

In Memoriam

Emily Lokken passed away on Monday February 25, 2013 at North Memorial Medical Center in Robbinsdale, MN.

Funeral services will be held at St. Pauli Church on Saturday, March 23rd at 1:00 pm.

An obituary was not available for inclusion at the time of this printing.

May God bless her memory.



**Photo by Neal Fox.
Courtesy of the Pennington County Historical Society.**

Minutes of the Church Council

December 20, 2012

The St. Pauli Church Council held its monthly meeting on Thursday, December 20, 2012 at St. Pauli Church. Members present: Arlo Rude, Skip Swanson, Jodie Torkelson and Pastor Hansen. The meeting was called to order by Council President Rude at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Hansen opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the addition of one item.

Secretary's Report

The Minutes for the November 15, 2012 meeting were presented and reviewed. Swanson made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented. Rude seconded the motion and the motion carried. The Minutes will be printed in the monthly newsletter.

Torkelson informed that Council that she will be leaving Thief River Falls at the end of December and will not be present at the January Council meeting or Annual Meeting and that someone else will need to take the Minutes.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report for November 2012 was distributed and reviewed.

Expenditures:	\$1,524.19	
Income:	\$4,136.00	
Checking Account Balance:		\$25,373.25
Savings Account Balance:		\$20,391.75
Edward Jones Balance:		\$33,994.90
Memorial Fund Balance:		\$19,740.51
TOTAL		\$99,500.41

Cemetery Assn. Balance: \$ 5,034.93

\$1,395 in donations in November, as follows:

Faye Auchenpaugh in memory of	
Ole and Ingri Viken	\$500.00
Ken and Cindy Cedergren	\$ 20.00
Bruce and Shelley Mathson in memory	
of Delores Torkelson	\$100.00
Jodie Torkelson in memory of	
Delores Torkelson	\$150.00
Jodie Torkelson in memory of	
Harda and Adolph Hagen	\$150.00
Jodie Torkelson in memory of	
Melvin and Helen Torkelson	\$150.00
Oliver Swanson	\$ 25.00
Sharon Bergerson in memory of	
Rod and Chris Bergerson	\$300.00

Torkelson made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Swanson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Hansen felt the joint Thanksgiving Service this year was very good and the music wonderful. Joining

together in fellowship with the other Lutheran churches for occasions such as this is special.

Members in Sickness or Distress

The congregation will continue to pray for Clayton Mathson.

Reports

WELCA: The church handbook will be finalized and distributed before the end of the year.

Board of Education: The council noted that there was a good Sunday School program this year and lots of comments on how much everyone enjoyed it. It was especially wonderful to see so many children participating in this year's Sunday School.

Men's Group: Nothing to report

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

A draft budget prepared by Arlo Rude was reviewed. Discussion was held on increasing the budget for advertising in the newspapers and elsewhere to try to increase membership. Overall the budget recommendation is \$9,745.39 less than the 2012 budget due to pastoral compensation being reduced with an interim pastor and no contributions to the pension fund and medical insurance.

In addition, discussion was held on increasing the church's contributions to others because our savings are increasing each month even with the money spent on repairs. Some discussion was held on ensuring the viability and sustainability of the cemetery by transferring funds to the Cemetery Association. This will all be discussed at the annual meeting.

A final budget recommendation to the congregation will be finalized at the January 10th Church Council meeting.

Annual Report

Torkelson volunteered to assemble the Annual Report if items for inclusion can be emailed to her in Washington, DC. Rude said that he would be willing to compile the report in case there are last minute changes.

Nominating Committee

Rude will organize a nominating committee to recruit people to fill the Treasurer, Secretary and councilmember positions on the Council.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jodie Torkelson, Council Secretary

Minutes of the Church Council

January 10, 2013

Members present: Wahna Smith, Oliver Swanson, Arlo Rude, Pastor Hansen

Meeting called to order by President Arlo Rude. Motion to approve the Agenda without changes by Swanson, second Smith, motion carried.

A Secretary's report was not available.

Treasurer's report was provided by Arlo Rude, temporary Treasurer.

Checking Account	\$ 30,785.25
Investor Savings	\$ 20,394.35
Memorial Fund	\$ 19,740.92
Edward Jones	\$ 33,994.90
Total Assets	\$104,915.42

Cemetery Association:

Balance as of January 1, 2013: \$ 5,334.93

Donations in memory of Clayton Mathson:

Sharon Bergerson \$ 20.00

Faye Auchenpaugh \$ 25.00

James Strandlie \$ 25.00

Wally Torkelson \$250.00

Balance as of January 31, 2013: \$ 5,654.93

Motion to approve the report by Swanson, second by Smith, motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Hansen and Faye Auchenpaugh are reviewing liturgies in the new hymnal. This will be discussed at the Annual Meeting with a request to form a committee to work on new liturgies.

First Communion was discussed. Pastor Hansen will organize lessons for first communion to be scheduled this spring. The Church will send a letter to the families that have first communion participants.

Local Pastors are reviewing the round robin Lenten Services schedule. The Council members agreed that the round robin exchange of Pastors during lent was preferred again this year. There may be one church in the group that will not be participating. This may leave the number of Pastors fewer than the number of weeks in Lenten. Each Pastor may be doing Lenten services in their parish rather than the round robin schedule. Pastor Hansen will get back with more information on this.

The Synod will be offering its Annual Workshop for New Council members on February 17, location to be announced. There will be a focus on the functioning of healthy church councils, plus exploration of ways to engage younger persons and families in the life of congregations. Pastor encouraged all who are interested to attend.

Pastor Carl and Pastor Mary were delighted to share in the joy of the wedding of their son, Kevin and their

daughter-in-law Michele. The wedding was in Texas.

Reports of members in sickness or distress: Clayton Mathson, life-long member of the Church, died and the funeral will be January 12th.

Group Reports

WELCA: Smith reported that WELCA will be serving lunch for the funeral of Clayton Mathson on January 12. Smith reported she is President of WELCA this year.

Board of Education: Sunday School is starting the second half to the school year following the break at Christmas.

Men's Group: No report available.

Old Business

Budget review: The Budget for 2013 was reviewed. Due to no full time pastor the operation budget is \$29,940, \$6,775 less than the 2012 budget. Projects for 2013 include completion of the steeple work, \$1,500, carpeting for the narthex and sanctuary, \$5,600, and the hymnal board support, \$200.00. The projects total \$7,300. Total expenditures for 2013 are \$37,240.

Annual Meeting: Rude will be preparing the Annual Report for the annual meeting. He requested reports be emailed to him as soon as possible.

New Business

Gary Iverson discussed with the Council the Confirmation curriculum. There are two possible curricula: a two year or a three year. Gary provided information on both. No action was taken with a request that council members think about the options.

Control of Congregation fund was discussed. The checking account has a fairly large balance. Rude asked if there should be guidelines for the checking account balance and the use of funds that exceed a set checking balance. This will be part of the annual meeting.

Growth of the membership: Rude suggested that the membership discuss growth at the annual meeting with possibly forming a committee to make recommendations to the congregation for activities to be used to encourage new members to join the church.

A request by Faye Auchenpaugh for the purchase of another set of Hymn Accompaniment Editions. This is needed when an organist and pianist are playing at the same service. Motion by Swanson to purchase, second by Smith, motion carried.

Cindy Cedergren has agreed to prepare the weekly bulletins. Anyone with information for the bulletin should contact Cindy.

Faye Auchenpaugh is planning to wait with having the piano tuned until there is a scheduled use of the piano.

New liturgy was discussed during the Pastor's Report and will be part of the annual meeting.

The next meeting will be February 28, 2013. The meeting was concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by
Arlo Rude, Temporary Secretary

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Historic Minutes of the St. Pauli Congregation

14 December 1903

The St. Pauli Scandinavian Lutheran congregation held its 10th annual meeting in the church of the congregation on December 14, 1903.

The meeting was opened with reading from the scriptures and prayer by the chairman I. T. Aastad, after which the chairman declared the meeting opened and everyone was free to speak. Whereupon the secretary and the treasurer read their reports from the last annual meeting, both of which were unanimously accepted without changes.

It was proposed and supported and unanimously accepted to elect Martin Lökken as consulting member during the meeting.

Whereupon Andrew Odegaard in words reported on behalf of the trustees and the auditors, which reports were unanimously accepted.

Then the chairman re-appointed A. Odegaard and Fredric Sjerva as auditors of the accounts.

It was proposed and supported and accepted to re-elect H. Torstvet as treasurer for one year and J. Amundson secretary for one year. This was accepted. This was accepted.

It was proposed and supported and unanimously accepted to elect Hans Fredrikson as sexton for one year.

It was proposed and supported and unanimously accepted to accept the offer of A. Odegaard to build a stables by the church of the size of 12 x 16 ft. Half of the same belongs to the congregation and the other part to Odegaard, on condition that the treasurer pays Odegaard a sum of ten dollars after it has been completed.

Proposed and supported to decide upon a sum of ca. seventy dollars as pastor's salary for the coming financial year. Accepted.

It was proposed and supported that the religion school committee will see to it that as many religion school meetings are held til the coming year, if possible for two months, and that its members will see to it that as much

as possible is subscribed to the school. Accepted.

It was further proposed and supported and unanimously accepted that it is left to the trustees of the congregation to arrange for some improvements to the church, such as the building of a privy, and the arranging of steps and other things. This was unanimously accepted.

Further that it is left to the same trustees to have the cemetery of the congregation fenced in and also taken care of. Accepted.

Proposed and accepted that St. Pauli congregation will contribute to the expenses to build a stables at the parsonage in Thief River Falls with a subscription from its members, to be collected by the treasurer.

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

By Jacob Amundson, secretary of the congregation

The trustees of the congregation:

Halvor J. Hostveit 1905
Gilbert Sjerva 1906
Andrew A. Odegaard 1907

Editor's note: Sometimes these historic minutes bring up more questions than answers!

You may have noticed in these annual meeting minutes the decision to build a stable by the church.

Does anyone recall stables at St. Pauli?

Does anyone have a photo containing those stables?

Since the church had recently been completed, can we assume there were stables for horses at the prior locations where the congregation met, e.g. the schoolhouses?

Does anyone have photos of these stables?

Since many of the first several annual meeting minutes document significantly fewer than 52 worship services a year, how did the members decide when to hold services? Or was this a decision on the pastor's part?

Does holding religion school meetings "if possible for two months" mean that Sunday School (or was it on a Sunday?) met for only two months a year?

Did the cemetery have a fence at one time?

St. Pauli News in Detail



Good Friday Worship

March 29th at 7:00 pm

Our liturgy will be a *Tenebrae* service, an ancient liturgy which originated in monasteries. *Tenebrae*, which means "Service of Darkness," consists of lessons and hymns focusing on the passion of Jesus. Seven lighted candles are placed on the altar, and these are extinguished one by one during the liturgy. At the end of the service, the last candle is removed from the sanctuary; a loud noise is made as a remembrance of the earthquake and the rending of the Temple curtain following Jesus' death. The lighted candle is then brought back into the sanctuary and placed on the altar as a foreshadowing of the resurrection.

Tenebrae is a quietly dramatic and moving service.

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Greeting and Ushering

March 3	Jerod Haugen
March 10	Gary Iverson
March 17	Jason Jensen
March 24	Nancy Jensen
March 31	Evie Johnson (Easter 7:00 am)

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

Easter Worship

Sunrise Services
March 31st at 7:00 am

Please join us in celebrating the resurrection and life of our Risen Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Breakfast served following services.

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March Milestones

Birthdays

March 4	Ken Cedergren
March 4	David Lee
March 10	Laurie Nelson
March 15	Sue Kotz
March 22	Deone Cerny
March 26	Staci Reay

Anniversaries

March 12 Neil and Sharon Bugge



**KNOWLEDGE IS KNOWING
THAT A TOMATO IS A FRUIT.
WISDOM IS NOT PUTTING IT
IN A FRUIT SALAD.**

- ANONYMOUS

From Bishop Larry Wohlrabe's Blog

(A link is posted to the Bishop's blog on our website "historicstpauli.org" under "News and Events")

Today—February 3, 2013—is a big day. It's the Lord's Day, when we gather for worship trusting that God will show up among us in Word and Sacrament and a gathered community of sinners who are also saints. That's a big thing.

And speaking of sacraments, it's Baby Brigid's Baptism Day. Another little Stout will become a Christian, and not a moment too soon. That's a big thing.

Oh, and I hear that there's some big football game later today down in New Orleans, the 49ers vs. the Ravens and all the hoopla that will go with it. That's a big thing.

And then there's something else happening "under the radar" all across the Upper Midwest today. Pastors are heaving a sigh of relief because...today **normally** marks the end of "annual meeting season."

Now that might *not* seem like such a big thing to you...but it's a really big thing to most pastors.

Because, you see, annual meetings make pastors nervous.

Annual meetings have the reputation for being occasions when even Minnesota-nice Lutherans don't always behave like adults. Annual meetings are often long, drawn out, pointless and conflicted. A pastor friend once told me he referred to his congregation's annual meeting as "The Night of the Long Knives."

So, many pastors think that the best annual meeting is a short one in which nothing happens.

Twice within the last week I heard pastors extolling the brevity of their annual meetings, with 15 minutes being the new record for the shortest, sweetest annual meeting ever!

But is an annual meeting of a Christian congregation that's short and sweet, in which nothing basically happens--is that necessarily a good thing? Is it a sign of faithfulness or fruitfulness as God's people?

Do we gather for worship, do we come together as church, just to be comforted—never to be unsettled? Is every conflict that bubbles up within the community of faith a disaster? Did God the Father send his beloved Son into our world simply to soothe us and lull us to sleep?

What about Jesus when he lived on earth? Did he always keep things on an even keel? Or did Jesus evoke disagreement? Did Jesus call forth questions and challenges? Did Jesus even go so far as to pick fights—in order to agitate, to shake up his hearers?

...which brings us to our gospel lesson for this morning.

This is the second half of a "to be continued" gospel

reading from Luke chapter 4. We heard the first half of the story last Sunday. Jesus as a young adult, returns to his hometown Nazareth and attends worship in the Jewish synagogue. He reads from the Prophet Isaiah, taking the prophet's vision as his own, Jesus' own, mission statement.

Jesus says that proclaiming release to captives, recovery of sight to the blind, freedom for the oppressed, and the dawn of the Lord's year of favor—Jesus says that all of that is his work, his mission, his goal.

And at first that sounds just great!

But then, ever so subtly, the synagogue crowd starts to turn. They move from their first reaction—"All spoke well of him and were amazed at [his] gracious words..."—they move from affirming to wondering: "*Is not this Joseph's son?*"

And Jesus, reading their faces and discerning their wonderings, Jesus refuses to leave well enough alone.

So Jesus pokes at the folks in Nazareth's synagogue. Jesus prods their questions, and then he does something *really* provocative—he tells them a couple Bible stories from the Old Testament.

And by the time Jesus is finished with all that, the crowd becomes so ticked off, so incensed that they're ready to haul Jesus out of the church building and drag him to a cliff—not a metaphorical cliff, mind you, not a "fiscal cliff" but a real, PHYSICAL cliff--in order to hurl Jesus down to his death.

Now that's a church conflict to beat any church conflict I have ever seen!

So what are we to make of this? Three things:

1. Let's not immediately assume that the worshipers in Nazareth's synagogue were a dysfunctional congregation that needed to learn family systems theory or go through group counseling for anger management—though their response is definitely "over the top." Let's assume, not that they were especially "sick," but they were human, which means that sin was fully operative there on that Sabbath day when Jesus came to church.
2. Let's also not assume that this is just a story about Jesus being a smarty-pants provocateur—someone whose chief mission in life was to get under people's skins and make them upset. One of my college roommates was like that. He was always ready to needle me about something, anything, just to get a rise out of me. Jesus, though, didn't show up among us to annoy people.
3. Instead, let's assume this: that Jesus came bearing the full Word of God to the worshipers in Nazareth's

synagogue...and when that full Word of God – a Word that always both accuses and liberates – when the Word has its way with us, we will resist it, we will try to keep it at bay, we will realize we're under attack and feel the need to lash out at it...before finally that Word finds a home in our hearts and sets us free.

This is what was playing out in Nazareth's synagogue so long ago: the Word of God in all its glory, unleashed by him who was the embodied Word of God, proclaimed release to captives, recovery of sight to the blind, freedom for the oppressed, the year of the Lord's favor dawning upon us.

"Bring it on!" we say, at least at first....

But when Jesus starts to spell out just *for whom* this Word has come, then he encounters the deadly pushback from his fellow worshipers in Nazareth.

Because release, recovery and freedom sound great if *you and I* are the intended recipients, but what if God has something bigger in mind?

So Jesus tells Bible stories about all the wrong kinds of people *also* being drawn into the orbit of God's gracious favor.

Jesus painfully reminds his hearers that when famine covered the land the Lord's prophet Elijah went not to the house of a good Jewish mother, but to the hovel of a despised Gentile—a poor widow and her starving son.

And Jesus pointedly reminds his hearers that when Elijah's successor Elisha healed a leper—in a land filled with deserving Jewish lepers!—it was a hated Gentile leper, the commander of Israel's Syrian enemies, who was healed of leprosy.

Release, recovery and freedom don't sound so great when we learn that God's going to give such gifts to "those kind of people," too!

And that's why the crowd stormed out of the synagogue, ready to lynch the preacher Jesus.

....which brings me back to a question I asked earlier: Do we gather for worship, do we come together as church, just to be comforted—never to be unsettled?

And because we are regularly unsettled in the church, maybe we need to ask: are we unsettled about things that matter—especially, *things that matter to God?*

So here's an example. I was just with some folks from one of my favorite congregations in our synod.

I love these folks because they have a really, really good fight at every annual meeting of their congregation.

And here's the question that sets them off: "How can we get behind God's mission in an even bigger way this year?" This congregation "fights" about how they can increase their offerings for mission beyond their congregation, how they can do even more than what the church council proposes in the annual budget.

This congregation doesn't fight about the color of the carpet or the heating bill or whether the pastor is attending enough high school basketball games. They don't fight about what someone else did wrong. **They fight about whether they themselves are being faithful to their faithful God.**

What a great thing to fight about at an annual church meeting! Why—it might even be worth investing more than 15 minutes, if we get to talk about things like THAT!

Jesus comforts AND unsettles us always—thank God!

God's Word is always accusing us in the same breath that it is setting us free.

And God's people are forever fighting, if the truth be told.

The only question really is this: are we fighting about things that matter to God?

In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Historic Minutes of the St. Pauli Luther League

The St. Pauli Luther League met at the church on Sunday afternoon, May 25, 1952.

In the absence of the president and vice president, Mrs. Bjorge, senior advisor, took charge of the program, which consisted of an opening hymn "On My Heart Imprint Thine Image" by the audience.

Reverend Fjelstul led in devotion.

Another hymn was sung by the audience, "O Jesus I Have Promised."

A report from the District Luther League Convention held at Duluth was read by Connie Alberg.

The business meeting opened with the Secretary's report being given and accepted.

The meeting closed with Benediction by Reverend Fjelstul.

Lunch was served by the Martin Finstad, Otto Nettelund, Helmer Finstad and Harvey Odegaard families.

Proceeds: \$27.85

Signed: Connie Alberg, Secretary

Meet the St. Pauli Church Basement Ladies!



Left to right: Evie Johnson, Kathy Alberg, Joan Nelson, Eunice Grove, Roxane Rondorf, Inez Mathson, Wahna Smith, Jan Strandlie, Cindy Cedergren, Faye Auchenpaugh

These ladies donned vintage hats, St. Pauli Church pins and aprons to usher for the February 14th Thief River Falls Concert Association's presentation of *"Church Basement Ladies – A Second Helping."* Hats worn by the ladies had belonged to Lillian Ranum, Helen Torkelson



1920s: St. Pauli Ladies Aid at the Ole Pederson farm

The Back Page

Why Go To Church?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

"I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor.

It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals.

But I do know this.

They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing...God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible,
Believes the incredible and
Receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

