

St. Pauli News in Detail



LWR Shipments

Thank you to everyone in the congregation who either brought items during Lent for Health Care Kits, or donated money toward the purchase of items. We ended up with 24 complete kits!!

A special thank you to the Sunday School children who assembled 12 Health Care Kits.

Thank you also to the WELCA ladies who have donated items or money for Baby Care kits, and those who had great fun sewing on two separate days in the church basement, making 13 quilts during that time.

All efforts are greatly appreciated. Here is the total for our early May shipment.

Quilts:	13
Health Care Kits:	36
(includes the 12 Sunday School kits)	
Baby Care Kits	12

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Shirley says, "Thank You!"



Thank you to all the St. Pauli friends who came to my birthday party and for the cards with all of your good wishes and kind thoughts. I did so appreciate seeing everyone and the visits. The St. Pauli family is so special. God's blessing to everyone.



Greeting and Ushering

May 7	Myles Alberg
May 14	Ron Anderson
May 21	Faye Auchenpaugh
May 28	Corey Berg

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:

Virginia Anderson
(1st and 3rd Sundays)

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May Milestones

Birthdays

May 3	Barb Smith
May 6	Ruby (Alberg) Engelstad
May 8	Inez Mathson
	Shelley Mathson
May 13	Jodie Torkelson
May 15	Tammy Haugen
May 18	Becky Stickler
May 21	Virginia Anderson

Anniversaries

May 7	Craig & Sally Torkelson
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Minutes of the Church Council

March 16, 2017

The St. Pauli Cemetery Association met on Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Pauli Church. Board Members present: Pastor Carl Hansen, Arlo Rude, Staci Reay, Gary Iverson, Larry Hurst. Absent: Faye Auchenpaugh.

Approval of Agenda The Agenda was approved as presented.

Secretary's Report: **M/S/C** (Iverson/Hurst) The Secretary's Report was approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report **M/S/C** (Iverson/Hurst) Rude will review the Treasurer's Report with the Gale Schmitz concerning the mileage expenses listed in the report.

Checking Account Balance 1/31/17	\$ 18,496.86
January Income	\$ 4,890.00
January Expenses	\$ (965.72)
Balance as of 2/28/17	\$ 22,421.14

Savings Account Balance 2/28/17	\$ 35,985.75
Certificates of Deposit	\$ 20,000.00
Edward D. Jones Balance 2/28/17	\$ 43,756.90
Memorial Fund Savings Account & Certificate of Deposit Balance 2/28/17	\$ 11,293.14
Mission Grant Fund Balance 2/28/17	\$ 2,023.86
Total Church Funds	\$135,480.61

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Carl is enjoying the Round Robin Lenten Services. As of this meeting he has preached at Zion, Thief River Falls and Immanuel, Plummer. The services have been well attended and he is enjoying preaching on Joseph and his brothers (particularly Judah). He has left to preach at St. Pauli, March 29 and Bethany, Red Lake Falls, April 5.

He will be in Texas May 10-17 for his grandson Christopher's graduation from Texas A&M University. His granddaughter will graduate from Lincoln High School this spring. Next spring his granddaughter Chelsea will graduate high school in Texas.

The Northwest Minnesota Synod's annual Assembly will be held June 9-10 at Concordia College in Moorhead. He plans to attend and will be recognized for completing 50 years of preaching following his ordination.

Carl has viewed a one-hour DVD by Rick Steves concerning the Reformation and considers it excellent. He invites suggestions on how we might use this at St. Pauli.

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

Reports.

1) WELCA: No report available.

2) Board of Education: The Sunday School students may sing at a Church Service in May.

New Members or Interest in Membership: Darin Hurst's transfer is in the new business.

Old Business:

The Council discussed the Rick Steves DVD and will consider how to use the DVD.

New Business:

M/S/C (Hurst/Iverson) The three-month agreement for interim pastor with Pastor Carl was approved.

Rude reported Jim and Joan Nelson's request for a baptism for a great granddaughter in June. The Council suggested June 4 or June 11. The mother of the child was baptized at St. Pauli and wants her daughter baptized at St. Pauli also. Rude will contact Joan and determine a date for the baptism.

Darin Hurst has requested to transfer to St. Pauli. Rude has contacted his previous Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, Mott, ND, and recommends the transfer. **M/S/C** (Iverson/Reay) Council to accept the transfer of Darin Hurst to St. Pauli Lutheran Church. A date will be set to accept Darin at a church service.

Rude discussed the use of a general purpose donation envelope that could be available in the narthex. This would allow a member donating cash to have credit towards their annual donations to the Church. There is a space for the name of the donor and options as to what the donation is applied to. **M/S/C** A container with envelopes will be mounted on the wall at the entrance to the sanctuary. Rude indicated he would explain the envelope to the congregation at a worship service.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer. **M/S/C** (Hurst/Reay) to adjourn at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlo Rude
Board President
Temporary Secretary

Minutes of the St. Pauli Cemetery Association

March 16, 2017

The St. Pauli Cemetery Association met on March 16, 2017 at 8:45 p.m. at St. Pauli Church. Board members present: Arlo Rude, Staci Reay, Gary Iverson, Larry Hurst. Absent: Faye Auchenpaugh.

Approval of Agenda The Agenda was approved as presented.

Secretary's Report: **M/S/C** (Hurst/Reay) The Secretary's report was approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: **M/S/C** (Iverson/Hurst) The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented. The end of February Checkbook balance is \$34,629.03. With deposits of \$225.00 and \$0.00 of expenses for February..

Old Business:

Rude reported that Widseth Smith Knolting will be completing the survey of the Cemetery property after the snow has melted and ground conditions allow the work.

New Business:

Rude suggested that steel fence post be installed between the corners of the property after the steel fence posts are set at the corners by the surveyor. Three equally spaced fence post on each side between the corner posts would be sufficient. **M/S/C** (Iverson/Hurst) Purchase and set three additional steel fence post on three sides and two on the south side not to exceed \$100.00 for the purchase.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlo Rude
Board President
Temporary Secretary

Historic Minutes of the St. Pauli Congregation

14 December 1927

St. Pauli congregation held its annual meeting in the church on Dec 14th, 1927.

The meeting was opened by Pastor Jacobson with reading from the Bible and prayer. Thereafter Pastor Jacobson reported that he had held nine English, one hundred and twenty-one Norwegian and seven Norwegian-English services, three funerals, two communion services, eight baptisms and twenty-two meetings with confirmation classes.

Pastor Jacobson expressed his gratitude to the congregation for having paid the pastor's salary on time.

Proposed and supported that the gift of twenty-five dollars from Mrs. John Magnuson would be used for the basement. Accepted.

Thereafter the report of the secretary was read and

accepted as read. And the report of the treasurer was read and accepted.

The following officials were elected:

O. J. Snetting, Secretary 1 year
Tobias Stene, treasurer 1 year
Emil Thune, trustee 3 years

Lignings committee: Ole Pederson, Helmer Finstad, Ed Vigen.

A committee of three men was elected to collect for the congregation funds namely, Joe Torstveit, Carl Alberg, Hjalmar Valsvig.

School committee: Ole Odegaard, Ole Valsvig, Nils Nelson.

Sexton: Nils Nelson.

Olaf Snetting, Secretary

Historic Minutes of the St. Pauli Ladies Aid

7 April 1966

The regular meeting of the LCW met at the Melvin Torkelson home Thursday evening, April 7th. Mrs. Arnold Helgeland and Mrs. Melvin Torkelson as hostesses.

Meeting opened with the hymn, "Crown Him with Many Crowns." Scripture taken from John 19:30 and prayer by Mrs. Theo. Bjorge.

Secretary's report read and approved. Secretary's report of board meeting read and approved.

A letter was read on Lutheran World Relief.

Motion made and seconded we serve at the John Gran sale on April 26th.

It was mentioned that the person who has Bible study ask someone else to help give the lesson.

Mrs. Anton Torkelson spoke on Stewardship. She explained about the bandages.

A book on Seasons and Symbols of the church to be taken up at next meeting.

Mrs. Herman Rude is a delegate to the conference April 14th at Zion. Mrs. Wallace Torkelson is alternate.

Next meeting April 21 with Mrs. Anton Torkelson and Mrs. Orville Rolandson as hostesses. Business adjourned.

Program with Mrs. Herman Rude in charge.

Hymn – “Were You There When They Crucified My Lord.” Devotions – Mrs. Theo. Bjorge, Mrs. Lyle Bjorge, Mrs. Melvin Torkelson and Mrs. Norman Nelson
Reading on Easter and Symbols – Mrs. Sig Folkedah
Reading – “Take Up Your Cross” and song “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” – Mrs. James Johnson
Reading – “Praying Hands” – Mrs. Emil Thune
Reading – “The Master’s Road” – Mrs. Herman Rude while Mrs. James Johnson played “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”
Hymn – “Beautiful Savior”
Worship Meditation – Mrs. Melvin Torkelson
Lord’s Prayer prayed and Table Blessing sung.
Mrs. Norman Nelson, Secretary

Historic Minutes of the St. Pauli Young People’s Society & Luther League

10 June 1928

The St. Pauli Young People’s Society held its annual business meeting at the church on Sunday evening, June 10, 1928. The meeting was called to order by President Hilmer Finstad.

The following program was rendered.

Hymn by Audience
Reading – Evelyn Peterson
Talk – Rev. Dahle
Song by audience

The following officers were elected:

President – Oscar Odegaard
Vice President – Mrs. Carl Finstad
Secretary – Gust A Gustafson
Treasurer – Joseph Thorstveit

The following program committee was elected:

Minnie Stene
Gilma Helgerson
Gust Gustafson

A motion was made and carried that the next meeting be held in 20 weeks. Meeting adjourned.

Lunch was served by Mrs. John Kvall and Mrs. Emil Thune.

Proceeds were \$12.05.

Gust A. Gustafson, Secretary

19 December 1954

The St. Pauli Luther League met at the church on Sunday evening, December 19, at 8 P.M.

The business meeting opened with the Secretary’s report, which was accepted as read. No other business was taken up.

The program for the evening was entitled “Glad tidings to All People.” A prelude of Christmas carols was played by

the organist, Helen Torkelson, and the choir sang several numbers.

Rev. Person gave a prayer, two duets were sung, and a solo by Mrs. Weckwerth.

Kent Froseth read portions from the Bible. A choral reading was given. The program closed with the Benediction and with everyone joining in singing “Joy to the World.”

Servers were: Mrs. Martin Finstad
Proceeds: \$13.60

Signed: Pat Torkelson, Secretary

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We remember our father, Melvin Torkelson, telling this joke years and years ago, but I just received it in an email and thought I would share it with you again. -Faye

A young man walked through New York’s Chinatown and noticed a shop with the name “Ole Olson’s Laundry.” He thought it seemed out of place, but curiosity got the best of him and he walked into the shop.

He saw an old Chinese man sitting in the corner. He asked the old man, “How in the world did this place get a name like ‘Ole Olson’s Laundry’?”

The Old Man replied, “That’s the name of the owner.”

Young Man asked, “Who’s the owner?”

Answer: “I am.”

Young Man: “How did you get a name like Ole Olson?”

Old Man: “Many years ago when I came to this country from Hong Kong, I was standing in line at Immigration. A man in front of me was a big blond Norwegian. The lady from Immigration asked him, ‘What’s your name?’ He say, ‘Ole Olson.’ Lady ask me, ‘What is your name?’ I say, ‘Sam Ting.’”

Bishop Wohlrabe's May Study

Translators of the Word

Did you know that every time you read your Bible you're having an international experience? Has it ever occurred to you that each time you gather for worship and crack open your Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) you're taking a trip around the globe?

How can this be? It's because neither book is a made-in-America product. The Bible in its original form was not written in English. Rather, it's a gift to us from the ancient Near East: Israel where Hebrew and Aramaic were spoken and the countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea where Greek was the official language of the Roman Empire.

Likewise, your hymnal contains words and music from around the earth, available to you in 2017 in English.

These two precious books—our Bible and our hymnal—have been put together with the help of authors, composers and (as we're focusing on this month) **translators**.

Most of us spend hardly any time pondering the critical role translators have played in bringing the riches of the past—scriptures and songs and poems—into earshot for us in the 21st century. We're about as conscious of translators as we are mindful of all the unknown folks who labor behind the scenes so that we can have decent roads, reliable electricity, and clean water.

Were it not for these unsung heroes and heroines, we would be lost. Without translators, so many literary and musical treasures from our Christian history would sound like gibberish to our ears.

Putting the Scriptures Within Earshot

Martin Luther (1483 -1546) was the first and one of the most prolific of translators in our Lutheran family tree. A brilliant student of the ancient biblical languages, Luther realized that for the evangelical faith of the 16th century Reformation to come alive in the hearts and minds of his people, they needed to hear the Gospel, not in the Latin language of the Sunday Mass, but in the German language of daily life. So Luther worked tirelessly to render the Bible in the mother tongue of his neighbors—the “low German” of the common people.

Luther began translating the New Testament when, following his condemnation by the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V at the Diet of Worms, he hid out in 1521 and 1522 in the Wartburg Castle under the protective custody of his territorial prince, Frederick the Wise. By 1534 Luther (with the assistance of other leaders of the Reformation) added his translation of the Old Testament. Luther released a second edition of his German Bible in 1545, working to improve his translation for the rest of his life.

The influence of Luther's Bible was profound, as ELCA Bishop R. Guy Erwin observes: *“The very act of choosing German*

Lutherans Making a World of Difference



words to represent religious ideas he knew only from Latin, Greek, and Hebrew texts was daring. Luther's skill and insight led him to create a translation that still has power and grandeur today, and which was instrumental in the formation of the modern German language.”¹

To this day, new translations of the Bible continue to be produced. There are an estimated 5 billion Bibles in the world, with about 100 million new Bibles sold annually—making the Bible the world's #1 best-seller. To date, the Bible has been translated or is now being translated in over 4,000 of the world's estimated 7,000 languages. Christians of all stripes participate in the ministry of Bible translation and Lutherans continue to value this critical work.²

Singing Global Songs of Faith

But the Bible isn't the only literature the translation of which has mattered to Lutherans. Starting in the 16th century, the works of Martin Luther, including his Catechisms, have been translated in countries where the Lutheran movement has spread. Songbooks and hymnals are some of the most commonly used publications that bear the mark of translators, like **Catherine Winkworth (1827 - 1878)**, whose translations of beloved German hymn texts showed up 30 times in the Lutheran Book of Worship and 19 times in Evangelical Lutheran Worship.



Winkworth was born in London, England and dedicated her life to the higher education of young women. Well-versed in the German language, as well as good English verse, Winkworth translated hymns in ways that were faithful to both the text and spirit of the German original. Her *Lyra Germanica* was first published in 1855 and 1858—and it subsequently went through multiple editions. She published her *Chorale Book for England* in 1863.³

¹ R. Guy Erwin, “Read the Bible With Luther,” in *Together by Grace: Introducing the Lutherans* (Augsburg Fortress, 2016), p. 37.

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bible#Versions_and_translations

³ Although not herself a Lutheran, her affinity for translating hymns of the Protestant Reformation makes her, for our purposes, a worthy “honorary Lutheran.”

Translating in the Midst of Church-Planting

It's tempting to picture a translator as a bookish person who works quietly in the solitude of his or her study. But many translators have done their important work in the hurly-burly of evangelistic outreach in far-flung mission fields.

On June 21 each year, our church remembers one such evangelist-translator, Onesimos Nesib (1856 - 1931), who helped establish what is now the world's largest Lutheran church body, the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus — with around 8 million members.

Early in his life, Onesimos was captured by slave traders and taken from his home in western Ethiopia to Eritrea where he was bought and freed by Swedish Lutheran missionaries. Recognizing his gifts, the missionaries converted, baptized and educated Onesimos — sending him to Sweden for five years of theological study. Upon his return to Ethiopia he preached the gospel and worked on translating the Bible into Galla— the language of one of the largest ethnic groups in Ethiopia.



Onesimos Nesib pursued his translation work in the midst of harrowing missionary travels including a twelve-day trek through the Nubian Desert by camel, opposition from both Muslims and Orthodox Church leaders, serious illness and the death of one of his children. Despite these challenges, Onesimos was able to publish his translation of the Bible in 1899. His biographer writes: *"This remarkable work of translation has been used for more than seventy-five years and a group of experts just recently undertook to revise it."*⁴

For Reflection and Discussion

- Page through your hymnal and notice the hymns that Martin Luther wrote (see the index on p. 1191 in ELW), or the hymns that Catherine Winkworth translated (see the index on p. 1194 in ELW). If your congregation uses the Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW), see the index p.942 (Luther) and p. 945 (Winkworth). Which of these hymns would you miss the most if they had never been written or translated?
- Ponder the gifts that a good translator must possess. Is the work of translation an art? Or a science? Or both?
- Learn more about organizations that foster translation of the Bible and other Christian resources, such as the American Bible Society: <http://www.americanbible.org/>
- Pray: "God of majesty, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be with your servants who make art and music, as well as those who translate ancient texts into living languages of today. Inspire their creative work so that with joy we on earth may glimpse your beauty, and bring us to the fulfillment of that hope of perfection which will be ours as we stand before your unveiled glory. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Happy 90th Birthday, Shirley!

Jana Johnson posted on Facebook, "Thank you to our St. Pauli church family, neighbors and family who came to celebrate the 90th birthday of our aunt Shirley Johnson! At 90 years old, Shirley is still extremely well read and is ready for an iPad so she can live stream church services and start a Facebook account." We all loved celebrating with Shirley and seeing all of Curtis and Marlene Johnson's children and their families!



Shirley with
Jana Johnson,
Paul Johnson,
Susanne
(Johnson)
Hinrichs



Shirley
with her
great
nieces
and
nephew



Edna
(Iverson)
Rondorf,
Goldie
(Finstad)
Lamberson,
Shirley
Johnson.
Classmates
throughout
Grades 1-12.

⁴ dacb.org/stories/ethiopia/onesimus_nesib.html

Here's a Fisherman's Tale for Those Looking Forward to Opening of Season May 13th

From NRK Finnmark (Norway)

“Tourist Fishermen experiencing all-time cod bonanza in the waters off the South Island in Finnmark”

(Editor's Note: This is a translation from their document in Norwegian, so some of the language sounds a bit stilted. I have added the English equivalents to the metric system in parentheses.)

Got 77 cod over 20kg: - It's quite fantastic! (For us Americans, over 20 kg equates to over 44 pounds each.)

Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) or cod (as we like to say in Norway) is a species of fish in the cod family. In Norwegian context, this species is the most commercially important edible fish in this family.

Cod can be up to 150-200 cm long (almost 79 inches) and weighing up to 60 kg (132 pounds). It is characterized by a “beard,” which really is a fin. Cod also has three dorsal fins and two tail fins.

In the wild, it will take from two to ten years for the cod to mature. They spawn usually in March / April, and eggs are pelagic (floating in the water). Hatching occurs from two to four weeks after conception, depending on the temperature. Cod spawn in so-called “batches,” i.e. it emits servings of eggs throughout the spawning season. It can spawn between 10 and 20 such batches. Atlantic cod can be more than 20 years old.

The word 'cod' comes from the old Norwegian *turskr* meaning *turrfisk* - stockfish. There are two varieties of the species; so-called wandering oceanic cod and Norwegian Arctic cod, also known as cod, and other more or less stationary coastal cod.



Tourist fishermen on two boats the end of March succeeded in catching 47 cod weighing over 20 kg, 23 cod over 25 kg, and seven cod in excess of 30 kg.

Skis

Though the oldest known skis, dating to between 8000 and 7000 B.C., were discovered in Russia, and the first written reference to skiing comes from China's Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220), we have the Vikings to thank for inaugurating the Western tradition of skiing.

Even the word "ski" comes from the Old Norse "skíó." Ancient Norsemen skied across their snowy homelands for both recreation and transportation purposes, and the Norse goddess Skaoi and god Ullr were often depicted on skis or snowshoes.



Combs



Though their enemies considered them unkempt barbarians, Vikings actually bathed more frequently than other Europeans of the day, taking a dip at least once a week—preferably in a hot spring.

Bristled combs, often made from the antlers of red deer or other animals they killed, are one of the objects most commonly found in Viking graves. In fact, though comb-like devices existed in other cultures around the world, Vikings are often given credit for inventing the comb as the Western world knows it today.

Tweezers, razors and ear spoons (for scooping out wax) are among the other grooming objects turned up in excavations of Viking burial sites, proving that even longhaired, bearded Viking warriors took their personal grooming very seriously.

Sagas

Filled with larger-than-life heroes and epic battles, they may be the most accessible of all medieval literature and a source of inspiration to classic authors like J.R.R. Tolkien. Written by unknown authors in Iceland in the 13th and 14th centuries, the sagas contain 40 narratives, describing the life of Icelanders in the Viking age immediately before and after the year 1000. The Icelandic sagas, written by unknown authors in the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries, chronicle life in the Viking Age around the year A.D. 1000, when the ancient Norsemen abandoned their pagan gods and converted to Christianity.

Aside from archaeological evidence, one of modern historians' primary sources for information about Viking life comes from this somewhat dubious but endlessly entertaining source.

The early Icelanders also traveled westwards, culminating in what many believe is the true first voyage by a European to North America: Leif Eiriksson's expedition, described in the sagas as having taken place a thousand years ago.

Victorian-era scholars accepted the sagas, with their graphic depictions of the deeds of both powerful rulers and ordinary people, as fact. Most modern historians agree they are an unreliable—yet still valuable—source of information about the Vikings, laced with a hefty dose of mythology and fantasy.

The sagas are part of Iceland's daily consciousness, and they are celebrated both for their historical record and their narrative artistry.



Yet, read the "The Back Page!"

The Back Page

Ancient Skeleton Corroborates Sverre's Saga

The discovery of a skeleton found in an abandoned well has confirmed a dramatic tale from a Norse saga. Composed around 1170 by an Icelander named Eiríkr Oddsson, *Sverre's Saga* is a chronicle of the voyages, battles, speeches and life of King Sverre Sigurdsson and is one of few manuscripts that vividly depicts life in the Viking age and medieval era.

According to the saga, in the year 1197, during a period of civil war, Bagler forces defeated King Sverre Sigurdsson (who ruled Norway from 1177 to 1202) and his Birkebeiner soldiers. The Baglers ransacked his castle, Sverresborg, burning down the King's buildings and long ships, and poisoning the well by throwing a dead soldier into the water and covering his body with rocks. The Saga mentions the placement of the well and its contents, but the veracity of the details has always been questioned by scholars.

In a 1938 excavation of the castle ruins near Trondheim, a German archaeologist discovered human remains within the well, but the bones were not removed or analyzed. The next dig did not happen until 2014 when scientists removed a partial skeleton and confirmed by radiocarbon dating that the person had been a 30-40 year old man who had lived at the end of the 12th Century.



The research team believe that this may be the earliest discovery of an individual who can be associated with a documented act of war. "The fact that this actually corroborates an event described in Sverre's Saga is simply amazing," says the lead archaeologist at the site, Anna Petersén.

In 2016, The Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research launched a full excavation with the assistance of a forensic expert from the Trondheim police force and successfully extracted the rest of the skeleton. Funding for this excavation was secured by the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings, who plan to study the site as much as possible to learn whether the legend is based on fact.

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In the Upcoming June Issue

LivingLutheran

Church in rural America

After she stopped by the church to attest to the circumstances herself, Felici decided to use the extra time to visit the home of some members. She had planned on sharing a cup of coffee and conversation in their living room, but instead found them all in their chicken house dealing with a rooster feed situation.

What Felici thought would be a typical morning worship service turned into coffee in a chicken house picking eggs. "If that doesn't give a good description of rural ministry!" she said.

As she was on her way to her first worship service of the morning, Jess Felici, a pastor of Mountain Lutheran Parish, received a phone call from a member saying worship was canceled. Why? It was skunk mating season and the sanctuary fell way to the animals' unfortunate fumes, making it too smelly to be in the church for worship.