

St. Pauli News in Detail



ANNUAL MEETINGS

ST. PAULI CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Thursday, January 12, 2017
8:00 pm



ST. PAULI CONGREGATION

January 29, 2017
11:30 am

Potluck dinner
12:30 pm
Freewill offering to benefit
Hospice

IMPORTANT: Designated persons must submit their organizational reports to Cindy Cedergren no later than January 15th for inclusion in the St. Pauli Annual Report. The booklets will be ready for review on January 22. Submittals can be made in electronic (Word or Excel) or typed paper formats.

Please email to cindyced@outlook.com or mail to 15216 140th St. NE, TRF or place in Cindy's church mailbox.

HOLY COMMUNION

With Pastor Carl on vacation the first part of January, we will have communion on January 15 with Pastor John Wollenzien and Pastor Carl on January 29.



St. Pauli Handbook

Be sure to check your church mailbox & pick up your 2017 Handbook. It contains the schedules for St. Pauli meetings and events, cleaning/ushering schedules, contact information, and much more. Thanks go to Jan Strandlie for updating this handbook each year.

Extra 2017 calendars and *Christ in our Home* devotion booklets are also available for pick up on the table below the mailboxes.

EMAIL CONTACTS

Email helps us gather consensus on issues, provide information, and save postage on newsletters. Please check the 2017 handbook to make sure your address is correct. If yours is missing, please contact Faye Auchenpaugh at auchenpaugh@gmail.com.



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

Greeting and Ushering

Jan. 1	Jim Kotz
Jan. 8	Bruce Mathson
Jan. 15	Barb Nelson
Jan. 22	Keith Nelson
Jan. 29	Staci Reay

Altar Preparation (15th & 29th): Barb Nelson



Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

- Jan. 3 Jim and Jan Strandlie (25th!)

January Milestones



ALWAYS REFORMING

EQUIPPING CONGREGATIONS DAYS

About the Event

All are welcome! Congregation Members, Council Officers (especially Treasurers), Worship & Youth Leaders, Pastors... Everyone!

Join us for a day of learning as we equip ourselves for the complexity that is ministry!

Many workshops* will be offered with topics including:

- Treasurer Training
- Council Training
- Social Media Training
- And much more!

*A full list of workshops will be available on January 9, 2017.
Participants will attend two workshops.*

Cost

If 1-2 people come from your congregation, the price per person is \$35.

If 3 or more people come from your congregation, the price per person is \$25.

Times and Locations

The events will take place from **10:30 AM – 2:30 PM** on the following days:

Thief River Falls, MN
Saturday, February 18, 2017
Zion Lutheran Church

Perham, MN
Saturday, February 25, 2017
Calvary Lutheran Church

Registration

Registration for this event will open on **January 11, 2017**, which you will be able to access online. As space will be limited for certain workshops, priority is workshop attendance will be given in a first-come first-serve basis.

KEYNOTE:

"BACK TO THE FUTURE"



**BISHOP
LARRY WOHLRABE**

CONFIRMATION



Three students were confirmed on Sunday, December 11, 2016. Pictured left to right: Aleshia Abeta, Devin Haugen and Dacian Grove.

Families for these three young people supported them all along the road and were present to celebrate their achievement.

They were also blessed to have Gary Iverson as their confirmation teacher. Our entire congregation is grateful for Gary's dedication to teaching and instructing our students.

"CHRISTMAS PRESENCE" presented by the Sunday School



Thank you to Shelly Cervantes, Heidi Haugen, Val Torstveit and Kari Torkelson for directing the pageant this year.

Sunday School students continued the St. Pauli tradition of handing out bags of peanuts, apples and candy to everyone. Potluck lunch and fellowship followed the program.

Live Pageant at Christmas Eve Candlelight Services



Adults in the congregation portrayed a live pageant during Christmas Eve services.

Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus: Erin, Jordan and Kylan Rondorf
Angels: Virginia Anderson, Eunice Grove, Wahna Smith
Shepherds: Ken Cedergren, John Cervantes, Gary Iverson
Wisemen: Ronnie Anderson, Skip Swanson, Wally Torkelson





*"We are a modest people
And we never make a fuss
And it sure would be a better world
If they were all as modest as us.
We do not go for whooping it up,
Or a lot of yikkety-yak.
When we say hello, we avert our eyes
And we always sit in the back."¹*

To contend that Lutherans keep a low profile in the world would be an understatement. We avoid making a fuss about ourselves. We're little known outside our tribe—we don't exactly dominate the worlds of entertainment, industry or politics. Example: no Lutheran has ever been elected president of the United States.

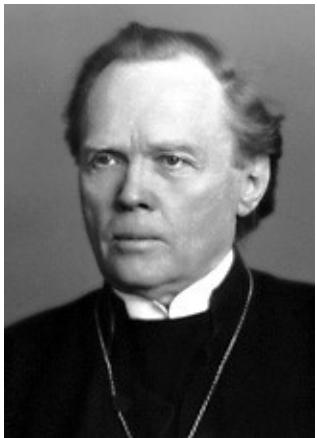
Even when Lutherans did find themselves in the spotlight on the national scene for a time, thanks to the popular success of Garrison Keillor's *Prairie Home Companion* show on public radio, what image was projected? We became *famous* for our *modesty* (or, as a former president of Concordia College termed it, *militant modesty!*² Keillor's weekly depictions of Lutherans as taciturn, bland purveyors of hotdishes laced with cream of mushroom soup soon produced predictable giggles from audience members whenever Keillor merely uttered the word "Lutheran."

As much as we may have enjoyed Keillor's humor, recognizing so much that rings true especially for we Lutherans of the upper Midwest, I fear that the storyteller from Lake Wobegon did us no favors. His homespun monologues did not even hint at the rich, full tapestry of global Lutheranism.

During 2017, as we observe the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, I want to lift up some Lutherans whose names may be unfamiliar to you. My goal is to introduce (or in some cases, re-introduce) some Lutherans *through whom God has worked redemptively in the world*. Don't worry, we'll still be modest about ourselves. But we'll also be bold about what God has been doing in and through the lives of Lutherans. Our ELCA tagline gets it right: *God's work. Our hands.*

Soderblom and Berggrav

This month we honor two Scandinavian Lutheran bishops who made a world of difference during and after the two World Wars of the 20th century. On January 14 our church commemorates **Evind Josef Berggrav** (b. 1884) who died on January 14, 1959. On January 15 we observe the birthday of **Nathan Soderblom** (1866-1931). [Editor's note: Soderblom was featured in our November 2016 St. Pauli newsletter as the first clergy to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.]



Soderblom was born in Trono, Sweden and grew up the son of a pietist³ Lutheran pastor. A young man with tremendous academic gifts, he attended the University of Uppsala in Sweden and in 1901 received his doctorate at the Sorbonne in France. Although he might have worked fruitfully his whole life as a professor of religion, the Church of Sweden called him to serve as a priest (pastor) in 1893 and in 1914 elected him Archbishop of Uppsala and Primate⁴ of the Church of Sweden.

Soderblom is remembered for the global leadership he exerted as head of the Church of Sweden during and after World War I (1914-1918). He actively intervened on behalf of prisoners of war and displaced persons. In order to undertake such ministries of mercy more effectively, Soderblom also sought to overcome the divisions that existed among the Christian churches.

This interest in ecumenism⁵ hearkened back to his own time as a college student. While attending a conference of the Christian Student Conference in New England in 1890, Soderblom was so deeply moved that he wrote in his diary: *Lord, give me humility and wisdom to serve the great cause of the free unity of thy church.*⁶ Soderblom's ecumenical vision culminated in his convening of the Stockholm



¹ From "I'm a Lutheran" by Garrison Keillor. Accessed on 12/20/16 at <http://www.garrisonkeillor.com/radio/im-a-lutheran/>

² The late Dr. Pamela Jolicoeur (1944-2010) who came from California to the Red River Valley to become Concordia's tenth president.

³ A pietist is a believer who emphasizes devotional experiences and spiritual practices.

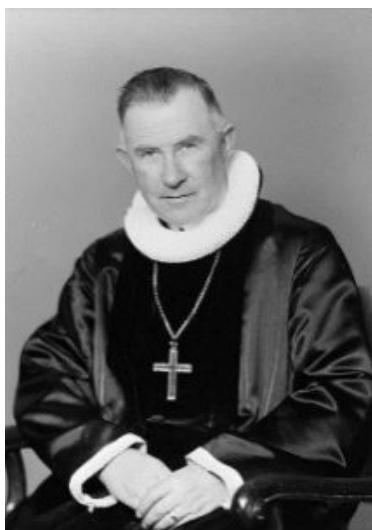
⁴ A primate is a bishop who has precedence in a province, a group of provinces, or a nation. Both Soderblom and Berggrav were the "primates" among the bishops in their respective countries.

⁵ Ecumenism refers to efforts by Christians of different church traditions to develop closer relationships and better understandings. The term is also often used to refer to efforts towards the visible and organic unity of different Christian churches in some form.

⁶ https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1930/soderblom-bio.html

Conference in 1925, which brought together Anglican, Protestant, and Orthodox Christians—a precursor of the World Council of Churches that was formed in 1948. For his efforts Soderblom became the first clergyperson to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1930.

Berggrav was born in 1884, in the port city of Stavanger, Norway. His father was the Bishop of Hamar, Norway. Although young Eivind was initially planning to become an engineer, he was drawn to ministry and received his theological degree in 1908.



Following a time of discerning his call—during which he edited a newspaper, taught and did graduate study in England and Germany—he was ordained by the Church of Norway and became the pastor of a rural parish near Oslo. Six years later he became a chaplain in a prison in Oslo and engaged in doctoral studies at the University of Oslo. In 1928 he became Bishop of Tromsø in far northern Norway, and nine years later he was made Bishop of Oslo and Primate of Norway.

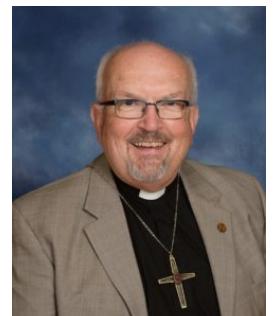
Berggrav's mettle was tested when in 1940 the Nazis invaded Norway. He and the other bishops of the Church of Norway opposed the Nazis—insisting on the inviolability of clerical confidentiality, noninterference by the Nazis in the spiritual province of the church, and maintenance of the rights of the Jews. When in 1942 the Nazis installed Vidkun Quisling as head of Norway's occupation government, Berggrav was stripped of his title as bishop and placed under house arrest. In protest, over 92% of the priests and all seven bishops of the Church of Norway resigned their offices on Easter Sunday. An underground church was formed, and Berggrav was periodically able to visit the church (in disguise) until in 1945 he escaped from the Nazis and remained in hiding until the liberation of Norway.

Berggrav is remembered—in addition to his brave defiance of the Nazi occupiers of Norway—for his post-war reorganization of the church, with more active participation of laity; his leadership in the World Council of Churches; and his participation in founding the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in 1947. The esteem within which he was held became apparent when in December 1944 he became one of the only Protestant religious figures to be pictured on the cover of *Time* magazine.

Remembering and Responding

- In your daily devotions give thanks to God for the faithful witness of Bishop Berggrav (on January 14) and Bishop Soberblom (on January 15).
- Lutherans are sometimes called “ethical quietists” who simply support whatever government or ruler is in charge—even when those in authority propound unjust policies or practices. Recall Bishop Berggrav’s stubborn resistance to the Nazis during World War II. He wrote: *“If opposition to those in power is necessary it should be on the ground that others have suffered unduly and on the presupposition that such action would bring still more suffering to oneself. Thomas Aquinas says, ‘To bear with patience the evil which is committed against one is a sign of perfection. To be patient, however, with the evil which is done to others, is a sign of imperfection—year, it is a sin.”*⁷ How can we know when it is right to obey one’s governing authorities—and when it is time to resist them?
- Both Soderblom and Berggrav advocated for greater cooperation among Christians of various denominations. This month we will observe the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** (January 18-25, 2017). How could your congregation mark this ecumenical celebration? (www.geii.org/week_of_prayer_for_christian_unity/theme_announcement_2017.html)
- Learn about and pray for Christians who are suffering for their faith. Give thanks for and contribute toward individuals and organizations that foster ecumenical witness and service in God’s world.

Lawrence R. Wohlrabe
Bishop, Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God’s work. Our hands.



*This is the first in a series of monthly bishop’s studies during 2017 on the theme, *Lutherans Making a World of Difference*. These columns are designed to equip the disciples and leadership groups such as church councils, for faithful and fruitful ministry. Feel free to use each column for personal reflection or group discussion, e.g. church council meeting devotions/discussion.*

⁷ Philip M. Pfatteicher, *Festivals and Commemorations*, © 1980 Augsburg Fortress, pp. 46-47.

Saying goodbye ...

Swanson bids farewell to County Board

The Times, December 28, 2016, by Scott DCamp, reporter

A total of 768 regular meetings of the Pennington County Board of Commissioners and countless committee meetings, public hearings and special board meetings have been held with Oliver "Skip" Swanson on the roster of the Pennington County Board of Commissioners.

Swanson, 81, was elected to eight four-year terms, beginning in November 1984. He was seeking a ninth term this fall but was defeated by Bruce Lawrence in the Nov. 8 election.

Swanson's final County Board meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 27.

Swanson got his start in public service as member of the Pennington County Fair Board.

"I liked working with people to solve problems," Swanson said. He credits former Times owner and editor Marv Lundeen with being instrumental in his election as a county commissioner for the first time in 1984. "He wrote a lot of stories on the Fair Board back then," Swanson said. "The publicity from the Fair Board got me elected in the first place."

Swanson said the issues facing the county were different back then. Water and drainage, still big issues now, were much bigger then. Over the years, more and more roads ended up being paved as a result of County Board action in the 1980s and '90s.

Among the biggest challenges over the past 32 years is in human services. The department, which encompasses social services and welfare, had around a dozen employees in the 1980s and it was housed in the basement of the courthouse. Today, Pennington County Human Services is the largest department within the county, with around three dozen employees and its own building that the County acquired from Jim Winjum.

Swanson said the growth of human services was due to more and more state requirements being passed down to the county level.

When Swanson ran for office in the fall of 1984, he did so with the support of his late wife, Patricia.



A construction worker by trade, Swanson and his wife had just purchased Champeau Travel from the Odegaard Family when he was elected to serve the residents of Pennington County District 5 as commissioner. The Swansons changed the business' name to Swanson Travel in 1990 and they continued to run the business until 2001.

When Swanson was first elected, County Board meetings were held the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, much like they are now, but the start time was always 10 a.m.

"I asked if they would consider moving one of the meetings to the evening," Swanson said. "The idea was that it would make attendance better for those who work during the day."

Swanson said another highlight of his time on the County Board was the construction of a casino within the county. Swanson said an effort was made to find a location within the city to build the casino. He said the Red Owl building was chosen as a suitable location until someone found a seven-acre site in Wyandotte Township that hadn't been correctly recorded and was still considered tribal land. The result was the construction of the River Road Casino, now known as the Seven Clans Thief River Falls, which opened in 1992.

One of the most divisive issues of Swanson's time on the Pennington County Board was the controversial Ditch 200. The proposed ditch project was intended to connect the Red Lake and Clearwater rivers. The primary benefit of the ditch was to provide more water for rice farmers. The project was never approved.

One program that Swanson is most proud of is the county's Sentence to Serve program.

"One of the best, most useful programs that the state came up with is Sentence to Serve," Swanson said. "State prisoners are sent back to the county to finish their terms and build houses."

The county copied the state model to offer a local Sentence to Serve crew that handles odds and ends tasks, such as general repairs, leaf taking and snow removal.

The Sentence to Serve program was a home run in every way possible but not all state-sponsored programs work as well for counties. The state of Minnesota was directly involved in another topic that dominated the attention of

the County Board for the better part of a decade when it made a decision in the early 1990s to start closing landfills.

"They turned the problem back to the counties and asked each county to come up with a plan," Swanson said. "We tried making pellets out of the garbage and composting. "In my opinion, the state was too difficult to please with the guidelines," Swanson added. "Most of the waste is back in the landfill but the landfills are better managed and more environmentally friendly."

Swanson said the state continues to turn some of its problems over to the counties and, in most cases, without an increase in funding.

Over the years, the county has worked more with the city of Thief River Falls, school districts and townships. The entities have worked together to improve housing opportunities, shared equipment when necessary and exchanged road jurisdictions when it made sense.

However, the best example of working together is the Thief River Falls Regional Airport. Formerly, the airport was city-run but it is now governed by a Regional Airport Authority that consists of two city representatives serving as Airport Authority commissioners, two county commissioners serving as Airport Authority commissioners, and an at-large commissioner.

When he was elected in 1985, Swanson became just the second Pennington County District 5 commissioner to hold the office since 1949. He took over for Glen Tasa, who retired from public office after serving District 5 for 36 years.

During his 32 years in office, Swanson has worked with commissioners Otto Stenberg, William Penning, Arden "Bud" Comstock and Darryl Tveitbakk in District 4; Albert Koop, Charles Naplin and Neil Peterson in District 3; Don Grabanski, Ken Murphy, Bob Carlson and Cody Hempel in District 2; and Roger Hoffman and Don Jensen in District 1.

Swanson said there has always been a lot of harmony between county commissioners.

"We talk to each other between meetings while complying with open meeting law," Swanson said. "We share ideas and thoughts with one another."

The ability of the County Board to work together resulted in very few split votes.

"There were times when maybe we didn't all feel as strongly about an issue, but when we saw it was necessary, we supported it," Swanson said. "I'll miss the rapport with the rest of the commissioners."

* * * * *

Diabetes Prevention Open House

Monday, January 9 • 5:30 -7 p.m.
Sanford Thief River Falls Southeast Campus
1720 Hwy 59 S

Are you at risk?

Do you have high blood sugar, a family history of diabetes or had gestational diabetes while pregnant?

Join us for a free Diabetes Prevention Open House. Learn about our diabetes prevention program available to you in Thief River Falls to take control of your health and focus on realistic changes.

- Learn about pre-diabetes resources and programs
- Tour of the wellness center
- Visit with health coaches and certified diabetes educators

For more information, contact Kristina Kjos at
[\(218\) 683-2530](tel:(218)683-2530) or Kristina.kjos@sanfordhealth.org

SANFORD
Thief River Falls

The Back Page

B.C.

This story is about a rather old fashioned lady, who was planning a couple of weeks' vacation in Florida. She also was quite delicate and elegant with her language. She wrote a letter to a particular campground and asked for reservations. She wanted to make sure the campground was fully equipped but didn't know quite how to ask about the "toilet" facilities. She just couldn't bring herself to write the word "toilet" in her letter. After much deliberation, she finally came up with the old fashioned term "Bathroom Commode," but when she wrote that down, she still thought she was being too forward so she rewrote the entire letter and referred to the "Bathroom Commode" simply as the B.C. "Does the campground have its own "B.C.?" is what she actually wrote.

The campground owner wasn't old fashioned at all, and when he got the letter, he couldn't figure out what the lady was talking about. The word "B.C." really stumped him. After worrying about it for several days, he showed the letter to other campers, but they couldn't figure out what the lady meant either. The campground owner finally came to the conclusion the lady must be asking about the location of the local Baptist Church. So he sat down and wrote the following reply:

Dear Madam:

I regret very much the delay in answering your letter, but I now take pleasure in informing you that the "B.C." is located nine miles north of the campsite and is capable of seating 250 people at one time. I admit it is quite a distance away if you are in the habit of going regularly, but no doubt you will be pleased to know that a great number of people take their lunches along, and make a day of it. They usually arrive early and stay late. The last time my wife and I went was six years ago, and it was so crowded we had to stand up the whole time we were there.

It may interest you to know that right now, there is a supper planned to raise money to buy more seats. They plan to hold the supper in the middle of the B.C., so everyone can watch and talk about this great event. I would like to say it pains me very much, not to be able to go more regularly, but it is not for lack of desire on my part. As we grow older, it seems to be more and more of an effort, particularly in cold weather.

If you decide to come down to the campground, perhaps I could go with you the first time you go ... sit with you ... and introduce you to all the other folks. This is really a very friendly community.

Three Hymns

One Sunday a pastor told his congregation that the church needed some extra money and asked the people to prayerfully consider giving a little extra in the offering plate. He said that whoever gave the most would be able to pick out three hymns.

After the offering plates were passed, the pastor glanced down and noticed that someone had placed a \$1,000 bill in offering. He was so excited that he immediately shared his joy with his congregation and said he'd like to personally thank the person who placed the money in the plate.

And there sat our Rosie all the way in the back shyly raised her hand. The pastor asked her to come to the front. Slowly she made her way to the pastor. He told her how wonderful it was that she gave so much and in thanksgiving asked her to pick out three hymns.

Her eyes brightened as she looked over the congregation, pointed to the three most handsome men in the building and said, "I'll take him and him and him!"

* * * * *

The Dead Church

A new Pastor in a small Oklahoma town spent the first four days making personal visits to each of the members, inviting them to come to his first services.

The following Sunday the church was all but empty. Accordingly, the Pastor placed a notice in the local newspapers, stating that, because the church was dead, it was everyone's duty to give it a decent Christian burial. The funeral would be held the following Sunday afternoon, the notice said.

Morbidly curious, a large crowd turned out for the "funeral." In front of the pulpit, they saw a closed coffin, smothered in flowers. After the Pastor delivered the eulogy, he opened the coffin and invited his congregation to come forward and pay their final respects to their dead church.

Filled with curiosity as to what would represent the corpse of a "dead church," all the people eagerly lined up to look in the coffin. Each "mourner" peeped into the coffin then quickly turned away with a guilty, sheepish look.

In the coffin, tilted at the correct angle, was a large mirror.