive Director, Food Banks Canada. "For the last two decades, CP has played an integral role in raising essential food for the holidays and in raising



awareness of hunger-related issues."

Every pound of food and dollar raised at each stop stays with the local food bank to help feed those in need in that community.

This year the train will be arriving in Thief River Falls on December 12 at 7:30 p.m. and will feature a special performance by Kelly Prescott and Colin James.

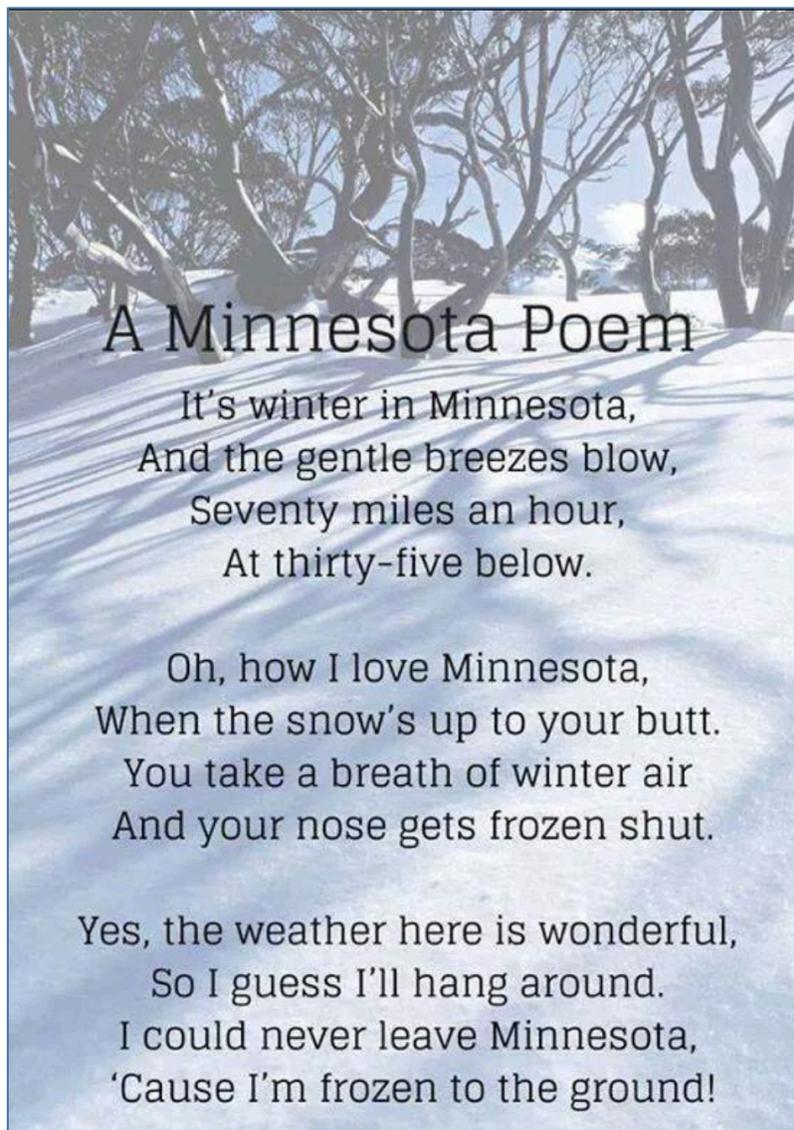
Cookies and hot cider will be available to the public at City Hall starting at 6:30 p.m.



ELCA Youth Gathering announces 2018 theme

The theme for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering is “This Changes Everything,” and the primary Scripture will be Ephesians 2:8: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” The new logo (at left) is a visual representation of the theme and the experience of the Gathering, and the cross at the center is the focus – it is God's grace, through Christ's life, death and resurrection, that changes everything for all people.

The Gathering will be held in Houston, TX.



SILENT NIGHT: The Song Heard 'Round The World

by Bill Egan, Christmas Historian

180 years ago the carol “Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht” was heard for the first time in a village church in Oberndorf, Austria. The congregation at that Midnight Mass in St. Nicholas Church listened as the voices of the assistant pastor, Fr. Joseph Mohr, and the choir director, Franz Xaver Gruber, rang through the church to the accompaniment of Fr. Mohr's guitar. On each of the six verses, the choir repeated the last two lines in four-part harmony.

On that Christmas Eve, a song was born that would wing its way into the hearts of people throughout the world. Now translated into hundreds of languages, it is sung by untold millions every December from small chapels in the Andes to great cathedrals in Antwerp and Rome.

Today books, films and Internet sites are filled with fanciful tales purporting to tell the history of “Silent Night.” Some tell of mice eating the bellows of the organ creating the necessity for a hymn to be accompanied by a guitar. Others claim that Joseph Mohr was forced to write the words to a new carol in haste since the organ would not play. A recent film, created for Austrian television places Oberndorf in the Alps and includes evil railroad barons and a double-dealing priest, while a recent book by a German author places a zither in the hands of Franz Gruber and connects Joseph Mohr with a tragic fire engulfing the city of Salzburg. You can read claims that “Silent Night” was sung on Christmas Eve in 1818 and then forgotten by its creators. Of course, the latter are easily discounted by manuscript arrangements of the carol by both Mohr and Gruber, which were produced at various times between 1820 and 1855.

In this age of tabloid journalism, it's not surprising that some feel it necessary to invent frivolous anecdotes and create fables for a story that is quite beautiful in its simplicity.

The German words for the original six stanzas of the carol we know as “Silent Night” were written by Joseph Mohr in 1816, when he was a young priest assigned to a pilgrimage church in Mariapfarr, Austria. His grandfather lived nearby, and it is easy to imagine that he could have come up with the words while walking through the countryside on a visit to his elderly relative. The fact is, we have no idea if any particular event inspired Joseph Mohr to pen his poetic version of the birth of the Christ Child. The world is fortunate, however, that he didn't leave it behind when he was transferred to Oberndorf the following year (1817).

On December 24, 1818, Joseph Mohr journeyed to the home of musician-schoolteacher Franz Gruber who lived in an apartment over the schoolhouse in nearby Arnsdorf. He showed his friend the poem and asked him to add a melody and guitar accompaniment so that it could be sung at Midnight Mass. His reason for wanting the new carol is unknown. Some speculate that the organ would not work; others feel that the assistant pastor, who dearly loved guitar music, merely wanted a new carol for Christmas.



Later that evening, as the two men, backed by the choir, stood in front of the main altar in St. Nicholas Church and sang "Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!" for the first time, they could hardly imagine the impact their composition would have on the world.

Karl Mauracher, a master organ builder and repairman from the Ziller Valley, traveled to Oberndorf to work on the organ several times in subsequent years. While doing his work in St. Nicholas, he obtained a copy of the composition and took it home with him. Thus, the simple carol began its journey around the world as a “Tyrolean Folk Song.”

Two traveling families of folk singers from the Ziller Valley, similar to the Trapp Family Singers of “The Sound of Music” fame, incorporated the song into their repertoire. According to the *Leipziger Tageblatt*, the Strassers sang the song in a concert in Leipzig in December 1832. It was during this period that several musical notes were changed, and the carol evolved into the melody we know today. On another occasion, according to an historical plaque, the Rainer Family sang the Christmas carol before an audience that included Emperor Franz I and Tsar Alexander I. In the year 1839, the Rainers performed “Stille Nacht” for the first time in America, at the Alexander Hamilton Monument outside Trinity Church in New York City.

Joseph Bletzacher, the Court Opera singer from Hannover, reported that by the 1840s, the carol was already well known in Lower Saxony. “In Berlin,” he says, “the Royal Cathedral Choir popularized it especially. It became in fact the favorite Christmas carol of the artistically appreciative King Frederick William IV of Prussia, who used to have the Cathedral Choir sing it for him during the Christmas season each year.”

By the time the song had become famous throughout Europe, Joseph Mohr had died and the composer was unknown. Although Franz Gruber wrote to music authorities in Berlin stating that he was the composer, the melody had been assumed to be the work of Haydn, Mozart or Beethoven at

The Back Page

It is nearly Christmas. The evidence is all around – Christmas carols, decorations and preparations in our homes, in our churches and in the mall. That is not a bad thing. But we are also in Advent. I want us to consider the deep and holy longing that is a part of this season. It is significant that the words of the prophets and the yearning of Israel in exile are so prominent in the lessons appointed for this season. The people longed for the Lord to come, to act, to redeem them, to take them home. They lived in Babylon, but their hearts were not there.



I think Advent is that way for us. As Lutherans, we do not withdraw from the world, but engage it believing that it is a gift. But we also know that it is not quite right, that there is brokenness and pain – the pain we experience, the pain others cause, the pain we cause others.

In some ways, Advent creates a certain restlessness. It may be one of the few seasons of the year when we become more aware of our longing for wholeness and more alert to the signs that something is approaching. This Advent longing is an awareness that apart from God we are not whole. We find ourselves in the unsettled and restless time between the ending of the old year and the beginning of the new.

A thin place where heaven and earth seem to touch, where we draw near to God realizing, as St. Augustine wrote, “You have formed us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in You.”

We can’t get there by ourselves, and here is the promise and hope of Christmas – the one for whom we long is not content to draw us, but fulfills this promise by coming to us as Emmanuel, God with us. In the incarnate Christ, God comes to us, finds us and gives our restless hearts rest.

Merry Christmas, dear church.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America