

## In Memoriam

St. Pauli has lost one of its gentle and faithful servants.

Marie Iverson, 83, passed away on Thursday, February 16, 2012 at Sanford Hospital in Thief River Falls.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at St. Pauli Church with Rev. Carl Hansen officiating. Burial followed at Greenwood Cemetery, Thief River Falls.

Marie Grace Benston (born as Mary) was born on September 28, 1928 at home on the family farm in Rocksbury Township, the daughter of Clarence and Hilma (Olson) Benston. She attended country school in Rocksbury Township through the fourth grade, Knox Elementary and graduated from Lincoln High School in 1947. Marie stayed at home and helped on the family farm following her high school graduation.



Marie was baptized and confirmed as an adult following her marriage to Harley Iverson on October 14, 1950. They were married in a double ceremony with her sister Mildred and her husband Alvin Rondorf. The ceremony took place at First Lutheran Church in Thief River Falls. Six children were born into the loving home of Marie and Harley: Gary, Eileen, Milan, Vinse, Virgil and Dale. She and Harley lived their lives in a strong, committed Christian way. Marie and Harley made their home on their dairy and small grain farm in Smiley Township. In 1987 they retired to the Iverson family homestead in Rocksbury Township (near the St. Pauli Cemetery).

Marie was a very ladylike but hardworking woman. She was very concerned about tending to her husband, children, family and friends. She always kept busy; if there was something to be done, she would work until it was finished. Marie even enjoyed playing ball with Harley and the kids when they were younger. Marie, along with the Sorteberg and Rondorf families, saw to it that birthdays and holidays were always celebrated together.

Marie was a great cook; she baked a cake almost every other day because she knew Harley and the kids enjoyed it. Over the years, Marie enjoyed reading, watching Hee-Haw on TV, needlework, quilting, embroidery, crocheting, flower and vegetable gardening, and loved to keep her wood stove going. She and Harley liked to go to the dances and also enjoyed listening to old time music. She was a member of St. Pauli Lutheran Church where she was active with the Ladies Aid.

Survivors include children: Gary Iverson, Eileen (John) Kotaska, Milan (Carol) Iverson, Vinse Iverson, all of Thief River Falls, and Dale (Kathleen) Iverson of Richford, VT; six grandchildren: Daniel, Dean, and Tammy Kotaska; Kari, Kelly, and Kasey Iverson; 7 great-grandchildren; sisters, Mildred Rondorf and Clarice Sorteberg both of Thief River Falls; and many other relatives and friends.

Marie was preceded in death by her husband Harley in 2002; infant son, Virgil; infant granddaughter, Rose Marie Kotaska; and infant grandson, Bobby Michael Iverson.

Special music at the funeral service: Trinity Trio: Mike Sorteberg, Jay Forney & Rick Erickson  
"Will There Be Any Stars In My Crown" & "Softly And Tenderly"

Congregational hymns at the funeral service: "In The Garden" & "The Old Rugged Cross"

Accompanist at the prayer service: Faye Auchenpaugh

Congregational hymns at the prayer service: "How Great Thou Art" & "Just A Closer Walk With Thee"

Casketbearers: Ron Rondorf, Jim Rondorf, Mike Sorteberg, Merle Sorteberg, Rob Robson, Dan Barth

Honorary casketbearers: Crystal Barth, Kristine Robson, Lori Sorteberg, Roxane Rondorf & Jodie Rondorf

# Minutes of the Church Council

FEBRUARY 14, 2012

The St. Pauli Church Council held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at St. Pauli Church. Members present: Sharon Bergerson, Arlo Rude, Wahna Smith, Jodie Torkelson and Pastor Carl Hansen. The meeting was called to order by Council President Smith at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Carl Hansen opened the meeting with prayer.

## Secretary's Report

Torkelson distributed the Minutes of the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. After they were read, Rude made a motion to approve the Minutes. Bergerson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The draft minutes from the January 29<sup>th</sup> annual meeting were also distributed for council review prior to being printed in the March newsletter.

## Treasurer's Report

Bergerson presented the Treasurer's report for January 2012. Expenditures were \$3,102.33 and Income was \$3,902.00. The checking account balance as of January 31<sup>st</sup> was \$15,334.96 and the savings account balance was \$20,362.38. Total assets were \$85,792.27.

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

## Pastor's Report

Pastor Hansen informed the Council that he will be available to lead worship for all Sundays and Wednesdays in March so no pulpit supply will be required. In addition, he is willing to extend his agreement with St. Pauli as our interim pastor for another three months. The Council expressed their gratitude for his continued service.

Rude made a motion to extend Pastor Hansen's contract for three months. Bergerson seconded the motion, the motion was carried. Rude volunteered to draft the new agreement for signatures.

Lenten services will once again this year be held at 7:00 p.m. with pastors from the local churches rotating between churches in a round robin format. Pastor Hansen asked that the council line up someone each Wednesday to lead the service since the rotating pastor's only duty is to provide the sermon. He also asked whether St. Pauli designates the offering during Lent for any specific purpose and then told the council about two programs that might be considered. One is the Luther Seminary Scholarship Challenge Fund where there is a dollar for dollar match. The average

debt for a seminary graduate is \$51,000. The other program he mentioned was the Sustaining Rural Ministry Fund, which is a NW Synod program. The council said they would look at what the offering totals are after Lent and then discuss the various options.

Pastor Hansen reminded the Council of the synod's church council training session on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. St. Pauli will have six attendees.

## Old Business

There was no old business.

## New Business

2012 Council President - Smith nominated Arlo Rude to serve as Council President for 2012. Torkelson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

ELCA Congregational Report Form – the annual form needs to be completed and returned to the ELCA headquarters in Chicago. Torkelson agreed to take the lead coordinating the response since information will be needed from the treasurer and the church recorder in order to complete the form.

Hymnals – the church needs to purchase 70 more hymnals, plus an organist's edition. Several donations have already been received. The hymnals will be ordered and whatever number is not covered by donations will be paid for out of the Memorial Fund pursuant to the vote at the annual meeting. Smith suggested a committee be formed to coordinate the process including the ordering of the hymnals and book plates. Pastor Hansen suggested a dedication of the hymnals sometime after Easter. Discussion was held on whether the congregation would be open to looking at other service settings. Pastor Hansen has a CD of some of the settings that could be listened to in order to make a decision. The Council felt that we should use the current setting for at least the first month of Sundays with the new hymnals in order to give people time to learn how to use the new hymnal and then look at other settings.

Church Maintenance – Rude said that he and Gary Iverson installed new speakers and rope lighting behind the cross. After some adjusting, the humming sound from the speakers was hopefully eliminated. Rude also intends to do some re-wiring and other work to improve the church. The Council members thanked him for all of his work.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodie Torkelson, Church Council Secretary

## **Historic Minutes of the St. Pauli Congregation**

### **1 January 1897**

The annual meeting of the St. Pauli Norwegian Evangelical-Lutheran congregation was held in the school-house on January 1st 1897.

The meeting was opened with song and prayer of Pastor I. T. Aastad as chairman. Ole Hestekind, Pete Sanders, and Charley Kron were appointed as consultant members of the meeting. Thereafter the report of the secretary was read and accepted without changes.

Election of officials. Pete Nilson was proposed and supported as trustee of the congregation for 3 years – approved, Pete Simonson was proposed and supported as the secretary of the congregation for 1 year – approved, Halvor Thorstveit was proposed and supported as the treasurer of the congregation for 1 year – approved. It was proposed and supported that all of the pastor's salary shall be paid to the trustees and handed over to the treasurer before the middle of December.

It was proposed, supported and approved that a committee and man shall be elected to oversee the work on the gravesite of the congregation.

The leader of the committee is:

1. A. Odegaard,
2. Hans Amundson,
3. Peter Thune.

The proposition was supported and accepted that those not belonging to the congregation, who apply for a grave-place shall pay \$ 1.00. A. Odegaard is put forward and supported to be the church singer of the congregation. Accepted.

John Skjerva and A. Odegaard are proposed as Sunday school teachers. Accepted.

Proposed, supported and accepted that the Pastor will decide whether the services are to be held in the eastern or the western school-house.

Proposed, supported and accepted that the congregation of St. Pauli shall apply to be admitted in the Norwegian Synod (general assembly) and that the congregation will accept the Synodal statutes.

On proposal the meeting was ended.

The official trustees:

- A. A. Odegaard until 1898

Tollef Erickson until 1899

Pete Nilson until 1900

Halvor Thorstveit, treasurer for 1 year

Peder Simonson, secretary for 1 year

Peder Simonson, the secretary of the congregation

### **Why Don't We Use "Alleluias" During Lent?**

Because of the penitential character of the season of Lent, singing or saying the word "alleluia" has historically been suspended during Lent's forty days. The omission of alleluia during Lent goes back at least to the fifth century in the western church.

This period of individual and congregational reflection on the quality of our baptismal faith and life suggests that the joyful nature of alleluia is more appropriately reserved for our Easter celebrations when it is given full and jubilant voice.

We will use the alternate gospel acclamation for Lent provided in the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal. We will also use the Nicene Creed instead of the Apostle's Creed during Lent. This ecumenical creed is the most widely accepted creed in the Christian faith and it is an essential part of the doctrine and liturgy of Lutheran churches. Historically it has been used at Holy Communion on Sundays and major seasons of the year.

### **The Sin of Lying**

A minister told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17."

The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up.

The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only sixteen chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."

# **St. Pauli News in Detail**



## Lenten Services

### Donate items for Lutheran World Relief Kits to help people in need.



This Lenten season, our congregation is taking part in LWR's Baskets of Promise appeal. Each Sunday in Lent, we will collect items to form LWR Personal Care Kits that help impoverished people stay healthy in life's most challenging situations.

- Feb. 26: Bar of Soap (4 or 5 oz. in original wrapper)
- March 4: Bath Towel (lightweight, max. size 27" x 52", dark color preferred)
- March 11: Toothbrush (adult size, in original packaging)
- March 18: Comb
- March 25: Nail Clipper (metal, attached file optional)
- April 1: Bar of Soap

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### Greeting and Ushering

- Mar. 4 Mike Stickler
- Mar. 11 Jim Strandlie
- Mar. 18 Skip Swanson
- Mar. 25 Craig Torkelson

#### Sunday Service:

- Light altar candles before service and put out flames after church.
- Act as Greeters and hand out bulletins.
- Usher for offering and communion.
- Tidy up pews after church to make it ready for the next Sunday's services.

**Altar Preparation:** Sharon Bugge

We will participate again this year in a "round robin" schedule of pastors leading Lenten services. The theme is the "Seven Last Words of Christ."

- Ash Wed.: Pr. Carl Hansen
- Feb. 29: Pr. Mary Hansen (Calvary)
- March 7: Pr. Sheila Michaels (Newfolden)
- March 14: Pr. John Golv (Zion)
- March 21: Pr. Ale Tulu (Zion)
- March 28: Pr. Ben Carlsen (Redeemer)

Coffee and refreshments will follow the services.

- Feb. 29: Sarah Circle
- March 7: Miriam Circle
- March 14: Sarah Circle
- March 21: Miriam Circle
- March 28: Mary Circle



### March Milestones

#### Birthdays

- Mar. 22 Deone Cerny

#### Anniversaries

- Mar. 12 Sharon and Neil Bugge (1966)

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### Mystery Plowman

Someone in a white Chevy pickup with a plow on the front cleared the churchyard for Sunday services about a month ago. No one seems to know who this mystery person is. If you do, please thank him profusely on behalf of the congregation.



(Genesis 6:1-8)



OLD METHUSELAH...

...finally died. It was a long, long time since the days when God walked with Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, and things had changed. Everyone forgot about God.

They didn't pray to him anymore.

They didn't care about pleasing him.

All they cared about was themselves. All they cared about was getting what they wanted when they wanted it. And after a while it didn't matter if anyone had to get hurt to get it.

And the world became a terrible place.

It wasn't safe to go out into the streets anymore. Robbers and bandits would jump on you and take your loaf of bread. And if they beat you up, no one would stop to help. They would just walk by, and maybe take the apple you had in your pocket too. People were lying and cheating - and even killing each other - everywhere. There was no safe place. You weren't even safe in your own bed at night.

God's beautiful world became a mean, awful, scary place to live.

That's what happens when people forget about God.

Next time...

**“ONE GOOD MAN”**

# MINUTES of the ANNUAL MEETING

## JANUARY 29, 2012

The St. Pauli 2011 Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, January 29, 2012, following the 10:30 a.m. worship services. Council President Wahna Smith called the meeting to order at 11:25 a.m. Smith asked for any additions to the agenda. There were no additional items and the agenda was considered approved as printed.

### Secretary's Report

Jodie Torkelson presented the 2011 annual meeting minutes which were included in the meeting packet. Jan Strandlie made a motion to approve the report with a correction to change "Val Torkelson" to "Val Torstveit" on the first page. Barb Nelson seconded the motion, motion carried.

### Treasurer's Report

The 2011 audited treasurer's report was presented by Faye Auchenpaugh, Co-Treasurer. Income and Other Deposits totaled \$44,205.53. Operational Expenses totaled \$31,910.84. Other one-time expenses (parting gift for Pastor Cuppett, printing of church brochures, and landscaping) totaled \$3,638.41. There was a positive cash flow of \$8,656.28.

Another notable item in the Treasurer's report is the elimination of Worker's Compensation Insurance payments for 2012. Without a full-time pastor or a joint parish secretary the church no longer has employees and Worker's Compensation Insurance is not necessary. The 2011 budget expense for this item was a pre-pay of the 2012 insurance and the church will be receiving a refund of \$526.00.

Total Income/Other Deposits for 2011: \$ 44,205.53  
Total Operational Expenses for 2011: (\$31,910.84)  
General Fund balances as of 12/31/11:

Checking account	\$ 14,535.29
Investor savings account	20,355.46
Value of investments	<u>30,668.44</u>
Total General Fund Balance	\$ 65,559.19

Special Funds and Accounts (Memorial Fund)

balances as of 12/31/11:	
Investor Savings account	\$ 4,308.51
Certificate of Deposit	<u>14,878.28</u>
Total Memorial Fund	\$ 19,186.79

Total General Fund, Special Funds and Accounts  
as of 12/31/11: \$ 84,745.98

St. Pauli Cemetery Association balance as of  
12/31/11: \$ 1,103.93

Faye Auchenpaugh noted an error in the cemetery

association balance as listed in the annual report and will supply the congregation with the revision.

The congregation was asked about whether they wanted to continue tracking the parsonage funds separately now that the funds had been merged into the savings account. Skip Swanson made a motion to no longer track the parsonage funds separately. Jim Rondorf seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Skip Swanson made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report with the pending correction to the Cemetery Association balance sheet. David Lee seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

### Pastor's Report

Pastor Carl Hansen, the church's interim pastor since September, reported that he was delighted to serve as interim pastor. He said he sensed warmth in the congregation and it was a joy to be here. He reminded the congregation that he is always happy to be of pastoral service and his telephone numbers are listed in the newsletter and in the weekly bulletin.

### Board of Education and Sunday School Report

Kari Torkelson presented the Board of Education report and thanked Roxanne Rondorf for her years of service on the Board. She also thanked the teachers and everyone who worked together to make Sunday School a reality for the seven students who attend. Because one of the families can only attend Sunday School every other Sunday at St. Pauli, a decision was made to hold Sunday School every other Sunday.

Val Torstveit prepared the Sunday School Financial Report. The balance in the checking account as of December 31, 2011 was \$1,260.40. The Sunday School students still need to decide on a project or charity to put the Christmas program offering toward. Barb Nelson made a motion to accept the Board of Education and Sunday School Reports as presented. Pat Swanson seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

### WELCA Report

Barbara Nelson presented the WELCA financial report. Total income was \$5,518.00 and total expenses were \$5,946.49. As of 12/31/11, the checking account balance was \$988.36, the savings account balance was \$7,242.15 and the Certificate of Deposit balance \$5,896.19. Virginia

Anderson made a motion to accept the WELCA report as presented. Evie Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Thrivent: There was no Thrivent report.

#### Old Business

Arlo Rude led discussion on whether the congregation wanted a permanent pulpit base. The temporary base was installed after a previous annual meeting where the congregation noted that there was not enough space between the altar ring and the wall and moving the pulpit forward was the only possible solution. The congregation was in agreement on the new location of the pulpit and the need for a permanent pulpit base to be constructed. It was suggested that Don Schindler be contacted about building the base since he did the recent restoration of the pulpit itself. As part of the discussion on the pulpit base, it was noted that the hymn board was difficult for those in the west pews of the church to read because the pulpit was now in the way. Arlo Rude said that if the board were raised about 16" it would be visible. Faye Auchenpaugh noted that it would balance out the cross on the west wall. Arlo Rude said he could design a mechanism to lower the number board rather than have people climb on a stepstool to put up the hymn numbers.

Jan Strandlie made a motion to have Arlo Rude lead a committee to work on a permanent base for the pulpit and raise the hymn board so that those on the west side of the church are able to read the hymn numbers. Barb Nelson seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The actual cost of the mechanism was not known at the time of the meeting but an estimate will be brought back to the congregation when it is determined.

Discussion was then held on the repairs to the steeple which had been postponed because of the other pressing issues during the dissolution of the parish. Arlo Rude shared photos of the damage to the inside of the steeple that he took last spring. The steeple is in need of more repairs than just paint. The chair rail, balusters and cross have deteriorated and need to be replaced. Pine bead board on the walls needs to also be replaced and a composite is available that will match. The base for the bell is also in bad shape and the pulley mechanism needs to be repaired. Quotes for the materials are estimated at \$2,125.00. In addition, Arlo Rude checked with Paul and Peter Mosbeck who purchased an 80' manlift when they repaired the steeple on their church. They are willing to let us use it on our repair job; the cost at this time is

not known. Arlo Rude offered to donate his time to do the repairs.

Wally Torkelson made a motion to move forward with the repairs to the steeple not to exceed \$2,200.00. David Lee seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

#### New Business

Discussion was held on whether additional copies of "The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration," the new hymnal of the ELCA, should be purchased for use at St. Pauli. The cost is \$25.00 per hymnal which includes imprinting "St. Pauli Lutheran Church" on the front cover. A large print edition is \$80.00. The order form was reviewed and congregants were encouraged to purchase a hymnal in honor or memory of a loved one. A total of 80 hymnals are needed for each pew to have four hymnals. Pastor Hansen shared his insights on the new hymnal which was well-received at his previous congregations. He said that it has 10 worship settings, including the setting we use currently. In addition, it has over 700 hymns and combines much of the "Lutheran Book of Worship" and "With One Voice" which could eliminate switching hymnals during the worship service.

Jan Strandlie made a motion that we use Memorial Fund monies to purchase the hymnals needed after members of the congregation purchase copies in honor or memory of a loved one. Deone Cerny seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The draft partnership agreement with Zion Lutheran Church was reviewed. Following the September 2011 special congregational meeting, Arlo Rude, Jodie Torkelson, Chad Torstveit and Cindy Cedergren drafted a letter to Trinity, Zion and Redeemer churches requesting meetings to discuss a possible future partnership. Zion was the first to respond and the group met with them on December 7, 2011. They expressed an interest in providing pastoral services and the agreement currently before the congregation for discussion was the result of that meeting. The group also met with Trinity but they do not have an interest in a partnership. Redeemer did not respond to the request for a meeting.

The partnership agreement from Zion would provide St. Pauli with pastoral services including Sunday services beginning no earlier than 10:00 a.m. There would be an average of 12 Sundays per year when no pastoral services would be available and \$100 per Sunday would be deducted from the contract payment for those dates. Cost to St. Pauli

would be 25% of the salary and benefits of Zion's Associate Pastor, currently \$84,986.27, rounded to \$1,770 per month. Compensation would be reviewed annually. The agreement would be in effect until 60 day notice by either church.

Some concerns with the partnership agreement were raised including: 1) Zion's inability to provide pastoral services for Lenten services or our Christmas Eve service, 2) starting worship services at 11:30am, and 3) the unavailability of a pastor from Zion for 12 Sundays per year due to vacations and continuing education. Gary Iverson suggested that the group try to meet with other smaller, country churches. Val Torstveit said that the congregation was initially interested in a church in Thief River Falls because of the Sunday School opportunities without losing families to another church. Sharon Bugge added that the distance would be problematic. Arlo Rude said that the initial reason we were instructed to meet first with the TRF churches was because they were in the same school district which would make it easier for the children in our church. Torkelson suggested we continue working with Zion on the partnership agreement language but that we did not need to rush into starting the arrangement. She added that if Pastor Hansen was agreeable, we would like to have him as our interim pastor for as long as possible. Additional discussion clarified that this was not an agreement to enter into a parish arrangement with Zion but instead a contract for pastoral services with St. Pauli keeping its own identity. The group will continue to work with Zion on the contract language to ensure that Lenten and Christmas Day services at St. Pauli are included. Another congregational meeting will be called when the language as amended is satisfactory to recommend to the congregation for approval.

The proposed 2012 budget was presented by Treasurer Faye Auchenpaugh. The changes as presented were:

- an increase in organists/piano tuning of \$140 to reflect actual costs
- elimination of the \$25 parish treasurer payment
- a \$200 increase in fuel because of rising prices
- an increase of \$30 for property insurance
- elimination of Worker's Compensation insurance because the church no longer has any employees
- moving the cost of printing and postage for the newsletter and bulletin from Shared Parish Expenses to Operating Expenses
- elimination of website hosting expenses since

- payment in 2011 was for a 3-year contract
- elimination of the Shared Parish Expenses of \$1,460 (the other \$1,000 moved to cover printing and postage noted above)

Discussion was held on increasing synod mission support since our support had not increased in many years. In response to questions, Pastor Hansen told the congregation that half of our synod support is spent within the synod territory and the other half spent church wide on mission support, seminary support and other needs throughout the United States. Arlo Rude made a motion to increase synod support by \$400 to \$2000 per year. Virginia Anderson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Bruce Mathson made a motion to approve the 2012 budget of \$36,185.22. Kari Torkelson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

### ELECTIONS

The nominating committee of Sharon Bergerson, Edna Rondorf and Wally Torkelson presented the slate of officers for 2012:

- Council members: Arlo Rude, Wahna Smith,  
Patricia Swanson
- Secretary: Jodie Torkelson
- Co-Treasurers: Sharon Bergerson (council member), Bruce and Shelley Mathson
- Board of Education: Eunice Grove, Valarie Torstveit, Kari Torkelson
- Church Recorder: Valarie Torstveit
- Heat Caretaker: Myles Alberg
- Cemetery Sexton: David Lee

Faye Auchenpaugh made a motion to approve the nominations. Jim Strandlie seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

On behalf of the church council, Wahna Smith thanked everyone for working on church maintenance and improvements, landscaping, Christmas decorating, Fall supper, Task Force, church partnership committee, nominating committee, weekly cleaning and ushering, altar guild, Sunday school teachers and the Board of Education, WELCA and circles, the organist. A special thank you was extended to Pastor Hansen and the congregation applauded in thanks.

Cindy Cedergren made a motion to adjourn. Arlo Rude seconded and the meeting adjourned at 1:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodie Torkelson, Church Council Secretary

**Note:** The treasurer's report at the 2012 Annual Meeting did not have the correct Cemetery Association records for 2011. The corrected report is included below for your information. As per the motion passed at the 2011 Annual Meeting, all mowing and caretaking expenses for the cemetery are paid for with church funds.

**ST. PAULI CEMETERY ASSOCIATION for Year 2011  
(Corrected)**

<b>Beginning Balance in Cemetery Ass'n. Checking Acct. as of Jan. 1, 2011</b>		<b>\$1,103.93</b>
<b>Income:</b>		
Donations from Skip and Pat Swanson		\$100.00
Wayne Erickson, Baudette, MN in memory of Uldrick & Henry Erickson		\$200.00
Paul Johnson in memory of Marlene and Curtis Johnson		\$300.00
Shirley Johnson in memory of Terry Olson		\$ 10.00
Charles Hedeem in memory of Marie Oien		\$100.00
Gordon Odegaard		\$200.00
Johnson Funeral for lot of Terry Olson		\$200.00
Johnson Funeral for lot of Morris Helgersen		\$200.00
<b>Total Income:</b>		<b>\$1,310.00</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
No expenses for 2011		-0-
<b>Total Expenses:</b>		<b>-0-</b>
<b>Cemetery Association Account Balance as of Dec. 31, 2011</b>		<b>\$2,413.93</b>

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**Some church finance humor...**

The strongman at a circus squeezed the juice from a lemon between his hands. He then said to the audience, "I will offer \$200 to anyone in the audience who can squeeze another drop from this lemon." A thin scholarly looking woman came forward, picked up the lemon, strained hard and managed to get a drop. The strongman was amazed. He paid the woman and asked, "What is the secret of your strength?" "Practice," the woman answered. "I was the treasurer of a Lutheran Church for thirty-two years!"

A farmer lived alone in the Irish countryside except for a pet dog he loved dearly. One day the dog died and the farmer went to the parish priest, inquiring if a mass could be for the dead pet. Father Patrick told the farmer: "No, we can't have services for an animal in the church, but I'll tell you what, there's a new denomination down the road, and no telling what they believe in, but maybe they'll do something for the animal." The farmer said: "Thanks, I'll go right away. By the way, do you think \$50,000 is enough to donate for such a service?" to which Father Patrick replied: "Why didn't you tell me the dog was Catholic?"

A 100, a 20, and a one dollar bill meet at the shredder at the end of their lives. The 100 says, "I've been on cruises in Caribbean, safaris in Africa, and vacations in Europe." The 20 says, "I have been to Atlantic City, Disneyland, and Starbucks." They both turn to the one dollar bill and ask, "How about you?" The one says, "I've seen the whole country as well. I've been from church to church to church..."

## Arlo Rude Retires After 28 Years with TRF

(courtesy of the KTRF Radio Station)



He spent his first summer after High School working part time for the City of Thief River Falls – several degrees and many years later, he found himself working as an Engineering Consultant for a Grand Forks Firm before accepting the job as Director of Utilities in 1989.

Arlo Rude is spending his final hours on the job as he retires from City Business today...(November 30, 2011)

Rude, who has also served on the Board of Directors for the Northern Municipal Power Agency, says he has no political ambitions in his retirement and is still trying to determine what comes next, saying his co-workers are what he'll miss most after 28 years with the City of Thief River Falls. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

[The following is from a Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (MMUA) article reprinted in *The Times*.]

Few people have given as much to the municipal utility industry in Minnesota than Thief River Falls' Arlo Rude.

Rude retired Nov. 30 with more than 30 years experience in the electric utility industry, including five years as an electric distribution engineer and some 28 years as the director of utilities at the Thief River Falls Municipal Utilities.

Rude was appointed to the MMUA board in January 1994 and was elected for his first three-year term in June 1994. He served as president of the association in the 1997-98 term. He completed his second, three-year term on the MMUA Board of Directors in 2000.

Rude's involvement with the industry went far beyond serving on the MMUA board. It may be safe to say that no member has committed as much time and energy to the association's business than has Arlo. That commitment is even more impressive when you consider he had to drive over 300 miles to make a Twin Cities-area meeting.

Along with his board service, Rude was chairman of the mid-1990s Industry Restructuring Task Force; a Government Relations Committee member; Chairman of the MMUA Consumer Owned Utility Restructuring Team, and other countless contributions.

Three times in Rude's career, from the late 1990s to 2008, Rude led the municipal utility effort on electric restructuring and service territory issues, in joint discussions between the municipal utilities and electric cooperatives. His peers picked Rude to lead these efforts because of his sharp mind and calm demeanor.

He served as co-chair of a series of meetings held with the state's rural electric cooperatives in 1998 through 1999. He also chaired the MMUA group that, along with its counterparts in the cooperative industry, nearly reached agreement on a territory compensation formula in 2008.

Both undertakings were a huge commitment in terms of time and effort.

To recognize those efforts, and the considerable distances Arlo had to cover to participate, MMUA in 2002 presented him a special 'traveling' trophy, on behalf of the MMUA staff and its members.

Rude also worked hard to make sure his utility was well-positioned for any eventuality. He made sure the municipal utility grew with the city it served. He saved the city countless dollars with his engineering acumen and ability to tackle jobs others would have hired out—such as renewing a federal license for the municipal hydro plant.

Rude graduated from Thief River Falls High School and worked part-time for the city upon graduation. He served four years in the U.S. Air Force and earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of North Dakota. He has a state of Minnesota Class A Master Electrician license and is a registered engineer in Minnesota and North Dakota. He worked for an engineering firm before joining the city.

Rude also served many years as the city advisor to the Northern Municipal Power Agency. He is a member of many civic organizations in Thief River Falls. A man of many interests, he is sure to remain busy.

# Quilting for Lutheran World Relief

In January and February, on the day of the regular monthly meeting, the WELCA ladies met at 2:00 pm to begin quilting. Hostesses served a light supper at 6:00 pm and the meeting followed. In the course of these two days, the ladies made 15 quilts from start to finish!

Stewardship chairpersons are Sharon Bugge and Sally Torkelson. Other ladies who joined in on the project were Virginia Anderson, Kathy Alberg, Faye Auchenpaugh, Sharon Bergerson, Deone Cerny, Eunice Grove, Joan Nelson, Jan Strandlie and Wahna Smith.





# The Back Page

## God's sense of humor?

While creating wives, God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the world.

And then He smiled and made the earth round.

## Say a Prayer

Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away.

"Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer," said his mother.

"I don't need to," the boy replied.

"Of course, you do," his mother insisted. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house."

"That's at our house," Johnny explained. "But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook."



## Do You Love to Travel?

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots *with* someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there.

I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favorite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!

I may have been in Continent, but I don't remember what country I was in. It's an age thing.