

St. Pauli News in Detail



ANNUAL MEETINGS

ST. PAULI CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

January 21, 2016

8:00 pm

ST. PAULI CONGREGATION

January 31, 2016

11:30 am

(following worship services)

12:30 pm

Potluck dinner

Freewill offering to benefit

Hospice



IMPORTANT: Designated persons must submit their organizational reports to Arlo Rude no later than January 18th for inclusion in the St. Pauli Annual Report.

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EMAIL ADDRESSES

Email contacts help us in many ways: gathering consensus on issues, providing information, and saving postage on newsletters.

Please check the 2016 handbook to make sure your address is correct. If you have an email address and it is missing, please contact Faye Auchenpaugh at auchenpaugh@gmail.com.

Let Faye know also if you wish to have your newsletter emailed rather than sent via postal mail. Sometimes a paper copy is valuable, even if it is just to post the calendar on your refrigerator, so don't be afraid to request the continuation of your paper copy.



Greeting and Ushering

Jan. 3	Val Torstveit
Jan. 10	Barb Smith
Jan. 17	Wahna Smith
Jan. 24	Mike Stickler
Jan. 31	Jim Strandlie

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: Barb Nelson

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January Milestones

Birthdays

Jan. 3	Dolly Davidson
Jan. 13	Noah Haugen
Jan. 17	Erin Rondorf

Anniversaries

Jan. 3	Jim and Jan Strandlie
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St. Pauli Handbook

The 2016 handbooks have been completed. Printed copies are in your church mailboxes.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services



December 24, 2015

The traditional bell ringing began at 4:30 pm to pronounce, "Our Saviour is Born!" Volunteers rang continuously for the half hour prior to services. Every pew was filled for the services that began at 5:00 pm. The service closed with the lighting of candles and the singing of "Silent Night."

First Sunday of Christmas Message

Luke 2: 41-52

December 27, 2015

Dr. Kari E. Torkelson

Kari Torkelson led worship services on December 27th in Pastor Carl's absence. We concluded the service with the congregation singing the Lord's Prayer. Several requested a copy of Kari's sermon, so we are enclosing it herewith.

Wasn't it just a few days ago we were celebrating the birth of Jesus and now in our Gospel for today he is 12 years old? What happened in all those in between years? Well, there really aren't many stories in the Bible about the childhood of Jesus.

Last year, as I stood before this congregation on the First Sunday of Christmas, the Gospel story was of Jesus at 40 days old being presented at the temple. And, the verse before today's Gospel in

Luke 2:21 says it was on the eighth day after his birth that he was named Jesus. Other than that, not much is said. In fact, his whole childhood is written in Luke chapter 2 beginning at verse one and ending at verse 41.

It seems to me his birth must have been the talk of the town. It makes us wonder what kind of child Jesus was and what he liked to do. I wonder if people asked him, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Did he say, "I am the Savior of the world, God's son, who will die to save all the world from their sin?" Could you imagine? As we look back, we know this is the truth. But, honestly, if a 12-year-old boy came up to me and said this, I

would think he was very strange and probably try to end the conversation.

It was Jewish law that every adult male Jew who lived within 15 miles of Jerusalem must attend the Passover. In fact, it was the aim of every Jew in *all* the world to make that trip at least one in a lifetime. Today's Gospel, from Luke, begins by telling us that every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. This is about a 90 mile trip one way from Nazareth to Jerusalem. This was no light undertaking and shows their commitment to follow the religious laws.

Imagine being Mary and Joseph. They were following the religious laws by joining their family, including their son, Jesus, for the festival of Passover. There would have been many people making this journey. I am not a parent but I could imagine them telling Jesus to stay close as they journeyed so they could stick together.

As they head home on their journey things seem to go smoothly and then they realize, a day into their journey, that Jesus isn't with them. From what I have read, the women in a caravan would start out much earlier than the men because they seemed to travel more slowly.

The men started out later and traveled faster so the two groups wouldn't meet until the evening where they were going to set up camp for the night. It was likely that Joseph thought Jesus was with Mary and Mary thought he was with Joseph and until they met that night neither of them knew he was missing.

Imagine the panic of these parents. Did someone kidnap him? I thought he was with you. I thought he was with YOU! Where did he find water? Is he scared? Is he hurt?

I'm sure there were all sorts of horrible scenarios running through their mind. Today, an Amber alert would have been issued and everyone would be on the lookout for this 12 year old boy. Mary and Joseph did the only thing they could do. They looked for him among the rest of the people on their journey and when they didn't find him they turned around and retraced their steps back to Jerusalem.

After three days they found him in the temple with the scholars of the day, listening and asking them questions. It wasn't two or four days; but three days. The Gospel writer, Luke, knew the significance of the three days: Jesus was in the tomb for three days, the temple was destroyed and rebuilt in three days, Jonah was in the belly of a whale for three days.

All the people who heard Jesus in the temple were amazed at his understanding. Here was a 12 year old boy who was able to keep up in a conversation with the most renowned men of his day. Throughout the whole Gospel, people will be constantly amazed and astonished at his words and works. People were astonished and amazed at his teachings; astonished and amazed at his healings; astonished and amazed at his resurrection. Today, we continue to be astonished and amazed at how relevant and wise his teachings are thousands of years later. We too are astonished and amazed when we experience healing. We too are amazed at his victory over death.

Then, typical of any mother, Mary sees him and gets upset. Why do you treat us this way? Your father and I have been worried sick about you. You were supposed to be with us. It almost seems like Mary has forgotten what happened about 12 to 13

years earlier when the angel of the Lord appeared to her and said she would bear God's son.

I think we can all remember being a kid and having this same conversation with our parents. "Where have you been? We were looking for you!" Not knowing we were even lost we might say, "What were you worried about? Didn't you know I would be here?"

Joseph is not his father and I love Jesus' response: "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" These are the first words spoken by Jesus in the Gospels.

Luke uses that word, *must*, many times in his Gospel. He will write how Jesus says he *must* preach the Gospel, we will hear how he *must* heal the sick and at the end of Luke we hear that he *must* suffer and die on the cross. It is God's destiny.

So, the first time Luke uses the word *must* is that Jesus **MUST** be in his father's house. Perhaps during all the discussions and listening to the teachers in the temple, Jesus knew this was the place for him. This passage lets us know that Jesus has come to the realization that he was the Son of God.

In our day, there is a lot of talk about finding our purpose in life. There are books and self-help lectures devoted to this topic. But, here, we find Jesus realizing his purpose and position in life. He is God's Son!!

However, this didn't make him look down upon his earthly parents. He went home with them and was obedient to them. But it is clear that his priorities have changed. Jesus' primary concern is not the will of his parents but the will of God and the mission that God's will entails.

There isn't much talk about Joseph after these days so it is assumed he died quite young and that left Jesus to be the man of the house. He learned carpentry skills so he likely built houses, furniture for those houses, and farming tools, like yolk for oxen. He learned the carpentry skills from Joseph and worked at this until he began his ministry.

I find this exchange between Jesus and Mary refreshing. It reminds me that God came to us in human form, in Jesus. He's just like us...well, not really. Sure, he was in the human body like us and experienced joy and sorrow and, certainly, pain like us. And, he often hung out with the wrong crowd. He was seen with prostitutes, the cheating tax collectors, the poor widows, the blind, the lepers, and the list goes on.

Our Sunday School Christmas program last week was titled: "Who's Inside, Who's Outside." It basically talked about how Jesus was born into a family of outsiders. Mary was pregnant and wasn't married, Joseph was going to wed her anyway, the shepherds were considered liars and cheats, and Jesus was literally born in a stable...outside. But, Jesus came into this world to bring ALL of us, each of us with our flaws and sins, of every race and nation to be on the **INSIDE** of his grace filled love.

What better story is there to fill us with joy as we look forward to the start of the New Year?

Amen

Resources: Sermons From Seattle by Pastor Edward F. Marquart and Working Preacher by Luther Seminary. Also, the Study Bible I used is from Augsburg Fortress copyright 1990, the New Student Bible, NRSV.

Results of the “Afternoon with Eric Bergeson” event

You will recall that we suspended our Fall Supper in 2015 and replaced it with an event that we hoped would continue our purpose of providing community fellowship, working together as a congregation, and giving of charitable donations.

Volunteers gathered the day before to make lefse and members donated homemade pies for coffee following the program. We even had a couple of black raspberry pies donated by Larry Hurst, who brought the raspberry canes from where he grew up in Missouri! Congregational members were also asked to make generous financial contributions. Thrivent Action Team and an anonymous gift covered almost all of the expenses.

Income (including free will donations, lefse and pie sales):	\$ 2,337.00
Expenses:	
Advertising	(40.00)
Food supplies	(20.27)
Eric Bergeson fee (remainder paid Thrivent Action Team)	<u>(50.00)</u>
Net Profit:	\$ 2,226.73

The WELCA executive board made the following charitable distributions at their December meeting:

TRF Salvation Army	\$ 400.00
ELCA Good Gifts (1 cow \$500, 1 goat \$50, irrigation canal \$100)	650.00
Haiti Medical Mission	100.00
Northland Rescue Mission, Grand Forks	200.00
Can-Do Canine	100.00
Little Brother Little Sister of Thief River Falls	300.00
Women of the ELCA Scholarship Fund	250.00
TRF Area Food Shelf	<u>200.00</u>
Total Donated	\$ 2,200.00

Other charitable monetary donations made in 2015 via Potluck Offerings & WELCA funds

Hospice of the Red River Valley	\$ 200.00
Lutheran Social Serviced	200.00
Violence Intervention Project	200.00

Lutheran World Relief donations in 2015

May shipment:

- 11 quilts
- 35 personal care kits (20 through congregational donations during Lent and 15 through the Sunday School)
- 15 sewing kits
- 15 baby care or layette kits
- 6 Linus blankets (for local use; confirmation class helped to tie them)

November shipment:

- 20 school kits
- 6 baby kits (we can now track the location of our boxes online)

Minutes of the Church Council

NOVEMBER 19, 2015

The St. Pauli Church Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, November 19, 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. Guest: Vanessa Martell, Edward D. Jones Financial Advisor.

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

Approval of Agenda: Approved as presented.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the October 13, 2015 meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was approved as presented. Halvorson noted that three payments had been sent to Church Mutual Insurance, as they were stating that payment had not been received. Two of the payments will be returned to the treasurer.

Rude will check on a previous decision by the council or the congregation regarding keeping the checking account balance under \$5,000. Funds in excess of \$5,000 would be invested unless needed for a particular project.

Halvorson will make a correction to a payment made from the cemetery fund for mowing, which should have been paid from the general fund.

General Fund Expenses	\$ 2,072.00
General Fund Income	2,632.25
Checking Account Balance	\$ 23,933.18
Investor Savings	35,889.87
Edward Jones Investments	39,871.39
Memorial Fund Balance	11,291.40
Mission Grant Fund	1,001.64
St. Pauli Cemetery Assoc.	25,918.08

Pastor's Report: The Annual TRF Lutheran Joint Thanksgiving Service will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church on Wed, November 25 at 7 pm. One of the highlights of this service for him is the singing of the massed choirs, plus the excellent congregational singing.

Pastor Hansen's family will be celebrating the oldest daughter's 50th birthday in Sioux City, Iowa, on Sat., November 28th; with five traveling from Minnesota, four from Nebraska, and five from Sioux City. Daughter Dawn was born at a hospital in Cavite City, Philippines. She and her husband Ross Bryant live in Thedford, Nebraska with their two children, Ariel and Aidan.

After Christmas, Pastor Hansen will be leaving for a trip to Seguin, Texas, to celebrate Christmas, son and daughter-in-law's anniversary and granddaughter's 16th birthday. He will return for services at St. Pauli on January 31.

It continues to be a pure joy for Pastor Hansen to serve at St. Pauli. In his words, "We are a blessed and blessing congregation!"

Pastor Hansen noted he had recently received a message from a representative of the Gideons, asking if they could make a presentation at worship. He noted that January may be a good time to have such a presentation.

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

New Members or Interest in Membership: No report.

Reports:

- 1) WELCA: Cedergren reported on the following items from the Nov. 18th WELCA meeting:
 - a. 20 School kits and 6 baby kits were shipped through Lutheran World Relief in early November; we can now track the location of our boxes online.
 - b. A quilt was donated to the Jeff Martinson family who lost their home to a fire in October.
 - c. Nov. 22 – Eric Bergeson will present a program; Thrivent Action Team and an anonymous gift will cover the expenses; a free will offering will support the annual charitable giving which has typically been funded by fall supper profits. Some helpers are still needed for making lefse on Saturday, and serving pie on Sunday.
 - d. Christmas tree and sanctuary decorating will take place on December 3rd. Ron and Virginia Anderson will select a tree; Arlo Rude will deliver and set it up.
 - e. December 6th Christmas Family Day program will be Al and Tami Kiesow, following a potluck lunch.
 - f. December 20 – Sunday School Christmas Program; WELCA will serve a light lunch following the program, with potluck treats from other members.

Board of Education: No report.

Old Business:

Projects for 2015: The list was reviewed. Rude stated it is still a goal to replace the toe kick wood on the altar rail this year. He reported the septic system has been covered for the winter.

New Business:

- 1) Review of investments: Vanessa Martell presented the Council with the current status and historical rates of return in each of the three types of accounts in which the church funds are invested. No changes to the investment accounts were made by the Council.
- 2) Ushers for Christmas Eve Services: It was decided to request volunteers in early December to usher and distribute candles for the services. In the 2016 St. Pauli Handbook, and in subsequent years, the December 24 service should be added to the ushering and cleaning schedule.
- 3) Budget review will take place at the December 17th Council meeting.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Cedergren
St. Pauli Church Council Secretary

Historic Minutes of the St. Pauli Congregation

Editor's Note: Several special congregational meetings were held in 1926. Meeting minutes from all three are included here.

5 April 1926

St. Pauli congregation held a special congregation meeting in the church on April 5, 1926 to discuss if there should be held services in the English language. It was proposed and supported to hold every third service in the English language. It was proposed and supported to apply to the youth's club if they wanted to buy English hymn books in the English services.

After which the meeting was ended.

Olaf Snetting, Secretary

14 June 1926

There was held a special congregation meeting in the church on June 14, 1926. The meeting was opened by the chairman Pastor Grimsrud with reading from the Bible and prayer.

Thereafter, Martin Mathson informed about the reason for this meeting, namely to discuss what should be done to the church.

Then it was proposed and supported that Helmer Finstad with wife and four children be admitted as members of the congregation.

It was proposed and supported [literal translation from the Norwegian in which these minutes were written is "grace"] the church with three iron bars on the west side

and two on the east side, and three on the inside of the basement and two on the inside of the church, if it is necessary. Proposed and supported to repair the church on the inside with a steel ceiling and paint the inside and outside and put handrails on the entrance stairs.

Proposed and supported to leave it to the trustees to hire a carpenter to superintend this work and to borrow money to perform this work.

On proposal, the meeting ended.

Olaf Snetting, Secretary

25 July 1926

St. Pauli congregation held a special congregation meeting in the church on July 25, 1926.

The meeting was opened by Pastor Grimsrud with hymn song and reading from the Bible. Thereafter, it was proposed and supported to accept Pastor Grimsrud's resignation. It was proposed and supported to accept the resignation for two months instead of for three.

Proposed and supported to elect a committee of three men to appoint a pastor again. Namely, Joe Torstveit, Lars Lokken, O. J. Snetting.

Then Iver Iversen was elected to be grave keeper and Tobias Stene elected to be chairman until we have a pastor again.

The meeting was ended.

Olaf Snetting, Secretary

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

17 February 1966

The regular meeting of the St. Pauli L.C.W. was held at the Jesse Skaaren home Thursday afternoon, February 17. Hostesses: Mrs. Jesse Skaaren and Mrs. Norman Nelson.

Meeting opened with hymn, "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling." Scripture taken from 1st Peter: 9 and 10 and prayer by Pastor Winter.

Business opened with the Secretary's report read and accepted.

Mrs. Clayton Mathson reported on the board meeting held February 8. Business meeting adjourned.

Program opened with Mrs. Herman Rude in charge.

Hymn "I Love to Tell the Story"

Reading on American Missions by Mrs. Emil Thune

Hymn: "Jesus Shall Reign"

Reading on our church calendar by Mrs. Verdeen Grove, Mrs. Clayton Mathson and Mrs. Alma Mathson
Reading of a hymn that goes with this season by Mrs. Herman Rude

Closing hymn: "The Church's One Foundation"

Offering meditation: Mrs. Norman Nelson

Lord's Prayer prayed and table blessing sung.

Mrs. Norman Nelson, Secretary

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

31 August 1927

The St. Pauli Young People's Society held its last meeting at the church Sunday evening, August 31, 1927. The meeting was called to order by Rev. Jacobson.

The following program was rendered.

Song by audience: Hymn no. 247

Scripture reading and talk by Rev. Jacobson.

Song by Louise Netteland and Anna Gryting

Recitation: Minnie Stene

Song: Carl Alberg and Gust Gustafson

Speech: Rev. Jacobson

H. J. Finstad was elected president to take the place of Mrs. Oien.

Hymn by audience no. 243

Motion was made and seconded that the next meeting be held in two weeks.

There was no program committee elected for the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Lunch was served by Mrs. Carl Ahlberg and Mrs. Martin Lokken.

The proceeds were \$17.70.

Oscar Odegaard, Secretary

29 August 1954

The St. Pauli Luther League met at the church on Sunday evening, August 29. The meeting opened with parts of scripture read by Doris Belange, Melba Gustafson, Pat Torkelson and Wahna Torkelson. Prayer was given by Betty Rude.

The business meeting opened with the Secretary's report, which was read and approved as read.

Betty Rude and Doris Belange gave interesting reports on their stay at Luther League Leadership Camp and Lake Andrewsia.

Pres. Doris Belange read a letter from Youth In Action thanking us for the \$35 contribution we sent them.

No new business had to be taken up. The business meeting was adjourned.

The program for the evening was "Know So, Not Hope So."

Doris Belange gave a reading on assurance.

Wahna and Pat Torkelson sang a duet, "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior."

Beverly Rolandson also gave a reading on assurance. The congregation sang the song, "My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less."

Readings were given by Connie Alberg, Loretta Weckworth and Melba Gustafson.

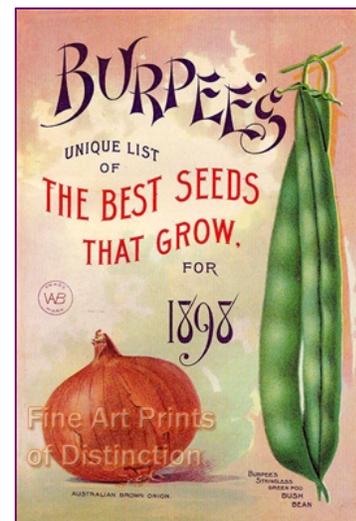
A song, "My Faith Looks Up to Thee," was sung by the congregation.

Rev. Person gave the closing prayer.

Servers were: Russell Thune, Jesse Skaaren, Paul Gilbertson, and Anton Torkelson families

Proceeds: \$15.80

Signed: Pat Torkelson, Secretary



He Knows No Winter

He knows no winter, he who loves the soil,
For, stormy days, when he is free from toil,
He plans his summer crops, selects his seeds
From bright-paged catalogues for garden needs.

When looking out upon frost-silvered fields,
He visualizes autumn's golden yields;
He sees in snow and sleet and icy rain
Precious moisture for his early grain.

He hears spring-heralds in the storm's turmoil.
He knows no winter, he who loves the soil.

-SUDIE STUART HAGER

The Back Page



1. If walking were good for your health, postmen would be immortal.
2. A whale swims all day, eats only fish, only drinks water, and is fat.
3. A rabbit only eats vegetables, runs and hops all day, and only lives 5 years.
4. A tortoise doesn't run and does nothing energetic, yet lives 450 years.

And you told me to exercise? I don't think so!

Correction to December newsletter. Those who received the paper copy of the newsletter must have been puzzled by the filler "Lefse: The piece of cod that passeth all understanding. The correct version is:

LUTEFISK: The piece of cod that passeth all understanding.