

St. Pauli News in Detail



Greeting and Ushering

- Oct. 1 Wahna Smith
- Oct. 8 Mike Stickler
- Oct. 15 "Wing-It"
- Oct. 22 Jim Strandlie
- Oct. 20 Skip Swanson

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: Shelley Mathson

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October Milestones



Birthdays

- Oct. 6 Pr. Carl Hansen
- Oct. 15 Eileen Kotaska
- Oct. 20 Jim Nelson
- Oct. 22 Bob Gunstad
- Oct. 29 Joan Nelson
- Oct. 31 Jim Kotz

Anniversaries

- Oct. 24 Andrew & Michele Halvorson
- Oct. 25 Jim & Joan Nelson
- Oct. 26 Myles & Kathy Alberg



Ivette Garrett is a new member

On Sunday, October 8, 2017, Ivette Garrett will become a member of St. Pauli church.

Welcome, Ivette!

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Fall Group Cleaning

October 9

6:30 – 9:00 pm

Everyone please come!

We hope that EVERYONE, men and women, will come to pitch in on Monday the 9th. That way, we can get most of the work done without leaving it for the women to do all alone. We will top it off with hot cider and Paradise Café donuts.

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SCHEDULE CHANGES

There are many changes to the October and November calendars from what is printed in the 2017 Handbook. Please pay careful attention to the church bulletin and website and newsletter calendars.

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FALL EVENT

Jeff Menten & Paul Nye

Sunday, October 16th

3:00 pm

Freewill Offering, homemade pie and coffee served following the program. This Fall Event replaces our traditional fall supper, so please give generously so that we can continue donating all proceeds to local, national and international worthy causes.

In Memoriam

Lannette Baker was Erin Rondorf's grandmother.



Lannette Kay Baker of St. Hilaire, MN, passed away peacefully at the Thief River Care Center on Friday, September 1, 2017 at the age of 71.

A Graveside Service was held at the St. Hilaire Community Cemetery at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, September 6, 2017, with Rev. Frank Ehling officiating.

A Celebration of Life honoring Lannette took place following the graveside service at the St. Hilaire Community Center.

Lannette Kay "Baby" Gregory was born April 24, 1946 in Bagley, MN, the daughter of Edwin Ely and Glenna Mae (Spencer) Gregory. She attended Knox Elementary School in Thief River Falls and graduated from Lincoln High School in 1964.

In 1965 Lannette was united in marriage to Robert George Baker. They made their home on the Baker Homestead until 1969 when they moved to St. Hilaire. Together they started Bakers Acres Salvage Yard.

Throughout the years she worked for various restaurants.

She was a wonderful mother and homemaker. Lannette had a wide array of hobbies, including gardening, cooking, collecting teapots, and enjoying the company of her grandkids.

Lannette is survived by her daughter, Ladora (Steve) Dahlen; granddaughters, Desirae (Casey) Baker and Erin (Jordan) Rondorf; grandson, Elliot Dahlen; great-grandchildren, Ella and Kyland Rondorf; brother, Darrold (Donna) Gregory; sister-in-law, Louise Cullen (Ken Thoreson); brothers-in-law, George (Tess) Baker Jr., Wayne Harder, Bob Cheater, and Don Goode; and many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Robert; her children, Jeffrey Robert, Phillip Reed, and Elliot Ryan Baker; her parents, Edwin and Glenna Gregory; sisters, Angie, Peggy, and Cleone; father-in-law and mother-in-law, George and Mary Baker; brother-in-law and sisters-in-law, Bennie Baker, Bonnie Baker, and Donna Harder.



May God Bless the Memory of Lannette Baker

In Memoriam



Kenny Corriveau was married to Arlo Rude's sister, Sharon.

Kenny R. Corriveau was born in Grafton, North Dakota on September 30, 1942 to Norbert and Kathleen Corriveau.

He was united in marriage in 1963 in Thief River Falls to Sharon Rude (daughter of Herman and Beatrice Rude) and they moved to the Omaha, Nebraska area a few years later. To this union, five children were born: Lisa, Dean, Bryan, Todd and Scott.

Kenny passed away on September 23, 2017 in Papillion, Nebraska at the age of 74 years, 11 months, 24 days.

He is survived by wife of 54 years, Sharon; children: Lisa Novotny (Jack), Dean Corriveau (Tami), Bryan Corriveau (Lisa), Todd Corriveau, and Scott Corriveau (Amy); grandchildren: Brittni Meadow (Joe), Kyra Elkins (Jarrod), Emily, Sean (Lindsay), Justin, Chloe, Dawson, and Brayden; great-grandchildren: Ryley, Mason & Daisey; brother Gerald Corriveau (Arlene); sister JoAnne Waldron (Dennis); brothers-in-law; sisters-in-law; and many nieces and nephews.

Kenny is preceded in death by his parents Norbert & Kathleen; brother Jim Corriveau; and sister Delores DiGiacomo. Memorials are requested to the Alzheimer's Association.

Visitation was held Thursday, September 28 from 5-7 pm at Bellevue Memorial Chapel.

A mass of Christian Burial was held Friday, September 29, at 10:30 am at St. Mary Catholic Church, Bellevue.

Vigil Service: Deacon Ted Menzel

Musicians at Vigil and Funeral Service: Nancy Buennemeyer and Michael Willis

Mass Celebrant: Father Del Lape

Processional Psalm: "Be Not Afraid"

1st Reading: Isaiah 25: 6a, 7-9 – Bryan Corriveau

Responsorial Psalm: "Shepherd Me, O God"

2nd Reading: Thessalonians 4: 13-18 – Todd Corriveau

Gospel: John 14: 1-6

Offertory Song: "Amazing Grace"

Offertory Gifts: Chloe and Brayden Corriveau

Prayers of the Faithful

Communion Song: "On Eagle's Wings"

Recessional Song: "How Great Thou Art"

Pallbearers: Sean Corriveau, Justin Corriveau, Dawson Corriveau, Brittni Meadows, Kyra Elkins, Emily Corriveau, Brayden Corriveau, Chloe Corriveau



May God Bless the Memory of Kenny Corriveau

Minutes of the Church Council

August 17, 2017

The St. Pauli Church Council met on Thursday, August 17, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Pauli Church. Board Members present: Arlo Rude, Gary Iverson, Larry Hurst, and Faye Auchenpaugh. Absent: Staci Reay.

Pastor Carl opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Agenda: The Agenda was approved as submitted.

Secretary's Report: **M/S/C** (Hurst/Iverson) to approve the Secretary's report for the July 11th and July 20th meetings.

Treasurer's Report: Rude reviewed the statement prepared by Gale Schmitz. **M/S/C** (Hurst/Iverson) to accept as prepared.

Balances as of 7/31/17:

Checking Account as of 6/30/17	\$ 24,255.01
Income	\$ 3,205.18
Transfer in from Memorial Fund	\$ 539.80
Expenses	\$ (1,674.61)
Checking Account as of 7/31/17	\$ 26,325.38
Investor Savings	\$ 36,015.75
Certificates of Deposit	\$ 20,000.00
Edward D. Jones Investments	\$ 45,599.34
Memorial Fund Savings & CD	\$ 11,753.86
Mission Grant Fund Balance	\$ 2,024.71
Total Church Funds as of 7/31/17:	\$ 141,719.04

Pastor Carl's Report:

Elise Pokel was ordained on July 29th. She was installed as Associate Pastor at Trinity Lutheran, Crookston and Pastor of First Presbyterian, Crookston on August 16. Elise and her husband Andy are living in Crookston. Andy is the new vocal music teacher at Fertile-Beltrami School.

Kristi Shelinbarger is serving as a Synod Authorized Minister (SAM) at Oklee. Kristi will be getting married on October 7th. Her fiancé works in IT at Digi-Key.

Our Synod had only two seminarians assigned this year and both of them are serving in Northwest Minnesota.

The Thief River Falls Conference will be staging a 500th Anniversary of the Reformation Special Event on October 25th at Redeemer Lutheran. Pastor Johann Hinderlie will be on stage as Martin Luther, a role he has performed several times.

Pastor Carl anticipates he will be gone for one Sunday in October in order to visit his Texas "tribe." His granddaughter Chelsea is in her senior year in high school and is the head cheerleader (among other things). Pastor Carl will be enjoying many cheers and watching out for flying footballs.

Reports of members in sickness or distress: Concerns and prayers were said for those experiencing illnesses and surgeries.

New members or interest in membership: Council discussed recent contacts. Auchenpaugh will compose invitation letters to the two families.

Reports.

1) WELCA: Our Fall Event will be on Sunday, October 15th at 3:00 pm. Musicians Jeff Menten and Paul Nye will perform and the congregation will be asked to provide homemade pies for coffee following the program.

The ladies are working on plans for a display cabinet in the front of the basement and cupboards to hold quilting and other supplies in the rear of the basement.

- 2) Board of Education: Rally Sunday is September 10th. There are 12 students at present including confirmands. A full lineup of teachers is in place with two substitutes.
- 3) Other: Rude has not yet sprayed the grounds. He is waiting for rain. It has been so dry that the weeds and grass are not growing, making spraying ineffective.

Old Business:

Use or disposal of the spinet piano: Options are a) use it elsewhere in the church, b) sell it to a member of the congregation, c) sell it to the public, or d) see if another church can use it. There seems to be no need to use it elsewhere in the church, so Council decided to give the congregation first option on buying with the hope that a family with children interested in taking piano lessons will purchase it. Rude will announce at worship services and send a notice by email asking for written offers.

New Business:

- 1) Acceptance of piano: Rude brought a draft of a thank you card to the Bensons. Auchenpaugh will write a donation receipt letter.
- 2) Piano cover: **M/S/C** (Iverson/Hurst) to purchase a padded cover at a cost of \$284.28.
- 3) Free legal clinic: Attorney Rachel Prudhomme is providing free legal advice to low-income persons on non-criminal legal issues each Tuesday from 10:00 am – 12 noon (by appointment).
- 4) Mission Grant application: **M/S/C** (Hurst/Iverson) to approve Kari Torkelson's request of \$500 for an October trip to Tanzania to provide free medical eye exams.
- 5) Dehumidifier: No longer working. **M/S/C** (Hurst/Auchenpaugh) to purchase a new one.
- 6) Property Insurance renewal with Church Mutual: This is a five-year policy. Discussion on an increase in coverage due to the new organ and piano.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer. **M/S/C** (Hurst/Iverson) to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Faye Auchenpaugh
Secretary

WELCA MINUTES

August 23, 2017

The St. Pauli Women of the ELCA met on August 23, 2017 at 7 pm with nine members present.

President Cindy Cedergren led us in a responsive devotion "Renewal of Sight."

The secretary's report for June was approved as read.

The treasurer's report was approved as read:

Income for June and July	\$ 76.00
Expenses	\$ (105.31)
Checking account balance	\$ 131.92
Savings Account balance	\$ 1,863.16
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 6,018.80

Stewardship Report: Virginia reported that she had received monetary gifts from Shirley and Ivette to buy supplies for school bags. She will purchase supplies.

We have received information on where our Lutheran World Relief donation had been sent. Personal care kits were sent to West North Africa and school bags went to areas in Africa.

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries – Pathways Camp is having their annual quilt auction. Virginia made a motion to donate our fire quilt. Evie seconded. Carried. Zion in Thief River Falls is the drop off.

Education Report: No report.

Old Business: Cindy read some interesting facts from the SWO pamphlet on the July convention in Minneapolis.

The SWO conference is in Detroit Lakes on September 14-15 with Kevin Wallavant as keynote speaker. We were reminded of the "Bag of My Own" project that will be collected for this.

President Cindy thanked all who helped water the flower gardens at the church and said she would do September.

Discussion on baptismal gifts. Virginia will check with Thrivent on gift they had been donating.

Faye has received the Christmas cards ordered. It was decided to charge \$1,00 each. Cost was 90 cents each.

Faye brought photos of Trinity's display cupboard to show the ladies. Discussion followed and Faye will bring to Council for discussion and report back.

Fall Event on October 15th. Myles will apply to the Thrivent Action Team with Janet's help. Cindy sent around a sign-up sheet for pies.

New Business: Fall cleaning is October 9-14. We set Monday at 6:30 as the evening cleaning for all church members.

WELCA Conference 2 Fall Gathering at Immanuel Plummer on Saturday, October 14. Guest speaker: Anna Olson.

September 13 Lydia Circle at Jan Strandlie's. Next meeting is September 27th with election of officers.

October 18 Lydia Circle with Wahna as hostess. Note change from October 11.

November 8 WELCA at Valley Home with Shirley as hostess. Thankoffering by Stewardship Committee.

The meeting closed with prayer partners shared, Offering, the Lord's Prayer and Table Grace.

Prayer partners exchanged. Lord's Prayer and table grace said. Thank you to Kathy Alberg for delicious lunch.

Kathy Alberg
WELCA Secretary

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IVETTE GARRETT

New Member of St. Pauli

Ivette is joining the church officially on Sunday, October 8th. She is the daughter of Melvin and Helen Torkelson and was baptized at St. Pauli with Anton and Ellen Torkelson and Armond and Beverly Lian as sponsors; she was confirmed by Pastor A. E. Berg.

She was an active member of Luther Memorial Church ELCA in South St. Paul until her move to Germany following retirement. She returned to Thief River Falls this summer after living in Leavenworth, Kansas and Colorado Springs, Colorado.



500th YEAR CELEBRATION OF MARTIN LUTHER

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

7:00 pm

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Thief River Falls, Minnesota



“HERE I STAND”

presenting

John Hinderlie as Luther and Sonja Hinderlie as Katie

All Conference Two ELCA Lutheran Congregations, choir members,
Sunday School and Confirmation students are encouraged to attend.

6:00 pm – Combined choir practice
7:00 pm – Worship Service

Fellowship provided by area WELCA following worship.



Lutherans Making a World of Difference



Lutherans Making a World of Difference: Singing A New Song

solely for Christ's sake—he employed every tool at his disposal to spread this good Word. For sure, the Good News of Christ needed to shine forth in every service of worship.

But the liturgy of the medieval Catholic church was more a spectacle to be watched than an experience to be shared. The language of the liturgy was Latin, the priest was the main actor, the music “performed” by choirs and cantors. Worshipers all too often felt like onlookers more than participants.

Luther on Music in Worship

Luther boldly transformed this status quo. The liturgy—like the freshly-translated Scriptures—was recast in the vernacular of the German people. Worship was transformed from a priestly monologue into a living dialogue between pastor and people. And music was no longer restricted to the choir loft and chancel. Luther placed German hymns in the hands (the first Lutheran hymnbook appeared in 1524) and hearts of the faithful.

In his deep love for music and his dedication to using it to convey the Gospel, Luther's attitude differed from that of some of his fellow reformers. “It's worth noting that Luther and sixteenth-century Swiss reformer John Calvin had basically the same educational background. Both were versed in the



music theory and musical practice of the time. But they went in very different directions....Like Luther, Calvin knew the power music had to move people, but Calvin was skeptical about how this power could be used; he was concerned that the devil might work through the music to move people in a bad way. Luther, however, trusted that music was a gift from God that could be used both to express faith and to evoke faith.”[1]

Luther made no bones about articulating his lofty vision for music in an “always reforming” church: *“Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. She is a mistress and governess of those human emotions...which as masters govern men or more often overwhelm them...For whether you wish to comfort the sad, to terrify the happy, to encourage the*

When Martin Luther shared his fresh understanding of justification by faith—God's unconditional grace toward sinners, given as a gift

despairing, to humble the proud, to calm the passionate, or to appease those full of hate—and who could number all these masters of the human heart, namely, the emotions, inclinations, and affections that impel men to evil or good?—what more effective means than music could you find?...”[2]

Bach: The Fifth Evangelist

Two centuries after Luther's birth, the man who would do more than any other Lutheran to put flesh-and-bones on the Great Reformer's vision for music in worship came along. **Johann Sebastian Bach** was born into a family of notable church musicians on March 21, 1685 in the village of Eisenach, where Luther himself had lived for a time while attending grammar school. Bach's father and older brother imparted their musical gifts to young Johann while he attended schools in the German towns of Eisenach, Ohrdruf and Luneberg.

For the first half of his career (1703 to 1723) Bach moved around to various German cities that needed his gifts as an organist, choir master and composer. With his first wife (and cousin), Maria Barbara Bach, he had seven children. Following Maria's death in 1720 Bach married Anna Magdalena Wulcken, who bore his next thirteen children. Nine of Bach's twenty children survived him!

In 1723, Bach became the music director in Leipzig's famous



churches of St. Thomas and St. Nicholas, and he taught music in the St. Thomas school and the local university. These were Bach's most fertile years as a composer and church musician. He composed nearly two hundred cantatas.[3] each of which was based on the appointed scripture readings for the Sundays in the liturgical year. Bach is probably remembered most often for his great works such

as the *B Minor Mass* and the *St Matthew Passion*, which was first performed in St. Thomas Church on Good Friday in 1729.

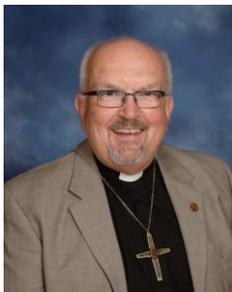
The key to Bach's remarkable success as a church musician was his ability to synthesize music and theology. This synthesis was perhaps best symbolized by the letters SDG which Bach penned on nearly all of his compositions—standing for *Soli Deo Gloria*, "to God alone the glory."^[4] In a Bible that Bach owned there is a marginal note in Bach's own handwriting (near a passage in II Chronicles): "*Where there is devotional music, God is always at hand with his gracious presence.*" Bach's uncanny ability to wed theology and music led Archbishop Nathan Soderblom (1866-1931) to nickname him "The Fifth Evangelist" (i.e. after Matthew, Mark, Luke and John).

Bach "Rediscovered"

In our day, Johann Sebastian Bach is perhaps (after Martin Luther himself) one of the world's most well-known Lutherans. But such was not always the case. When Bach died on July 28, 1750 he was destitute, buried in a pauper's grave.

For Reflection and Discussion:

- In our Lutheran calendar of commemorations we remember J.S. Bach every year on July 28th—the day of his death in 1750. Give thanks for Bach and all church musicians with this prayer: "*O God of majesty, whom saints and angels delight to worship: Pour out your Spirit on your servants who, with the gifts of music, enliven our praises and proclaim your word with power. Through this ministry give us new awareness of your beauty and grace, and join our voices with all the choirs of heaven, both now and forever; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*" (ELW p. 74)
- Bach is responsible for eight arrangements of familiar hymns in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Arrangers have the gift of giving new life to old tunes (many of which in their original arrangements we might find difficult to sing). Take a look at hymns 310, 351, 405, 480, 501, 606, 703, and 876—and imagine how our worship would be impoverished had God bestowed on Bach the gift of "making old tunes new."^[5]
- Discuss with others in your church how you might observe Reformation500 in ways that lift up our rich heritage of Lutheran church music. Consider hosting a hymnfest or concert featuring the works of Bach and other church musicians.
- Reflect on ways that music enhances worship for you and for others in your faith community. Remembering that all 200+ of Bach's cantatas were new in the 1700s, how are we still making room for those who want to "sing a new song to the Lord?" (Psalm 96:1)
- Write thank-you notes to worship leaders in your congregation who play instruments, sing in choirs or lead others in song.



Lawrence R. Wohlrabe
Bishop, Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

[1] Kathryn A. Kleinhans, "Luther, Music, and the Reformation" in *Together by Grace: Introducing the Lutherans* (Augsburg Fortress, 2016), p. 101.

[2] Quoted by Eric W. Gritsch in *The Wit of Martin Luther* (Fortress, 2006), pp. 83-84.

[3] "A cantata is a large multi-movement choral and instrumental composition meant to serve as musical commentary on the readings and theme for the Sunday, a kind of musical sermon." Karen Black, "J.S. Bach as Theologian-Musician," in *Together by Grace: Introducing the Lutherans* (Augsburg Fortress 2016), p. 106.

[4] *Soli Deo Gloria* is also the motto for our own Concordia College of Moorhead, MN.

[5] If your congregation uses *Lutheran Book of Worship*, look at hymns 219 and 242 which were both arranged by Bach.

NEW REFORMATION SYMPHONY PREMIERE with the Minnesota Orchestra

November 3-5, 2017
Minneapolis, MN

Vänskä Conducts the Reformation Symphony: Celebrating 500 Years of Reformation through Music



Osmo Vänskä, conductor | Photo © Stephanie Berger

Martin Luther's hammer rang out 500 years ago as he pounded his declaration of faith to the Wittenberg church door, and we mark the anniversary of this occasion with music inspired by Luther's revolution.



Minnesota Chorale

Minnesota Orchestra
Osmo Vänskä, conductor
Adam Kuenzel, flute
Minnesota Chorale

BACH
Orchestral Suite No. 2

MENDELSSOHN
Symphony No. 5, *Reformation*

CURRIER
Re-formation [World Premiere]

Fun Facts:

- Theologian Martin Luther lit the spark of the Reformation, but he was also a passionate music-lover who wrote dozens of hymns. He said: "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world."
- *Ein feste Burg* (A Mighty Fortress) is the best-known hymn by Luther, who also liked a good drinking song and asked, "why should the devil get all the best tunes?" You'll hear this hymn late in the symphony, performed by a flute solo.
- Luther and Johann Sebastian Bach went to the same school and sang in the same church choir—though Bach a century after Luther.
- Sebastian Currier's *Re-formation* reimagines the Reformation for today, with quotes from Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 5 and Luther's sturdy old hymn forming a cry to save the planet.



Snorre Lodge, Sons of Norway, cordially invites you to an exceptional Norwegian concert!

Kai Robert Johansen presents “An Østfold Extravaganza” with Vocalist Jannicke Heian Frølandshagen and Islandsmoen’s Men’s Choir, conducted by Hilde Everløff Andersen

**Wed., Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m., at NCTC Auditorium
Free to the Public**



Chai Spiced Pound Cake

Makes one loaf

The collection of spices that are found in Chai tea add a special flavor to this pound cake.

Serve with a dollop of whipped cream.

½ pound unsalted butter, softened
1 cup sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 tsp. ground cardamom
1 tsp. ground allspice

½ tsp. ground cloves
2 tsp. cinnamon
2 tsp. ground ginger
5 large eggs, at room temperature, lightly beaten

½ pound all-purpose flour, about 1 2/3 cup
1 ½ tsp. kosher salt
¼ cup cocoa powder

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Butter a 5" x 9" loaf pan.

Cream the butter and sugar together in a stand mixer until lightened and fluffy. Scrape down sides and add the vanilla extract and the spices. Add the beaten eggs to the butter and sugar mixture gradually, stopping to scrape down sides of bowl occasionally.

Mix the flour and salt together in a separate bowl and gradually add to the butter mixture, scraping sides as you go.

Remove half of the batter to a separate bowl and stir in the cocoa powder until smooth.

Add alternate scoops of each batter to the prepared pan, as though making a checkerboard pattern in the pan. This will help you get more equal distribution with the swirling in your cake. When all the batter is in the pan, swirl the batter with the handle of a wooden spoon and place in the oven.

Bake for about 65-70 minutes until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Allow the loaf to cool on a cooling rack for about 30 minutes before you remove it from the pan.

Allow it to cool completely before slicing.





True story from Briana Ingraham in Red Lake Falls whose twin boys just entered Pre-K:

C: Momma, you're a good looker.

Me: (Raises eyebrows and wonders what one day of Pre-K has led to or what has been overheard from Dad)

C: Can you please help me find my toy?

Me: (sighs in relief) Of course I can help you look for it, I'm a good looker!

The Back Page

NUMBERS

Social Security

The nine-digit Social Security number was initiated in 1936 for tracking workers' earnings over the course of their lifetimes for benefits, not with the intent of personal identification. Since 1936, there have been over 30 different versions of the Social Security number card issued.

Until June 2011, the first three digits were determined by the geographical region in which the person lived. Numbers were assigned beginning the northeast and moving westward.

Residents on the East Coast often have lower numbers than those on the West Coast. Any number beginning with 000 will never be a valid Social Security number.

Beginning in June 2011, Social Security numbers have been assigned randomly, which protects the integrity of the number, eliminates the geographical significance of the first three digits, and extends the longevity of the nine-digit number.

Since November 1936, 453.7 million different numbers have been issued and there are approximately 420 million numbers available for future assignment. About 5.5 million new numbers are assigned per year.

Area Codes

The area code system was developed by AT&T and Bell Laboratories in the 1940's, and went into effect in 1947. It was called the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) and included the United States and Canada.

In 1947, states and provinces that had a single area code were assigned three digit codes with 0 as the middle number, such as 203 for Connecticut and 305 for Florida. There were 86 area codes at that time.

States and provinces that had more than one area code distributed to them were given three digit codes with 1 as the middle number, such as 916 and 213 for various sections of California, and 212 and 518 for various sections of New York.

The first and third digits were allotted according to population density in the city or region the area code was going to, with the most populated areas getting the lowest numbers. The New York City area, for example, was assigned 212, while the surrounding suburbs were assigned 914.

The rationale for this "low number/high population" scheme was based on the fact that phones had rotary dials in those days. Lower numbers resulted in shorter "dial pulls" so it was reasoned that the regions with the most people in them should require the least "work" to call. The first customer-dialed calls were possible in Englewood, NJ in 1951.

The rising popularity of fax machines and pagers required far more telephone numbers than were anticipated in the design of the numbering system. As a remedy, the restrictions on the format of area codes were eased. Since 1995, over 380 new area codes have been added.

Zip Codes

Zip codes are actually a much more recent phenomenon than you might believe. In fact, they're only 52 years old—a concept that was introduced during World War II, and officially implemented in 1963. The zip (Zoning Improvement Plan) code was created when the postal service lost a huge portion of their staff who went to fight in the war. Because of this, they needed a simple way to help the understaffed postal service deliver mail effectively.

Initially, the zip code was only a two-digit number: the first denoted the city, the second denoted the state. But as the need for delivery expanded, so did the concept of the zip code. As of 1963, zip code numbers are determined by a few factors: the area, regional postal facility and local zone.

The first number of the five-digit code signifies the region in which the address is located, a number that grows from the East Coast to the West. For example, Eastern states such as Maine and New York begin with 0 or 1, whereas the Western states of California and Washington begin with a 9. The second two digits in the code determine a smaller region within each initial area that translates to a central post office facility for that area. The final two digits signify the local post office of the address.

You may have noticed that zip codes often have a hyphenated four-digit number on the back end, which is rarely used. This annex was created to help further specify addresses, but the creation of sorting and location technologies has removed the need for the additional four numbers.

Highways

Two-digit U.S. routes follow a simple grid in the contiguous United States, in which odd-numbered routes run generally North to South and even-numbered routes run generally East to West.

The numbering pattern for U.S. Routes was established first. They proceed from low, even numbers in the North to high, even numbers in the South, and from low, odd numbers in the East to high, odd numbers in the West. Numbers ending in 0 or 1 (and US 2), were considered main routes in the early numbering, but extensions and truncations have made this distinction largely meaningless.

In the 1950s, the numbering grid for the new Interstate Highway System was established as *intentionally opposite* from the US grid, insofar as the direction in which the route numbers increase. Interstate Highway numbers increase from West-to-East and South-to-North, to keep identically numbered routes geographically apart in order to keep them from being confused with one another, and it omits 50 and 60 which would potentially collide with US 50 and US 60. Both highway systems still number the routes ending in odd numbers North-South. The even-numbered highways run East-West, although the Interstate System labels its main north-south highways with numbers ending in 5, rather than 1.