

St. Pauli News in Detail



Greeting and Ushering

June 5	Bruce Mathson
June 12	Dennis Nelson
June 19	Keith Nelson
June 26	Staci Reay
July 3	Jim Rondorf
July 10	Jordan Rondorf
July 17	Arlo Rude
July 24	Barb Smith
July 31	Wahna Smith
August 7	Mike Stickler
August 14	Jim Strandlie
August 21	Skip Swanson
August 28	Craig Torkslon



Sunday, August 14 (following services)

Please note that the summer church picnic has been changed from August 7th to August 14th.

Hamburgers and/or hot dogs will be provided. Please bring potluck dishes to accompany. Weather will indicate whether this will be held indoors or outdoors.

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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: (1st and 3rd Sundays)

June:	Virginia Anderson
July:	Barb Smith
August:	Evie Johnson

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Milestones

Anniversaries

June 1	Dennis and Barb Nelson
June 18	Arlo Rude and Deb Ernst
July 1	Bruce and Shelley Mathson
July 6	Ron and Virginia Anderson
August 1	Jim and Sue Kotz
August 3	Ken and Cindy Cedergren

Milestones

Birthdays

June 17	Kathy Alberg
June 17	Sharon Bugge
June 27	Jan Strandlie
July 1	Val Torstveit
July 4	Kari Torkelson
July 7	Andrew Halvorson
July 7	Rylan Torstveit
July 9	Sharon McCollough
July 29	Skip Swanson
July 29	Connie Kolden
July 29	Michele Halvorson
July 31	Ron Anderson
August 6	Chad Torstveit
August 11	Dennis McCollough
August 15	Cindy Cedergren
August 17	Faye Auchenpaugh
August 26	Siri Halvorson

Minutes of the Church Council

April 21, 2016

The St. Pauli Church Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 7 p.m. at St. Pauli Church. Members present: Arlo Rude, Cindy Cedergren, Kathy Alberg, Gary Iverson. and Pastor Carl Hansen.

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

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the March 17, 2016 meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was approved as presented. A budget update, reflecting income/expense for January-March, was also presented and approved. It was noted that \$160 in donations had been collected from the congregation for the Disaster Relief project, and the Council donated an additional \$500 from the church budget to the organization.

General Fund

Checking Account Balance as of 3/1/16:	\$ 32,835.69
March Income	4,825.00
March Expenses	(2,292.40)
Balance as of 3/31/16:	\$ 35,368.29

Investor Savings Balance 3/31/16:	\$ 35,919.68
Edward D. Jones Balance 3/31/16	41,328.80
Memorial Fund Savings Account & Certificate of Deposit Balance 3/31/16:	11,291.94
Mission Grant Fund Balance 3/31/16	1,002.07
Total Church Funds	\$ 124,910.78

Rude also reported on the Cemetery Association checking account, with an ending balance of \$28,118.08

Pastor's Report: Pastor Hansen reported he has been very pleased with worship attendance this winter and spring. It is such a joy for the community of faith to come together and make a joyful noise to the Lord. He recalled that when he and Pastor Mary began their service as pastors of the United in Christ Lutheran Parish in Fertile in August, 2002, that the first "Bishop's Letter" from (then) Bishop Rolf Wangberg, contained a report that the Synod was finding it increasingly difficult to secure pastoral candidates who were open to serving congregations north of Highway 2. After they retired from serving in Fertile, he and Pastor Mary were delighted to move to Thief River Falls and to serve in "interim" ministries at Calvary and St. Pauli. A few weeks ago, Bishop Larry Wohlrabe phoned and asked if he would be willing to "coach" a pastor who recently accepted a call to serve a congregation near the Canadian border. ELCA pastors are few and far between in that area, so his "coaching" basically involves being a listener and supportive colleague. Having loved his experience

mentoring five interns, Pastor Hansen is enjoying the opportunity to periodically visit with his colleague on the phone or in person. In the course of his conversation with the Bishop, the Bishop indicated that the situation described by former Bishop Wangberg has become more difficult in the past 15 years. With the supply of pastoral candidates available and willing to serve contracting, Bishop Wohlrabe indicated that additional ways will need to be developed to provide pastoral service north of Highway 2, including further development of lay ministry.

Pastor Hansen stated he is delighted to continue to serve St. Pauli and prays that God will give him the health to continue to do so. He's also thankful for the opportunity to serve as a pastoral "coach." He asked the Council to continue to pray for those whom God calls into ordained and lay ministry.

Pastor Hansen's summer plans are not fully formed as yet, but he anticipates being able to lead worship on most Sundays. He thanked the Council for the privilege of serving in the pastoral ministry at St. Pauli.

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

New Members or Interest in Membership: No report.

Reports:

- 1) WELCA: Cedergren and Alberg shared ideas discussed at a recent Lydia Circle meeting regarding the consideration of switching between liturgies, and also reducing the amount of time standing during worship services. The total length of time that standing occurs during the first part of the service varies with the length of the opening hymn. Pastor Hansen will take these suggestions under advisement and possibly bring together the committee that selected the liturgy currently being used, to discuss further.

WELCA set April 28 at 7 pm as a cleaning night for anyone willing to help finish the spring cleaning projects at the church. Men and women of the congregation are urged to help out.

Lutheran World Relief pick-up is May 7. Blanket Sunday and potluck is this Sunday, April 24.

- 2) Board of Education: May 8th is the last Sunday School session for this year.

Old Business:

- 1) Website Fees: Rude reported that Marisa Benson paid for a 5-year contract with GoDaddy for the church website, totaling \$90.85, which will be

reimbursed to her. Purchasing a 5-year contract resulted in a savings, versus paying annually.

- 2) Change in Food Shelf Month for 2017: A formal motion was made by Alberg, and seconded by Iverson, to change the Food Shelf collections from April to March, in addition to August and December. Motion carried.

New Business:

- 1) Internet Service: Rude presented a rate chart with various options from Sjoberg’s for acquiring internet and/or cable TV at the church. Discussion was held but no decision was made.
- 2) Treasurer Position: Rude presented a general information document about the church, which will also serve as a guideline for the next treasurer to follow. The Council will continue to seek a new treasurer, and a notice will be placed in the upcoming bulletins.

- 3) Pastor’s Agreement: A new 3-month agreement for April-June 2016 was approved by a motion by Cedergren, second by Iverson. Motion carried.
- 4) Lawn Mowing Services: Rude reported that David Lee was no longer interested in providing mowing services for the church grounds and cemetery. Other potential parties were discussed. A notice will be printed in the bulletins until a replacement can be found.

Next regular meeting date: May 19, 2016

The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer and adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Cedergren
St. Pauli Church Council Secretary

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May 19, 2016

The St. Pauli Church Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, May 19, 2016 at 7 p.m. at St. Pauli Church. Members present: Arlo Rude, Cindy Cedergren, Kathy Alberg, Gary Iverson. and Pastor Carl Hansen.

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

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

Secretary’s Report: The minutes of the April 21, 2016 meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer’s Report: The Treasurer’s report was approved as presented.

General Fund:

Checking Account Balance as of 4/1/16:	\$ 35,368.29
April Income	3,600.25
April Expenses	(10,279.24)
Balance as of 4/30/16:	\$ 28,689.30

Investor Savings Account Balance 4/30/16: \$ 35,925.68

Edward D. Jones Balance 4/30/16: 42,089.67

Memorial Fund Savings Account & Certificate of Deposit Balance 4/30/16 11,292.05

Mission Grant Fund Balance 4/30/16 2,002.17

Total Church Funds: \$ 119,998.87

Rude presented a budget update through April. Rude will establish (2) Certificates of Deposit of \$10,000 each.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Hansen reported he will be preaching at Trinity Lutheran Church in Thief River Falls

on August 14 and 21 while Pastor Voelker is in Hungary.

Redeemer Lutheran Church in TRF will have a congregational vote on June 5 concerning whether to end the parish relationship with Black River Lutheran Church. He asked the Council to keep both congregations in their prayers.

In response to member thoughts about considering the use of additional setting(s) of the liturgy, the task group that planned the introduction of the ELW at St. Pauli will meet on May 24 to consider future possibilities.

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

New Members or Interest in Membership: No report.

Reports:

- 1) WELCA: Lutheran World Relief shipment has been completed.
- 2) Board of Education: No report.

Old Business: Lawn Mowing Contractor: Bryson Bray has been contracted to mow the church and cemetery grounds this summer. He will be paid \$40 per time for church mowing, and \$60 for cemetery, including trimming. Arlo Rude will notify him whenever mowing is needed.

New Business:

- 1) Rude reported that October 31, 2017 marks the 500-year anniversary of the Reformation. The Council was asked to think about ideas for doing something special to acknowledge this milestone.

- 2) Synod Assembly: Rude may attend the assembly in Moorhead on Saturday, May 21.
- 3) Treasurer Position: Rude reported there has been no interest in the position to date. He asked the Council for permission to consult with Gale Schmitz to do the bookkeeping for the church. Council members approved of Rude consulting with Gale and to bring back information and costs at the next meeting.

Next regular meeting date: June 16, 2016.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Cedergren
St. Pauli Church Council Secretary

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Minutes of the St. Pauli Cemetery Association

May 19, 2016

The St. Pauli Cemetery Association Board of Directors met on May 19, 2016 at 7:50 p.m. at St. Pauli Church with the following members present: Arlo Rude, Kathy Alberg, Gary Iverson, and Cindy Cedergren.

Chairman Arlo Rude opened the meeting.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the previous meeting, (January 21, 2016 Annual Meeting), were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Rude shared the checking account activity since January, with an ending balance of \$31,808.08, which included the annual contribution of \$3,500 from St. Pauli Church. The report was approved as presented.

Old Business: None; Old Business items will be addressed at the next meeting.

New Business:

- 1) Maintenance of monuments and grave markers: Concerns were raised about tilting monuments and markers needing to be adjusted. A process to handle these types of maintenance should be included in the procedures that are still in draft form.
- 2) Methods of annual contracting for mowing and other ground work: Rude will develop procedures to be used with annual contractors, so expectations are clear and in writing.

- 3) Windbreak at cemetery: Rude reported that Larry Hurst has offered pine trees to be transplanted from his farm for use as a windbreak at the cemetery. The Board will accept the offer, if the trees are acceptable. Iverson made a motion, Alberg seconded, to accept the donation of the trees if they are suitable for transplanting. Motion carried.

- 4) Board of Directors Officers: The following changes to the officers were made official: Replace Ron Anderson with Gary Iverson as a Board member; Replace Andrew Halvorson as Treasurer, with Arlo Rude as Acting Treasurer. Alberg made the motion, Rude seconded, to approve these changes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Next meeting: June 16, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Cedergren
St. Pauli Cemetery Association Board of Directors
Secretary

WELCA Minutes

April 20, 2016

The St. Pauli Women of the ELCA met on April 20, 2016 at 7 pm with six members present. President Faye Auchenpaugh opened the meeting with devotions and prayer. The secretary's report for March was approved as read.

The treasurer's report was approved as read:

Income	\$ 132.20
Expenses	\$ 91.41
Checking account balance	\$ 961.65

Stewardship Report: The following are ready for Lutheran World Relief shipment: 33 Personal Care kits (12 prepared by the Sunday School students), 7 School

Kits, 14 Quilts and 4 blankets, and 12 Baby Care Kits. Virginia Anderson noted that Shirley Johnson donated \$40 toward the stewardship fund, part of which was a memorial for Troy Pribyl.

Education Report: A program on quilting will be given by Faye Auchenpaugh at the May meeting.

Old Business: Virginia Anderson reported on the Cluster 2 Gathering held on April 16th in Holt. Edna Rondorf, Deone Cerny, Inez Mathson and Virginia attended.

The N.W. Minnesota Synod Convention scheduled in Moorhead on May 20-21 will feature keynote speaker Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber. Faye shared information about the speaker.

Spring cleaning week resulted in several tasks left undone, so the group decided to set up an evening work session on April 28th at 7 pm and will have a volunteer sign-up sheet at services on April 24th. Root beer floats will be served for refreshments after cleaning is done.

New Business: Redeemer Lutheran Church extended an invitation to their May Salad Luncheon scheduled for Tues, May 3 from 11 am – 1 pm; Cost is \$7 per person.

The National Triennial Gathering is scheduled in Minneapolis July 13-16, 2017. More information will follow. Registration opens in Sept. 2016.

A thank you card from the Troy Pribyl family was shared.

Potluck is scheduled for April 24, with the Lydia Circle H-Z in charge of serving. Offering will go toward Lutheran Social Services.

The Red River Valley Hospice organization is hosting a donor appreciation event on May 5 in Fargo, for which WELCA received an invitation.

President Faye suggested we start thinking about ideas for a fall event. Some suggestions were shared, with more discussion in upcoming meetings.

It was decided to donate a quilt to Amanda Wilde and family, recent fire victims in Thief River Falls.

The meeting closed with prayer partners shared, offering, the Lord's Prayer and Table Grace. Hostess was Cindy Cedergren.

Following the meeting, all attendees stayed to assemble personal care, baby care, and school kits, and arranged them on the altar with the quilts for services on Sunday.

Next meeting is May 25, with Deone Cerny serving as hostess.

Cindy Cedergren

WELCA Secretary

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MASLC COMING TO TRINITY LUTHERAN IN MOORHEAD

June 19, 2016
7:30 pm



The Minnesota All State Lutheran Choir will be performing at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead, MN on Sunday, June 19, at 7:30 pm.

Come and enjoy an evening of music presented by these Lutheran High School students from throughout Minnesota who spend 10 days in rehearsal at Mount Carmel Bible Camp in Alexandria before their 10-day tour across the state.

A freewill offering will be received. Coffee and cookies will be served following the concert.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

On **Sunday, Sept. 11, 2016**, congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will again join together for **"God's work. Our hands." Sunday**.

Whether we clean parks and roadways, visit the elderly and homebound, or bake cookies and write thank you notes for first

responders, this dedicated day of service celebrates the work you do every day and gives us the opportunity to share God's love with all people. The 2016 **"God's work. Our hands." Sunday** will also mark the 15-year anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States.

The Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director for ELCA Domestic Mission and former bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan New York Synod at the time of Sept. 11, shares the story of an ELCA pastor who served as a fire department chaplain.

"When the first plane hit the first tower, he rushed across the Brooklyn Bridge to the site where firefighters were mustering," said Bouman. "He was asked to anoint the heads of firefighters with oil with the sign of the cross, for those who wanted this baptismal remembrance. They then rushed into the building. Survivors making their way down the smoky stairways remembered those brave rescuers, heads glistening with oily crosses, rushing to rescue, baptized for this moment."

Reflecting on this, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton said, "In baptism we have been marked with the cross. We are the ones who go into the broken places of the world. We are the ones who, by showing up on 'God's work. Our hands.' Sunday, shine the light of the cross in our communities."

Now is a good time to begin exploring opportunities for your congregation to participate in **"God's work. Our hands." Sunday**.

As you begin making plans for the day of service, we ask that you register your congregation. This will help us share and tell stories about the good work that we do together.

Visit ELCA.org/dayofservice where you will find helpful resources for your planning for 2016. This includes an updated study guide designed for congregations to discuss what it means to serve with a joyful heart. You'll also find the 2016 version of the toolkit, bulletin inserts, posters and more. A new worship resource will be available later this spring.

Old Lutheran will once again have T-shirts available for purchase. The bright-yellow shirts provide a wonderful visual impact across the ELCA. The deadline for ordering your congregation's personalized T-shirt with Old Lutheran is Aug. 19.

If it's not possible for your congregation to participate on Sept. 11, please consider another day for your service activities.

Following the 2015 dedicated day of service, the Rev. Jason Adams, pastor of Reformation Lutheran Church in Las Vegas, described what the day meant for his congregation. "Of course, in our vocations we are serving neighbors every day, but when we are serving together, we are growing together as the people of God."

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday celebrates who we are as the ELCA – one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor. We look forward to doing this work together again this year.

God's peace,

Christina Jackson-Skelton
Executive Director, Mission Advancement
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America





Rev. Eldon Person

L to R: Gary Rolandson, Rev. Eldon Person, Bev (Rolandson) Larson.

Bev has stayed in touch with the Persons over the years. She and Gary recently got together with Rev. Person and they have shared this photo with us.

Rev. Person served St. Pauli from 1954-1958.

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Arlo Rude Receives Melvin Jones Award

At a recent Thief River Falls Lions Club meeting, Arlo Rude received the Melvin Jones award from Club President Mike Reishus (left).

This award is the highest honor given to any Lions Club member, recognizing their outstanding dedication to humanitarian service, both within their club and within their community.



IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY



On April 16th two Pennington County 4-H Poultry Project Bowl Teams competed at the State contest held in Sauk Rapids.

The Junior Poultry team (left) which consisted of Anna Knott, Blaine Torstveit (back left) and Rylan Torstveit (front right) of the Sanders 4-H Club and Holden Engman of Marshall County took second place. The match that got them into the championship match was won in overtime.

The Senior Poultry team (right), which consisted of Elaina Knott and Jonathan Torstveit (front) of the Sanders 4-H Club and Jayce Lizakowski and Cooper Olsonawski of the Steiner 4-

H Club, also took second place. Once they made it into the championship round, they defeated the two-time defending state champs which forced a second championship match since both teams then had one loss each.



And Dad is Minnesota's 4-H Volunteer of the Year!



The University of Minnesota Extension Center for Youth Development recognizes Chad Torstveit as Minnesota's sole 4-H Salute to Excellent Award winner – Volunteer of the Year.

Over the past five years, Chad has made some incredible contributions to Minnesota 4-H. including taking the initiative to start a Poultry Bowl team for youth in Pennington County and neighboring counties; creating a practice Project Bowl for northern Minnesota youth, and helping the Poultry Project youth be successful in the face of a challenging year with avian influenza. Chad gives his own time and resources to fill gaps in programming to ensure that youth in northern Minnesota have opportunities to have new experiences and take their learning to a new level.

Chad's commitment to the 4-H program is clear as he has taken on leadership roles as the adult treasurer, a State Fair chaperone, and a staple volunteer in the Poultry Project.

Pennington/Marshall County 4-H Program Director Van Swanson shared how Chad worked to prepare his team for the National Poultry Project by reaching out to other teams, giving up nights and weekends to help the youth learn, and providing advice and tips to other teams as they learned and grew. His spirit of generosity embodies the values of 4-H.

When asked to share Chad's contributions, 4-H volunteer Jennifer Knott said, "Chad is a caring, quiet, and reserved individual, but when he speaks to kids, they listen. He is never judgmental or critical but positively encourages the kids by acknowledging their individual strengths and builds them up to be strong team members."

Former 4-H member Alisha Mosloff wrote, "I have never met a 4-H leader who is as dedicated as Chad. The example that he sets for the youth that he works with is exemplary. He is one of the people whom I have met that I will never forget as he has made such a huge impact on my life. They say it takes a community to raise a child, and I will be forever grateful that Chad Torstveit was part of the community that raised me." (*Reprinted from The Times, May 18 2016*)

John Cervantes retires from the Army National Guard

Sergeant First Class John Cervantes, Mortar Platoon Sergeant, retired from the MN Army National Guard on April 2016 with 24 years of service. His service in the military started at a young age, when as a high school Junior he enlisted in the Minnesota Army National Guard. John attended basic training and Indirect Fire Infantry training in Fort Benning, Georgia. At that time, he was tied to Bravo Company, 2-136 infantry here in Thief River Falls.

In April of 1997, and again in 2001, John and his Battalion were ordered to State Active Duty in support of the Red River Valley Flood Fight. Their role in this process was to patrol levees and assist communities with sand bagging efforts and evacuations.

In addition to stateside duty, John has also served on two overseas deployments. In June of 2003, he was attached to Charlie Company 2-136 infantry and deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of Operation Noble Eagle or SFOR 14. His company was stationed at FOB Connor, near Srebrenica and the Serbian border. The mission in Bosnia was one of peace keeping; they provided presence patrols and assisted leaders with the collection of excess and unneeded weapons and explosives.

In the October 2005, John deployed with his unit to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His platoon would travel with Bravo Company to Camp Fallujah and support them in combat operations. While at Camp Fallujah, John served as fire direction center chief/section sergeant to his mortar platoon. The platoon's duty was to provide indirect fire support to numerous units, including Bravo Company, Recon Marines, and other Navy Units. They also provided counter-battery when the base took indirect fire. This combat mission in Fallujah continued for twelve months until President Bush ordered for the troop surge and the tour was extended 4 months. At that time, John and the rest of Bravo Company were to leave Camp Fallujah and join the rest of the Battalion at Camp Taququum, Iraq. While at Camp Taququum, the platoon was assigned to being the camp's quick reaction force and conducting combat patrols. In July 2007, John returned stateside and once again drilled with Bravo Company in Thief River Falls.

In February 2008, John and the rest of the mortar platoon were relocated to the HHC unit in Fergus Falls, MN. Since this move, he has been ordered to State Active Duty in support of the Red River Valley Flood Fight three times: assisting the city of Moorhead in April 2009, the city of Georgetown in 2010, and Oslo in 2011. Their role in this process was to patrol levees and assist communities with sand bagging efforts and evacuations.



John's military awards include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Excellence in Competition Rifle Badge and The Order of Saint Maurice Legionnaire.

In addition to being a member of the Minnesota Army National Guard, John is also a member of Post 2793 VFW color guard, volunteer fireman, union steward for Teamsters Local 320, and a member of the National Infantry Association.

John and Shelley have five children: Nicholas, Carley, Josie, Macie and John Luke.

The St. Pauli Congregation thanks you for your years of service to our country.

Happy Father's Day!

June 15, 2006 – USA Today

This is a wonderful piece by Michael Gartner, former president of NBC News who traded that prestigious post in 1993 for what he sees as an even higher journalistic calling: editor of his hometown paper. He lives not far from the house where he grew up. He drives streets that once carried him on a streetcar to visit his father at the Des Moines Register. In 1997, at age 58, he became the recipient of American journalism's ultimate award, the Pulitzer Prize, for editorial writing. This following piece is long, but it is well worth reading.

My father never drove a car. Well, that's not quite right. I should say I never saw him drive a car. He quit driving in 1927, when he was 25 years old, and the last car he drove was a 1926 Whippet. "In those days," he told me when he was in his 90s, "to drive a car you had to do things with your hands, and do things with your feet, and look every which way, and I decided you could walk through life and enjoy it or drive through life and miss it." At which point my mother, a sometimes salty Irishwoman, chimed in: "Oh, b__ s__!" she said. "He hit a horse." "Well," my father said, "there was that, too."

So my brother and I grew up in a household without a car. The neighbors all had cars - the Kollingses next door had a green 1941 Dodge, the VanLaningshams across the street a gray 1936 Plymouth, the Hopsons two doors down a black 1941 Ford - but we had none.

My father, a newspaperman in Des Moines, would take the streetcar to work and, often as not, walk the 3 miles home. If he took the streetcar home, my mother and brother and I would walk the three blocks to the streetcar stop, meet him and walk home together.

My brother, David, was born in 1935, and I was born in 1938, and sometimes, at dinner, we'd ask how come all the neighbors had cars but we had none. "No one in the family drives," my mother would explain, and that was that. But, sometimes, my father would say, "But as soon as one of you boys turns 16, we'll get one." It was as if he wasn't sure which one of us would turn 16 first.

But, sure enough, my brother turned 16 before I did, so in 1951 my parents bought a used 1950 Chevrolet from a friend who ran the parts department at a Chevy dealership downtown. It was a four-door, white model, stick shift, fender skirts, loaded with everything, and, since my parents didn't drive, it more or less became my brother's car.

Having a car but not being able to drive didn't bother my father, but it didn't make sense to my mother. So

in 1952, when she was 43 years old, she asked a friend to teach her to drive. She learned in a nearby cemetery, the place where I learned to drive the following year and where, a generation later, I took my two sons to practice driving. The cemetery probably was my father's idea. "Who can your mother hurt in the cemetery?" I remember him saying more than once.

For the next 45 years or so, until she was 90, my mother was the driver in the family. Neither she nor my father had any sense of direction, but he loaded up on maps - though they seldom left the city limits - and appointed himself navigator. It seemed to work. Still, they both continued to walk a lot.

My mother was a devout Catholic, and my father an equally devout agnostic, an arrangement that didn't seem to bother either of them through their 75 years of marriage. (Yes, 75 years, and they were deeply in love the entire time.)

He retired when he was 70, and nearly every morning for the next 20 years or so, he would walk with her the mile to St. Augustin's Church. She would walk down and sit in the front pew, and he would wait in the back until he saw which of the parish's two priests was on duty that morning. If it was the pastor, my father then would go out and take a 2-mile walk, meeting my mother at the end of the service and walking her home. If it was the assistant pastor, he'd take just a 1-mile walk and then head back to the church. He called the priests "Father Fast" and "Father Slow."

After he retired, my father almost always accompanied my mother whenever she drove anywhere, even if he had no reason to go along. If she was going to the beauty parlor, he'd sit in the car and read, or go take a stroll or, if it was summer, have her keep the engine running so he could listen to the Cubs game on the radio. In the evening, then, when I'd stop by, he'd explain: "The Cubs lost again. The millionaire on second base made a bad throw to the millionaire on first base, so the multimillionaire on

third base scored." If she were going to the grocery store, he would go along to carry the bags out - and to make sure she loaded up on ice cream.

As I said, he was always the navigator, and once, when he was 95 and she was 88 and still driving, he said to me, "Do you want to know the secret of a long life?" "I guess so," I said, knowing it probably would be something bizarre. "No left turns," he said. "What?" I asked. "No left turns," he repeated. "Several years ago, your mother and I read an article that said most accidents that old people are in happen when they turn left in front of oncoming traffic. As you get older, your eyesight worsens, and you can lose your depth perception, it said. So your mother and I decided never again to make a left turn."

"What?" I said again.

"No left turns," he said. "Think about it. Three rights are the same as a left, and that's a lot safer. So we always make three rights."

"You're kidding!" I said, and I turned to my mother for support.

"No," she said, "your father is right. We make three rights. It works." But then she added: "Except when your father loses count."

I was driving at the time, and I almost drove off the road as I started laughing. "Loses count?" I asked.

"Yes," my father admitted, "that sometimes happens. But it's not a problem. You just make seven rights, and you're okay again."

I couldn't resist. "Do you ever go for 11?" I asked.

"No," he said " If we miss it at seven, we just come home and call it a bad day. Besides, nothing in life is so important it can't be put off another day or another week."

My mother was never in an accident, but one evening she handed me her car keys and said she had decided to quit driving. That was in 1999, when she was 90.

She lived four more years, until 2003. My father died the next year, at 102.

They both died in the bungalow they had moved into in 1937 and bought a few years later for \$3,000. (Sixty years later, my brother and I paid \$8,000 to have a shower put in the tiny bathroom - the house

had never had one. My father would have died then and there if he knew the shower cost nearly three times what he paid for the house.)

He continued to walk daily - he had me get him a treadmill when he was 101 because he was afraid he'd fall on the icy sidewalks but wanted to keep exercising - and he was of sound mind and sound body until the moment he died. One September afternoon in 2004, he and my son went with me when I had to give a talk in a neighboring town, and it was clear to all three of us that he was wearing out, though we had the usual wide-ranging conversation about politics and newspapers and things in the news. A few weeks earlier, he had told my son, "You know, Mike, the first hundred years are a lot easier than the second hundred."

At one point in our drive that Saturday, he said, "You know, I'm probably not going to live much longer." "You're probably right," I said.

"Why would you say that?" he countered, somewhat irritated.

"Because you're 102 years old," I said.

"Yes," he said, "you're right."

He stayed in bed all the next day. That night, I suggested to my son and daughter that we sit up with him through the night. He appreciated it, he said, though at one point, apparently seeing us look gloomy, he said: "I would like to make an announcement. No one in this room is dead yet."

An hour or so later, he spoke his last words: "I want you to know," he said, clearly and lucidly, "that I am in no pain. I am very comfortable. And I have had as happy a life as anyone on this earth could ever have." A short time later, he died.

I miss him a lot, and I think about him a lot. I've wondered now and then how it was that my family and I were so lucky that he lived so long. I can't figure out if it was because he walked through life, or because he quit taking left turns.

Life is too short to wake up with regrets. So love the people who treat you right. Forget about the ones who don't. Believe everything happens for a reason. If you get a chance, take it, and if it changes your life, let it. Nobody said life would be easy. They just promised it would most likely be worth it..

The History of Mrs. Stewart's® Bluing



THE EARLY YEARS

Mrs. Stewart's® Bluing was born in the early 1880s. "MSB" owes its existence to a peddler and his mother-in-law, a marginally successful Five and Ten Cent store, and a fireworks explosion. From the beginning, Mrs. Stewart's® journey has been an

interesting one!

In the late 1870s, Al Stewart, a traveling salesman for a Chicago wholesale grocer, was a familiar figure in Iowa and southern Minnesota. In his market basket full of samples he always carried a bottle of Mrs. Stewart's® Bluing, which he made in his home with his family assisting him according to a formula he had acquired.

Meanwhile, Luther Ford, a young silk salesman, moved to Minneapolis where he started the first "Five and Ten Cent Bazaar" west of Pittsburgh. Business was not highly successful and so he began a wholesale business, carrying notions, toys, and fireworks.

Al Stewart and Luther Ford crossed paths when Mr. Stewart began searching for someone to manufacture his bluing for him. Following a spectacular (but accidental) eruption of fireworks in the Five and Ten Cent store, Mr. Ford realized the potential of a (safer) future in the bluing business. Al Stewart sold Luther Ford the rights to Mrs. Stewart's® Bluing, and the first documented sale of Mrs. Stewart's® Bluing was logged on July 30, 1883. Mr. Ford quickly made plans to extend distribution across the region.

Facilities and equipment used in manufacturing in the late 1800s were primitive. The ceiling in the first basement factory was so low, holes had to be made in the floor so the employees had a place for their feet to hang down. Filling was done from wooden barrels with a rubber hose. Corks were pounded in with a small mallet, and each bottle was dipped in hot sealing wax as the corks didn't always fit into the slightly irregularly shaped hand-blown bottles. Labeling was done by hand using paste. Bottles were packed in sawdust in wooden cases or in barrels. Stock was stored and production stopped during the winter, until a later date when a heated manufacturing building was obtained.

EARLY COMPETITION

Around the turn of the century, Mrs. Stewart's® Bluing had lots of competition from other "blues." Mrs. Stewart's® was such a superior product that other companies were constantly trying to imitate it. Labels were copied and even reused in many cases. Loyal Mrs. Stewart's® Bluing users were not easily fooled, however, and all of these "masqueraders" eventually faded away, leaving Mrs. Stewart's® Bluing in a class by itself!

Bluing was manufactured by some competitors in stick, cube, powder and ball form. Mrs. Stewart's® Bluing has been a liquid from the beginning. It has never been marketed in any other form, and, as incredible as it may seem, it is essentially the same product today it was way back in 1883.

GROWING THE BUSINESS

Mrs. Stewart's® Bluing grew slowly until 1910 when Luther Ford's son Allyn, fresh from college, came into the business. He saw great potential in bluing and resolved to put his best efforts into expanding distribution. Allyn's brother, Robert, eventually left his teaching career and the brothers turned all their energy to the Mrs. Stewart's® Bluing enterprise.

By 1925, additional factories existed in Portland, San Francisco, St. Louis, Pasadena and in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Distribution was nationwide across the United States and Canada. Today, all production takes place in the updated Bloomington, Minnesota facility. Distribution of MSB is handled by public warehouses in key market areas and by a broker network.

FROM SALESMAN TO GROCERY BROKERS

When business started booming, salesmen were hired who worked directly out of the Minneapolis office. In 1918, this method of selling was replaced by the appointment of food or grocery brokers. It was this switch to food brokers which accounted for the rapid and steady growth of the Mrs. Stewart's® Bluing business.

In 1946, with Mrs. Stewart's® Bluing sales at a high point, Robert Ford's son Luther (named for his grandfather) returned to Minneapolis and by the mid 1950s had taken over the business from his father and his uncle. He was head of the firm during the 1960s and 1970s. In August 1955, Ken Norman was hired as Manager of Production and Purchasing. In the late 1970s, Ken bought the company from Luther Ford. Ken's son, Brad, joined the business in 1974 and took over ownership in 1995. He took on co-owner, Jeff Olson, who became sole owner in 2013.

In 1986, the business was moved from downtown Minneapolis to suburban Bloomington, where it remains today (2015). From 1883 to the present time, production and distribution of MSB has been and remains an old-fashioned "family" business.

HIGHLY SOUGHT-AFTER MSB BOTTLES

The earliest Mrs. Stewart's® Bluing bottles were hand-blown. Starting in about 1907, bottles were manufactured on automatic bottle-blowing machines. The words "This contains Mrs. Stewart's® Bluing" were embossed into the face of the bottles, as insurance against unauthorized reuse by others.



Around 1920, the embossing on the bottle face was discontinued and replaced with a similar embossment around the shoulder of the bottle. In the spring of 1933, Robert Ford's newly designed machinery was used to apply hot wax around the rim of each bottle to prevent the liquid from running down the side of the bottle when dispensing the product. This soon became the patented "No-Drip" process. That summer, the words "No-Drip" also appeared in gold lettering on the MSB labels in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Ford/Stewart connection. Bottles were capped with imported Portuguese corks which were specially made for MSB and put into red wooden tops; the two parts of each closure were hand-glued together. The top of each bottle cork had the words "No-Drip Bluing" imprinted by hand.

Early in the 1960s, a new development in liquid dispensing became available in the form of a plastic dispensing "fitment" inserted into the bottle allowing it to be dispensed by the drop.

Starting in 1962 in the U.S. and in 1965 in Canada, plastic screw caps replaced the wooden corks previously used. Beginning in the early 1970s, the company began phasing out glass bottles and introduced plastic. Today, MSB is packaged exclusively in recyclable high density polyethylene plastic bottles.



For almost a half century, Mrs. Stewart's® Bluing was put up in just a ten-ounce size and retailed for 15¢ to 25¢. The Depression economy of the 1930s prompted the production of the "Dime-Size" glass bottle for some years. The "Dime-Size" bottle actually underwent three different size changes and didn't always retail for a dime. At first, the "Dime-Size" was a squat 3-ounce, then a tall and slender 3 1/2-ounce, and finally an oval 4-ounce which was sold through the mid-1970s.



Mrs. Stewart's® Bluing bottles, particularly the oldest ones with the long-ago replaced red wooden-topped corks, are now highly sought-after antique collectors' items. Requests are often received for these old bottles, but, alas, there are few to be found nowadays! Collectors scour the country's antique shops in hopes of purchasing one for their very own, or check out

Grandma's cellar hoping for a lucky find!

THE HISTORY OF THE BLUING PROCESS

Before the automatic washer arrived, the process for bluing white fabric in the home consisted of soaking or washing the clothing in hot soapy water, usually in a large kettle over a stove or in a wash tub, then rinsing

the clothing thoroughly in another kettle – often two times. Finally, a "bluing" kettle was prepared – cool water with just enough bluing added to make the water a light, sky-blue color – in which the clothing was simply dipped in briefly and removed, then hung to dry.

Today, bluing can be used in the wash cycle or the final rinse cycle in most top and front-loading machines to restore fabric to the "whitest white."

WHO IS SHE?

The first bottles of Mrs. Stewart's® Bluing probably carried a homemade, handwritten label. Eventually, Mr. Stewart decided to have his labels commercially done. The printer he contacted recommended that a label be used which featured a picture of an older woman, as this would help sales to increase! He asked his wife for a picture of herself to use, but she, so the story goes, refused to have her picture used on the label of a bluing bottle. He plucked a photograph of his mother-in-law from the mantle and promptly delivered it to the printer. So, that no-nonsense granny who appears on every bottle of Mrs. Stewart's® Bluing throughout North America is none other than Mrs. Stewart's mother, the real Mrs. Stewart thus losing her opportunity to be immortalized!

MSB label design has remained fairly constant from the early days to the present, with one notable exception. On the advice of an advertising agency in the early 1970s, the "stern granny" look of Mrs. Stewart on the label was replaced with the pleasant face of a silver-haired, "with it" looking, wrinkle-free, smiling woman in a stylish hairdo. Consumers went on a rampage! A flood of mail came in from all across North America wanting Mrs. Stewart back! And they got her back, too! Over the years, Mrs. Stewart has undergone several very minor changes, but never again will consumers be surprised with a "stranger" on the label of Mrs. Stewart's Bluing!

HOW DID MSB GET TO BE OVER 100 YEARS OLD?

Although MSB has been used most commonly to whiten white fabric that has grayed or yellowed with age, consumers have discovered additional uses for bluing since day one!

Remember the Salt Crystal Garden (also called a "Depression Flower" or "Coal Garden")? A favorite family or school science project for all ages, bluing is an essential ingredient in growing this beloved crystal formation. MSB continues to be sold to schools, scout packs, science supply houses, and consumers for this use.

And, while the company has done some small time advertising in magazines and newspapers here and there, they have never launched television or infomercial campaigns. Word of Mouth has always been their preferred method of advertising. It's fail-proof.

Think a gallon of gas is expensive?



All of these examples do NOT imply that gasoline is cheap. It just illustrates how outrageous some prices are. This makes one think, and also puts things into perspective.



Diet Snapple, 16 oz., \$1.29
\$10.32 per gallon!



Brake Fluid, 12 oz., \$3.15
\$33.60 per gallon!



Starbucks Reg. Coffee 16 oz., \$2.10
\$16.80 per gallon!

Pepto Bismol, 4 oz., \$3.85
\$123.20 per gallon!



Whiteout, 7 oz., \$1.39
\$25.42 per gallon!



Lipton Iced Tea, 16 oz., \$1.19
\$9.52 per gallon!



Scope, 1.5 oz., \$0.99
\$84.48 per gallon!

Ocean Spray, oz., \$1.25
\$10.00 per gallon!



And this is the REAL KICKER.

Evian water, 9 oz., \$1.49
\$21.19 per gallon!

\$21.19 for a gallon of WATER!! And the buyers don't even know the source! (Evian spelled backwards is Naive.)



Gatorade, 20 oz., \$1.59
\$10.17 per gallon!

Ever wonder why computer printers are so cheap? So they can hook you for the ink. Someone calculated the cost of the ink at (you won't believe it but it's true): \$5,200 a gallon.

\$5,200 A GALLON!!

Vick's Nyquil, 6 oz., \$8.35
\$178.13 per gallon!



So, the next time you're at the pump, be glad your car doesn't run on water, Scope, Whiteout, Pepto Bismol, Nyquil, or, heaven forbid, printer ink!!

And the winner is...

THIEF RIVER FALLS NORSKIES!



That's the name management selected for the Thief River Falls team that will begin play this fall as a Superior International Junior Hockey League expansion franchise. After almost a year's worth of preparation, final plans for the new Junior A team have been falling in place. Coming up with a name completes another piece of the puzzle.

"The ownership group...is extremely excited to announce our team has been named," said general manager Kevin McCallum. "We are proud to have chosen a name that is different and exciting. We have a strong Norwegian presence in our community that we like to celebrate."

The Norskies will join the existing SIJHL clubs that include the Minnesota Iron Rangers from Hoyt Lakes, and four Canadian teams located in Ontario: the Fort Frances Lakers, Thunder Bay North Stars, English River Miners and Dryden GM Ice Dogs. The SIJHL plays under the supervision of Hockey Canada and the Canadian Junior Hockey League – a national organization comprised of all ten Junior A leagues in Canada covering 131 teams and nearly 3,000 players. McCallum expects close to 100 players to be on hand when the Norskies' try-out camp is held June 24-26 at the Huck Olson Memorial Civic Center. The roster size is set at 25.

While the Norskies was not one of the suggestions submitted in a name-the-team contest that McCallum promoted among Thief River Falls elementary school students this spring, a prize promised to the winner will still be awarded. "Although the team did not select the name, it was our top choice from all of the school submissions and was strongly considered by the ownership group," he noted. "In appreciation, this young student will be contacted and presented a team jersey at the home opener." (*The Times*, June 15, 2016)

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READER PICKS

No one sent suggestions for our reading list this month so your Editor is giving her picks for light, entertaining reading over the summer: **The Maisie Dobbs novels by Jacqueline Winspear.** There are currently 12 in the mystery series, but you must read #1 first.

Maisie Dobbs, Psychologist and Investigator in London, England, began her working life at the age of thirteen as a servant in a Belgravia mansion, only to be discovered reading in the library by her employer, Lady Rowan Compton. Fearing dismissal, Maisie is shocked when she discovers that her thirst for education is to be supported by Lady Rowan and a family friend, Dr. Maurice Blanche. But "The Great War" intervenes in Maisie's plans, and soon after finishing her studies at Girton College, Cambridge, Maisie enlists for nursing service overseas.

Years later, in 1929, having apprenticed to the renowned Maurice Blanche, a man revered for his work with Scotland Yard, Maisie sets up her own business. Her first assignment, a seemingly tedious inquiry involving a case of suspected infidelity, takes her not only on the trail of a killer, but back to the war she had tried so hard to forget.



PENNINGTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Invite you to:

Twilight Garden Tour

Thurs., June 30, 2016
4—8:00 p.m.



This year we will continue to feature the garden's summer plantings in the early evening hours. We want you to enjoy the uniqueness and creativity each garden and gardener has to offer. There are four sites to see. Signs are posted to help with directions. Or, just ask one of the helpers at the gardens and you will find your way with no trouble. We trust you will enjoy seeing friends and walking through some creative and unique gardens.

Pennington County Master Gardeners

- Jeff and Jill Tunberg
- Luke & Sharon Noreen
- Al Gustafson Memorial Rain Garden
- Cabin View Gardens

\$5/person

Tickets & directions available at all locations. Please call the Pennington County Extension Office for questions, directions, or more information. 683-7030. Please do not use your GPS or Garmin units for rural addresses. They will not work.

Sponsored by the Pennington County Master Gardeners

The Back Page

His name was Ole.

He was from Minnesota, and he needed a loan. So he walked into a bank in New York City and asked for a loan officer.

He told the loan officer that he was going to Oslo for the All-Scandinavian Summer Festival for two weeks, that he needed to borrow \$5,000 and that he was not a depositor of the bank.

The bank officer told him that the bank would need some form of security for the loan, so Ole handed over the keys to his new Ferrari. The car was parked on the street in front of the bank. Ole produced the title and everything checked out.

The loan officer agreed to hold the car as collateral for the loan and apologized for having to charge 12% interest. The loan papers were signed and a check was drawn to Ole. An employee of the bank then drove the Ferrari into the bank's private underground garage and parked it.

Later, the bank's president and its officers all enjoyed a good laugh at Ole from Minnesota for using a \$200,000 Ferrari as collateral for a \$5,000 loan.

Two weeks later, Ole returned, repaid the \$5,000 loan and the interest of \$23.07, and got his car keys back.

The loan officer said, "Sir, we are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a little puzzled. While you were away, we checked you out on Dunn & Bradstreet and found that you are a Distinguished Alumni from the University of Minnesota, a highly sophisticated investor and a multimillionaire with real estate and financial interests all over the world.

Your investments include a large number of oil wells around Williston, ND. What puzzles us is why you would bother to borrow \$5,000 and put up your much more valuable car as collateral. Can you explain that to me?"

Ole replied, "Ya, shure. Vere else in dis city can I park my car for two veeks for only \$23.07 and expect it to be dere ven I come back?"

His name may have been Ole and he may have been from Minnesota, but we should never be underestimated.

* * * * *

And then there's this...

An elderly man in Oklahoma called his son in New York and said, "I hate to ruin your day son, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are getting a divorce; 45 years of marriage... and that much misery... is enough!"

"Dad, what are you talking about?" the son yelled.

"We can't stand the sight of each other any longer," the old dad explained. "We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Hong Kong and tell her!"

Frantic, the son called his sister, who exploded on the phone.

"Like heck they're getting divorced," she shouted, "I'll take care of this."

She called her elderly father immediately, and screamed at him, "You are not getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, you hear me?" she yelled as she hung up the phone.

The old man hung up his phone and turned to his wife. "Okay," he said, "it's all set. They're both coming for Christmas and paying their own airfare."

* * * * *

One day God was looking down at earth and saw all of the rascally behavior that was going on. So He called His angels and sent one to earth for a time.

When the angel returned, he told God, "Yes, it is bad on earth; 95% are misbehaving and only 5% are not.

God thought for a moment and said, "Maybe I had better send down a second angel to get another opinion."

So God called another angel and sent her to earth for a time. When the angel returned, she went to God and said, "Yes, it's true. The earth is in decline; 95% are misbehaving, but 5% are being good."

God was not pleased.

So He decided to e-mail the 5% who were good, because He wanted to encourage them, and give them a little something to help them keep going.

Do you know what the email said?

Okay... I was just wondering, because I didn't get one either.