

Minutes of the Church Council

April 25, 2013

The St. Pauli Church Council held its monthly meeting on Thursday, April 25, 2013 at the church. Members present: Pr. Carl Hansen, Arlo Rude, Wahna Smith, Evie Johnson and Barb Nelson.

The meeting was called to order by chairman Arlo Rude at 7:00 pm. Pr. Hansen opened by leading us in prayer.

Agenda was presented by Rude. Nelson made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Smith, motion carried.

Secretary's Report:

Motion by Smith to approve as presented, seconded by Johnson, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Expenses \$ 10,793.56
Income: \$ 3,032.00

Balances as of March 31:

Checking: \$ 25,436.62
Investor Savings: \$ 20,401.90
Memorial Fund: \$ 19,742.11
Edward Jones: \$ 35,747.85
Total: \$101,328.48

Cemetery Association: \$ 11,370.13

Johnson also reported that she had received a check for \$100.00 from Nan Dahle without designation. It was decided to put it in the Cemetery fund as it was in memory of Emily Lokken. Smith made a motion to approve, Nelson seconded, motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

On May 5, 2013, three young men will be receiving First Communion and our Sunday School will be singing "Zaccheus was a Wee Little Man."

Pr. Hansen is planning to attend one day (June 8) of the NW MN Synod Assembly. It appears Bishop Wohlrabe will be re-elected for a six-year term. The only other nominee has withdrawn.

Pr. Hansen will be gone the weekend of August 18, 2013 and will keep us informed as other plans progress.

Pr. Hansen presented information from the ELCA about the observance of World Malaria Day. Johnson made a motion to donate \$150.00 to World Malaria Day, Smith seconded, motion carried.

WELCA: It was brought to attention that the U.S. flag is looking drab and stained. Smith made a motion to replace the flag, John seconded, motion carried. Rude will check into ordering one to match the Christian flag.

Joan Nelson had asked about getting better soil in the flower beds. Rude will check into this also.

Faye Auchenpaugh is going to put names as printed in the front of the leftover green hymnals in the newsletters. That way if family members would like they can request a copy. The rest will be donated to a church in need.

Board of Education: Gary Iverson was present. He and Arlo Rude will set up a time and discuss both this last year and anything coming up for the next year.

Men's Group is not active.

Old Business: Review and listing of all projects and goals for 2013:

Rude is planning to have the hymnal numbers board completed by July 1, 2013.

Carpeting and linoleum for the narthex and sanctuary: Johnson brought samples of carpeting and also tiles. Carpeting will be red as decided earlier for an estimated \$2,724.84 installed. Johnson also presented different tiles. First one would cost approximately \$5,600.00 plus installation of \$2,250.00. Other tile would cost \$4,200.00 plus \$2,250.00 for installation. She also had information on putting down epoxy at a cost of about \$4,500.00. She also said Jerod at Paint & Glass said the tile we have could be repaired, stripped and waxed. Scott at Steamagic said the cost to do that would be approximately \$450.00. Steamagic will do the stripping and waxing. Johnson will go back to Scott regarding repairing, stripping and waxing. Gary Iverson offered to check into paint and painting prior to doing anything with the floors.

Steeple Repairs: Rude plans to have completed by September 1, 2013.

Septic System: Rude will check in June what needs to be done.

Constitution and Bylaws: No progress

Different Liturgy: No progress

Synod Assembly: Jim and Jan Strandlie will attend as delegates.

Confirmation Training: Gary Iverson wanted to know if he should continue with the two-year course or change to the three-year course. It was decided we would stay with the two-year course for now as Gary feels he can cover the materials in that time.

New Business: Jim and Jan Strandlie would like three pictures of congregational activities to bring with to the Synod Assembly.

Transfers in to the congregation: Ronnie Anderson,

Andrew, Michele, Siri, Annika and Kjersti Halvorson. They will be formally accepted on April 28, 2013.

Transfer out: Jodie Torkelson to Faith Lutheran in Arlington, VA.

Meeting closed with Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Barb Nelson, Secretary

**Historic Minutes
of the St. Pauli Congregation
10 December 1906**

The St. Pauli Scandinavian Lutheran congregation held its 13th annual meeting in the church on December 10, 1906. The meeting was opened by the chairman I. T. Aastad with scripture reading and prayer. After which the chairman declared the meeting opened and everyone free to speak.

Whereupon the secretary read his report from the last annual meeting, which report was accepted without change.

Thereafter Hans Fredrikson reported on behalf of the trustees.

Then the treasurer read his report which was accepted without change. After this A. A. Odegaard spoke and said that as far as he could see it was appropriate for the congregation to express its gratitude to the Girls' Club [*Pigeforeningen*] for what it had contributed towards pulpit, communion table, and altar rails. It was proposed and supported and unanimously accepted that the chairman should express the gratitude of the congregation after a service.

It was proposed and supported to re-elect H. Torstvet as treasurer for one year and J. Amundson as secretary for one year. For appointment as sexton it was accepted to re-elect J. Amundson on the same conditions as before. Proposed and supported and unanimously accepted to elect H. Fredrikson, A. A. Odegaard, F. Erickson as religion school committee for the coming year.

Proposed and supported and unanimously accepted to re-elect the same cemetery committee and to commission it to perform [*illegible*].

Proposed and supported and unanimously accepted that at least two months of religion school are held, and if possible more, during the coming year.

Proposed and supported and unanimously accepted to re-elect A. A. Odegaard as trustee for three years.

From the report of the treasurer it was evident that a remaining sum of about seventeen dollars and fifty cents was still not paid for the pastor's salary, and was now underbalanced. And now Odegaard wanted to know what the congregation wished to do about this. Proposed and supported and unanimously accepted to collect a subscription to cover the deficit in the pastor's salary.

The secretary spoke and said that he regarded it as fair that the congregation should pay him a compensation of ca. three dollars for extra work that he had carried out. This was, however, not decided upon at once.

Proposed and supported to allow the same sum for the pastor's salary as last year. Unanimously accepted. Proposed and supported to elect a committee of three men to settle the pastor's salary. Unanimously accepted to elect the members of the committee: J. Amundson, H. Torstvet, Cornelious Oien.

Proposed and supported that the pastor raise a collection to the Synod funds.

Proposed and supported to elect as delegates to the district meeting in St.Hilaire: L. Lokken and H. Hostvet. It was unanimously accepted to elect Odegaard as [*illegible*].

Proposed and supported and accepted to pay the secretary a sum of ca. one dollar and fifty cents for extra work performed on the church, such as walling of the privy and building of stairs with materials brought there, but the secretary finds that when the St. Pauli congregation finds that it cannot afford to pay him the sum he asked for, then it cannot afford anything, which is why the request is withdrawn.

After this the meeting was ended with the Lord's prayer by the chairman.

J. Amundson, secretary of the congregation

The trustees of the congregation elected:

- Ole Helgeson 1908
- Hans Fredrikson 1909
- A. A. Odegaard 1910

St. Pauli News in Detail



Greeting and Ushering

June 2	Jim Rondorf	July 7	Jim Strandlie
June 9	Arlo Rude	July 14	Skip Swanson
June 16	Barb Smith	July 20	Craig Torkelson
June 23	Wahna Smith	July 28	(open)
June 30	Mike Stickler		

Clean church **FOR** your Sunday.

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: June: Val Torstveit
July: Barb Smith

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June & July Milestones



Birthdays

June 17	Kathy Alberg	July 1	Val Torstveit
June 17	Sharon Bugge	July 4	Kari Torkelson
June 27	Jan Strandlie	July 7	Rylan Torstveit
	July 9	Sharon McCollough	
	July 31	Ron Anderson	

Anniversaries

June 1	Dennis & Barb Nelson
June 18	Arlo Rude & Deb Ernst
July 1	Bruce & Shelley Mathson
July 6	Ron & Virginia Anderson



Special Congregational Meeting

June 16, 2013

11:30 am

(following worship services)



The Council has determined to have a special congregation meeting on June 16, 2013 following the 10:30 am worship service.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the planned flooring changes to the sanctuary and narthex.

The suggestion has been made to have the church painted in the sanctuary and narthex before the flooring work is completed. The last painting was before the 125th Anniversary celebration.

In reviewing flooring options for the sanctuary several options were reviewed. The council is recommending the installation of an epoxy flooring in the sanctuary. This will seal the tile that is presently on the floor. The appearance of the finished floor is like a terrazzo floor. The carpeting will be installed after the epoxy flooring is installed.

The costs of the total project with painting, epoxy flooring and carpeting is estimated to be \$9,914.74. The approved budget at the annual meeting was \$5,600.00. Other options and costs will be available at the meeting.

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Lutheran World Relief

The WELCA ladies shipped 14 quilts, 16 layettes and 15 health kits to LWR on May 8. In addition, 3 quilts were given to the Law Enforcement office for local emergency use.

Joyous Occasions in the Month of May



FIRST COMMUNION: L to R: Christopher Trinciante, Devin Haugen, Samuel Trinciante, Pastor Carl Hansen



**SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS SANG "ZACCHEUS WAS A WEE LITTLE MAN" FOR WORSHIP SERVICES.
L to R: Sofia Trinciante, Kjersti Halvorson, Annika Halvorson, Siri Halvorson, Lainey Dicken, Mason Haugen, Dawson Haugen, Blaine Torstveit, Rylan Torstveit, Alex Trinciante**

ELAINE SCHEER GUEST SPEAKER AT WELCA

Elaine Scheer of Hawley, MN, was guest speaker at St. Pauli Church women on May 22nd when she shared highlights of her trip to Indian November 2-17, 2012.

Elaine was among a group of 19 travelers, including Bishop Larry Wohlrabe and his wife Joy, who represented the Northwestern Minnesota Synod on this "Pilgrimage to India."

The Northwestern Minnesota Synod ELCA is the companion synod to the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church (AELC) located in the Andhra Pradesh region of India. The group journeyed the 13,000 miles to help strengthen the partnership between the NW MN Synod and the AELC Synod.

It was hoped that all ten conferences of the synod would be represented by persons with backgrounds in education, medicine, agriculture and parish ministry, and people who reflected diversity in age and gender. Elaine was the former president of the NW Synodical Church Women for several terms, treasurer of the same organization for one term, and she retired after 18 years as office manager for Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND.

As part of the group visiting the Synod in India, Elaine helped cultivate relationships as well as worship with fellow Christian women who make up the Bible Women of the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church. Our NWMN Synod pledges to help support the important work of the Bible Women of the AELC.



Elaine Scherr (left) spoke at the WELCA meeting about her trip to India last year. Modeling one of the many gifts she was given by the Bible Women of the AELC is Cindy Cedergren.

GREATER CROOKSTON AREA MEN'S CHORUS PERFORMED

St. Pauli Church was one of the area sites selected for the Greater Crookston Area Men's Chorus spring concerts. Following their performance at St. Pauli on May 19th, they performed at Rodness Lutheran Church, rural Erskine, and at Crookston Presbyterian Church.

Their one-hour program included favorite hymns and spirituals with an emphasis on early American hymn-tunes. It culminated in a patriotic medley in honor of the upcoming Memorial Day weekend.

The chorus is under the direction of George French, Associate Professor and Director of Music/Theater at the University of Minnesota-Crookston.

A free-will offering was taken to help support the activities of the chorus and refreshments were served following the program.



Crookston Men's Chorus rehearsing prior to their performance on May 19th

“SNIPPETS”

(from decades of the country news columns in the *Thief River Falls Times*)

May 1933

(Hazel) Many local friends will be glad to know that Arthur Torstveit of Plummer is recovering nicely after being quite ill from pneumonia.

Word has been received here of the choosing of Avis Bergstad of Eveleth as valedictorian of this year's high school graduating class with an average of 4.33. Miss Bergstad is the granddaughter of Tollef Erickson. Her mother was formerly Inga Erickson.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Alberg a daughter on Saturday, May 6.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Helmer Finstad a boy on May 16.

Mae Kinney who has taught several years at the Hazel school has contracted to teacher at the August Swenson school for the coming term. Evelyn Maakrud of St. Hilaire has been hired as the teacher in Hazel.

Mr. and Mrs. Tobias Stene were honored guests at a surprise party at their home in honor of their silver wedding anniversary. A very large crowd was present. Mr. and Mrs. Stene were presented with a gift of silverware in honor of the occasion. Open air services were conducted by Rev. Dahle at the close of which lunch was served.

Mr. and Mrs. Anton Johnson and daughter Shirley, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Peterson visited Sunday with Mrs. A. Gunstad.

Around 80 people gathered at the Anton Peterson home to tender a surprise party for Mrs. Anton Peterson as a token of esteem. A beautiful lunch was served.

Mrs. Pete Nelson visited Saturday evening at the Simon Alberg home in Thief River Falls. Simon Alberg, or "Grandpa" Alberg as he is called, suffered a paralytic stroke last week.

The girls' Busy Bee String Band surprised Miss Kinney Thursday after school with a farewell party. Miss Kinney was presented with a silver pin as a remembrance. A wiener roast was enjoyed by all present: Nellie, Hazel, Evelyn and Myrtle Nelson; Naomi and Mary Jane Johnson; Edna and Phyllis Prestby; Lillian and Gladys Alberg; Joyce Roese & Gladys Nyland.

Mrs. Martha Loken has been assisting at the H.I. Finstad home this past week.

Saturday Mesdames Axel and Mons Engelstad and Ed Hanson visited with Miss Gina Gunderson who is a patient at the Oakland Park Sanitorium.

Paul and Mons Engelstad and Carl Alberg moved the last mile of telephone line preparatory to grading County Aid Road #17.

May 1943

(Hazel) Stanley Alberg, employed in Michigan, left Monday after visiting here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Alberg.

Miss Gladys Nelson of Fargo visited with Mrs. "Chuck" Wold and Mrs. Nels Nelson Friday evening.

Erling Anderson, employee on the Soo track at Hazel, has been transferred to Ottetail and Herman Rude is taking his place here.

Miss Helen Alberg, employed in Minneapolis, visited Saturday and Sunday with parents Mr. and Mrs. Carl Alberg.

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Nelson and Mrs. Martha Lokken visited with Mrs. Ole Torkelson Sunday evening. Mrs. Torkelson has been confined to her bed for several years.

Rosehill School District 165 will reopen its doors again Monday, May 17, after three weeks' vacation.

Cheerville School District 154 had their school program Thursday evening, Friday being their last day of school. Mrs. Norma Ortloff of Sanders was the teacher.

(Valhall) The 4-H club of Rocksbury met at Valhall Monday evening. In answer to roll call, members told what they had done in home improvement. Duane Walsberg gave two selections on the harmonica. Adult leader Henry Oen spoke on gardening. Melvin Vigen gave two musical selections. Maxine Walsberg gave a reading on "The Gremlin." James Engelstad was appointed captain of the Rocksbury 4-H kittenball team. Program committee for the next meeting: Iva Lee Engelstad and Kermit Finstad.

The WCTU of Hazel will meet at the Emil Thune home on Tuesday. Members are asked to bring something for lunch.

Miss Ethel Larson of the Normal Training Dept. at Thief River Falls met with the Rosehill school board on Thursday evening. Miss Larson was hired at \$100.00 a month. Miss Larson's home is at Holt.

At a meeting of the neighborhood leaders and Victory Aides...Rocksbury was represented by Mrs. Martin Finstad, Mrs. C. H. Twomey, Mrs. Carl Finstad, Mrs. Martin Mathson, Mrs. Edwin Hanson, Iver Iverson and Willie Rondorf.

At the Arnold Gunderson home on Thursday afternoon to celebrate Marilyn's 5th birthday were Mr. and Mrs. Gunderson, Nancy and Wayne; Mrs. Chuck Krause; Mrs. O.B. Gunderson; Mrs. Emil Thune, Arlene, Donald and Norris; Theresa Stene; Gina Gunderson; Judith, Carol and Ralph Walsberg; Willis and Geraldine Torkelson.

Those who helped Grandma Gunstad celebrate her 54th birthday on Monday were Mrs. Ernest Lyons of Duluth and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Peterson. G. Gunstad is making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Anton Johnson.

(Smiley) Word has been received by V-mail from 2nd Lt. Oscar Vigen. He is now stationed at Hawaii and likes it fine there. He had been swimming in that famed Waikiki Beach and is enjoying the scenery and famous landmarks on his leave.

The Rocksbury Community Club will hold its annual meeting Saturday, May 27, at Valhall, at which time new officers will be elected. A program of special interest has been arranged. The play "The Wild Oats Day" in three acts will be given by the following: Thomas Ystesund, Myrtle Hofdahl, Albert Hanson, Eva Harder, Minnie Stene, Anna Stene, Thelma Stene, Harold Langseth, Arnold Gunderson, Morris Engelstad, Perry Borgie, Anna Johnson and Ernest Hogenson. The play is directed by Mrs. Otto Nettelund.

Ladies Aid of St. Pauli Lutheran Church will meet at the Ole Lian home Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Engelstad motored to Crookston to visit with their eldest son, Earl, who is working at the NW School of Agriculture. Accompanying them were their other children: Morris, Blanche, James and Arnold, and Miss Laura Marie Hanson.

On May 12th, in recognition of St. Pauli's heritage and Thief River Falls' "Norwegian Heritage Week," Andrew Halvorson read the Psalm in Norwegian and led us in The Lord's Prayer in Norwegian. Norway is celebrating the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in June 2013 and the following article is reprinted in recognition of Norway being the first *independent* country to introduce universal suffrage.

Stemmerettsjubileet

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Norwegian Women's Suffrage

(reprinted from norway.org, Norway's official website in the U.S.)

On June 11, 1913 all Norwegian women gained the right to vote, and so this year we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of true democracy in Norway.¹

In 1885, the Kvindestemmeretsforeningen (The Women's Suffrage Association) was founded under the leadership of Ms. Gina Krog, one of the pioneers of the Norwegian women's movement and a major figure in the struggle for women's suffrage. When all men were granted full suffrage in 1898, many women saw it as deeply unfair that no women had the right to vote. In 1901, for the first time, women were allowed to vote in a political election — but only women who had paid taxes exceeding a certain amount, or married women whose husbands had paid such taxes. It was a start, but Krog and the other members of the Kvindestemmeretsforeningen wanted more.

Finally, in 1913, by an act of Parliament, Norwegian women gained the right to vote and Norway became the first *independent* country in the world to introduce universal suffrage. After suffrage was won, feminists began to work to get women elected to government. Even though 100 years have passed since then, progress toward gender equality in politics has been slow. There is still a long way to go before women are as well represented as men.

In January 2004, a law was enacted to help the process along. This law says that at least 40% of the board members of publicly owned businesses must be female, and at least 40% must be male. This has helped the struggle for equality, but even though Norway is a leading country in gender equality, statistics show that, as of 2012, 83% of board members at publicly traded companies and 73% of business owners are men.

On March 8, International Women's Day, celebrations were held in cities big and small all over Norway; various women's groups are planning more celebrations throughout the year. On June 11, there will be a big women's suffrage "birthday" celebration in Oslo, with birthday cake, a parade, speeches and entertainment.

A pioneering decision

In 1814, in the wake of the Napoleonic Wars, Norway gained its own constitution and one of the most democratic electoral systems of the time. That year, the Danish-Norwegian union was dissolved after almost 400 years, and on 17 May 1814 a group of elected representatives gathered in Eidsvoll, not far from Oslo, to adopt a new constitution for the Norwegian state. The constituent assembly at Eidsvoll based this document on the principle of popular sovereignty, deciding that the country should be governed by representatives elected by the people. These founders of modern Norway were inspired by the French constitution of 1791 and the American Declaration of Independence (1776) and constitution (1787).

The Norwegian constitution was highly democratic by international standards. It granted the vote to men in official positions and to those with property, of which Norway had a great number due to its tradition of free landowning farmers. No women could vote; nor could the large numbers of men without property.

When *all* adult men in Norway gained the right to vote in 1898, it was a major step in the country's democratic evolution.

¹ Editor's Note: In America, while men were granted full suffrage earlier than Norway, it wasn't until the Nineteenth Amendment was passed in 1920 that women were given the right to vote.

But not until women received the vote in 1913 did Norway become a genuine democracy. Globally, Norway was a universal suffrage pioneer. It is true that three countries had already introduced universal suffrage – New Zealand in 1893, Australia in 1902 and Finland in 1906 – but they were not independent states at the time. Norway was the first sovereign state to extend the vote to all adults. The right to vote gave women a formal foundation on which to participate in democratic bodies on an equal footing with men. A cause championed since the French Revolution and the Age of Enlightenment had finally been won.

A threat to traditional home life

Speaking after the vote in 1913, Norway's most prominent voting rights activist, Gina Krog, commented that she and her fellow campaigners had never doubted they would win, but had never dreamt the victory would be so complete or perfect. It was then 28 years since Krog had launched the first association for women's voting rights, and 23 years since members of the Storting had first considered a proposal to let women vote – a proposal rejected, 70 to 44.

At the time of that rejection, a number of Storting members held the view that women's nature posed an obstacle to political participation. They argued that the two sexes each had their natural working domains, and that gender equality was therefore not desirable. The majority of the Storting's constitution committee voted against women's suffrage on grounds that it would damage family life and conflict with women's natural calling. Ultimately, many committee members thought that giving women the right to vote would destroy traditional home life.

This argument was most common in church circles, and the most vociferous attacks on introducing the vote for women came from Bishop J. C. Heuch. "She can't do the work of men, and she won't do the work of women. What does that make her? It makes her a deformed monstrosity, a thing of no gender," he argued.

By 1913, the mood had changed. When the issue arrived in the Storting, all political parties had suffrage for women on their agendas. No one spoke out against it in the debate, and all members voted in favour of the proposal. So women's struggle to acquire the vote ended in victory 99 years after Norway had adopted a constitution establishing that the country should be ruled by its people.

It was not until 1922, however, that a woman was elected to the Storting. Her name was Karen Platou, a representative of the Conservative party, or *Høyre*. In 1981, the election of Norway's first woman Prime Minister, Gro Harlem Brundtland, was an equally momentous event. Brundtland represented the Labour party, *Arbeiderpartiet*, and later became known worldwide for her 1986 "women's government", in which eight of 18 ministers were women. In 1993, Kirsti Kolle Grøndahl became the first female President of the Storting, the highest position in Norway after that of the reigning monarch. Since Norway's most recent general election, in 2009, women have held around 40 % of the Storting seats and half of the Government's ministerial posts.

International conference on women's empowerment and gender equality, 14–15 November 2013 (Oslo)

The committee wishes to organize a major international conference with the aim of gathering political leaders and human rights defenders from all over the world. The intention is to put women's political rights and international efforts to promote gender equality on the global agenda. The conference will have a clear international profile, and it is hoped that there will be participants from a wide range of countries.

Centenary of Women's Right to Vote in Norway

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The Back Page

Ole is the pastor of the local Norwegian Lutheran Church, and Pastor Sven is the minister of the Swedish Covenant Church across the road.

One day they were seen pounding a sign into the ground, which said:

**DA END ISS NEAR!
TURN YERSELF AROUND NOW
BAFOR IT ISS TOO LATE!**

As a car sped past them, the driver leaned out his window and yelled, "Leave people alone, you Skandihoovian religious nuts!"

From the curve, they heard screeching tires and a big splash.

Shaking his head, Rev. Ole said, "Dat's da terd one dis morning."

"Ya," Pastor Sven agreed, then asked, "Do ya tink maybe da sign should yust say, 'Bridge Out'?"

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TRUE STORY FROM YOUR ORGANIST

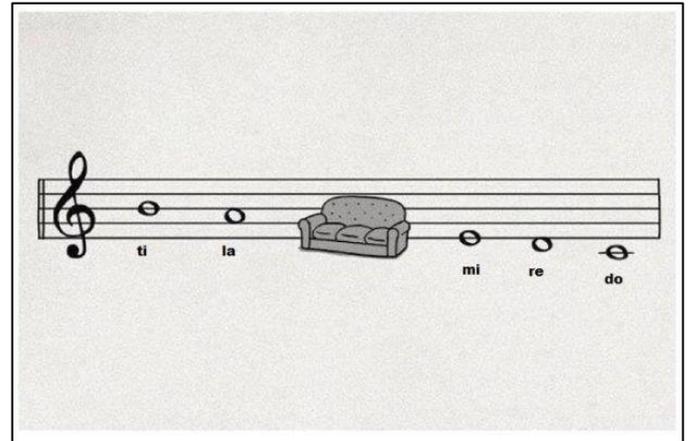
Ever have those dreams where you're late for a meeting or you just can't seem to make something come out right?

My final dream on Tuesday morning, May 21st, had me playing for church services. The organ was in the left rear of the church just like it used to be years ago. As I played the introduction for the final hymn, I noticed the congregation was doing some frantic page turning and searching. When I began the first verse of what turned out to be a Christmas carol they gamely, though feebly, tried to sing along with me, even though we were still in the Easter season.

Pastor Carl then informed me that I had the wrong hymn.

I flipped the hymnal to the correct page and we began anew, with gusto. Unfortunately, the final bar of music was very similar to one contained in another Christmas carol and instead of continuing with the second verse, I broke out in "Come and worship, Come and worship..."

With that, Pastor Carl gave a slight chuckle, made a brief wave with his right hand, said "I think we've had enough!" and began walking down the aisle to signal the end of services.



MUSIC LESSON

* * * * *



A single guy decided life would be more fun if he had a pet. So he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet. After some discussion, he finally bought a talking centipede [100-legged bug], which came in a little white box to use for his house.

He took the box back home, found a good location for it, and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to church with him.

So he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go to church with me today? We will have a good time."

But there was no answer from his new pet.

This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked him again. "How about going to church with me and receiving blessings?"

But, again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet.

So he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation. He decided to ask him one more time, this time putting his face up against the centipede's house and shouting, "Hey in there! Would you like to go to church with me and learn about the Lord???"

A little voice came out of the box, "I heard you the first time!! I'm putting on my shoes."