

St. Pauli News in Detail



LWR Shipments

Once again, we have had the support of every group and person in the congregation.

Thank you to everyone who either brought items during Lent for the Personal Care Kits, or donated money toward the purchase of items.

Thank you to the WELCA ladies who have donated items or money for personal care and baby care kits, and those who had great fun sewing in the church basement making the 18 quilts. One of those quilts is being reserved for local need.

A special thank you to the Sunday School children who assembled about half of the Personal Care Kits.

Here are the totals for our early May shipment.

Quilts:	18 (see above)
Personal Care Kits:	51
(includes the Sunday School kits)	
Baby Care or Layette Kits	13

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Cleaning Night Changed!

Monday, May 21st

6:30 pm

Because spring had not arrived by mid-April and there was work being done in the basement, we rescheduled our spring cleaning to Monday, May 21.

We really need EVERY able-bodied person to come and help with our spring cleaning of the church. It is getting more and more difficult for the older members to do this all by themselves. No prior skills needed. All that is required is a dedicated heart.

Parking

At times, we are having a GOOD problem in that a third row of parking is needed to hold all of the cars in our lot for Sunday worship services.

When you come for Sunday School or services and park in the first row on the north side of the driveway, please pull forward enough to allow for a row of cars behind you, a second row for driving, and a third row of cars by the evergreen trees.

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Greeting and Ushering

May 6	Jordan Rondorf
May 13	Arlo Rude
May 20	Barb Smith
May 27	Unassigned

Altar Preparation: Virginia Anderson

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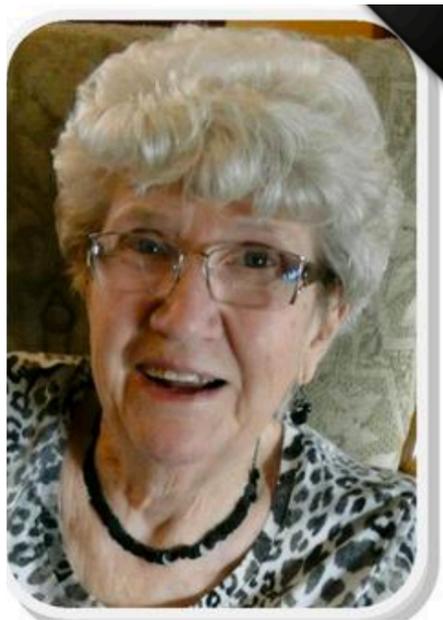
May Milestones

Birthdays

May 6	Barb Smith
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



In Memoriam

FERN DELORIS BOCK

November 8, 1936 – April 5, 2018

FERN LIVED!

The dates above may signify the beginning and end of life, but the most significant line above is the dash between those years. For that dash represents all the time Fern spent upon this earth and although we can do no justice in words how she spent this dash, we, her children, hope to share some of how she truly lived this gift of life.

Mom always said she was lucky to be here in the first place, as any of us are. The reason Mom said she was so lucky is that she was born the third child of Martin and Alma Mathson at the “young” ages of 52 and 40. With her parents and two older siblings, Mabel and Clayton, they operated a dairy farm near Hazel, MN. All helped to make the operation work. Dairy farming offered a chance to be useful, was proud work, taught dedicated responsibility and kept a person humble, offering peace in their heart. Attributes Mom would carry with her and pass on through her life.

Mom went on to become a teacher at the Roadside School, a one-room country school west of St. Hilaire. It took only one year for her to decide that this was not for her, but the “lessons” she would offer all of us would continue her entire life. She was a mom like no other and we all benefited from her teachings. She loved to read, play games and bake, her specialties being pies, cookies, doughnuts, lefse and buns. She said to always eat your mistakes so no one would ever know you failed. She taught us that you should always display gifts from others to show those you love your appreciation. We learned there is always room for another giraffe or sunflower or needlepoint wall art. She “retired” from needlepoint upon receiving a grand champion at the county fair.

Mom was fortunate to find love in her life, marrying Donald Peters in 1956. As newlyweds, they experienced many passions and joys of young love: dancing Saturday nights at Carpenter’s Corner and then again at Kulseth’s on Sunday, extended camping and fishing trips with family and friends and enjoying the yearly deer hunting extravaganzas with the neighbors, family, and special friends Al and Pat Blume. After moving to the Twin Cities for a brief time, they made their home in the little yellow house near Viking, MN, where they both got jobs and started farming with their own dairy herd. There was no running water at this house and it got so cold in the winters that they had to shut off one of the two bedrooms to make it tolerable. It was here that they were blessed with their four children, Suzanne, Vance, Scott and Rena. In 1968, upon the death of Dad’s father they moved the whole family into the four-bedroom farmhouse owned by our grandmother Selma, along with her brother Sigurd. They initially planned to stay for just the winter, but instead lived in the little crowded home for many years. Selma and Mom developed a special friendship that lasted the rest of their lives.

Mom and Dad loved adventure and would load all us kids up in the red GMC on exciting yearly camping excursions. It was crowded, but we loved every minute of it. Mom and Dad weren’t afraid of work ventures either. They started a large pig farm for a time, expanded into a large grain farming operation with friends Harvey and Lucy Swenson, created the Lilac Ridge Trailer Court from scratch on some of their wooded land, operated a sawmill, and started a waterbed business, all the while never quitting their day jobs. Despite all this, Mom was most proud of her children, showing that every day – making sure we were all fed a hot meal each morning, working a full-time job, coming home to cook again, cleaning the house, doing laundry, farm chores, taking care of the family businesses, and going to bed exhausted, only to wake up to do it all over again. She supported us all with our

schooling, extracurricular, and 4H activities, got us to church and Sunday school, and challenged us to make the most out of what we had and to better ourselves with sound decisions and strong work ethics. As kids, we were the ones who were truly blessed, just by having this miraculous, loving person as our mother.

Mom was a true professional as well, excelling as the corporate executive secretary position at Dow Key and Arctic Enterprises for 20 years. She always said she was rewarded with the privilege of working alongside such dignified men as Bill Ness and Lowell Swenson, and held them in the highest regard as colleagues and more importantly as lifelong friends.

Life throws us all curves and adjustments need to be made, and for Mom it was no different. “You have to play the hand you’re dealt,” she would say, “but things could always be worse.” Dad passed away unexpectedly and Arctic Cat closed down. Although this was a difficult time, Mom met these life challenges head on. She bravely moved with Rena and her job to the Twin Cities, and also found a new love in her life, Frank Bock. After marrying Frank in 1984, she shared a life living her dream of traveling and spending winters out of the cold in Texas, while still being around her Minnesota family during the summer. She loved the sunshine and warmth, which most reflected her spirit, and went on many cruises with Frank and her family.

Frank passed on and Mom returned to Viking, fulfilling another dream of putting a house in the woods on the land she always loved. Shortly after this she once again found love with Doug Dehnert. Mom and Doug lived at Viking in the summer and Florida and Texas in the winter and travelled extensively for nearly 20 years all over the United States in the big green motorhome they shared. Mom said she was fortunate to have seen so much of the world, visiting all 50 states, Canada, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand and parts of

Europe on a riverboat cruise. She wanted to see the world, and with Doug, she succeeded with that goal.

Mom loved life itself and enjoyed sharing it with those she cared for most. Her friendships with all were genuine, kind and everlasting. She loved her 10 grandchildren: Jaime, Jessica, Chelsey, Ashley, Kameron, Logan, Noah, Megan, Taylor and Nicholas, passionately and unconditionally. She had 6 great grandchildren: Mavrik, Camden, Coltyn, Brynley, Holden and Elodie, born in her lifetime, and was excited to learn that two more were on the way. Mom was thrilled to be part of our lives every day, from the weddings we shared to the special get-togethers with family and friends. She taught us about the importance of "family first" and responded to all situations in her life with unbridled love. Her main belief was to follow the golden rule by doing unto others as you would want them to do unto you.

Mom had a way of saying goodbye with words like "Love ya," "Shalom" or "Stay Sweet," but always made you want to stay. She would say to not cry because she was gone, but be happy that she did live. She made people's lives better, just

for having known her. We are glad for that and all things about our Mom. We are proud that her essence will live on through all of us.

In the end it's not the years in your life that count, but the life in your years. ~ Abraham Lincoln

Mom is survived by her children Suzanne and Scott Puschinsky, Vance and Sherry Peters, Scott Peters, Rena and Mark Collins; 10 grandchildren and 6+ great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her parents Martin Mathson and Alma (Moe) Mathson, sister Mabel Lemky, brother Clayton Mathson, husbands Donald Peters and Frank Bock, and life partner Doug Dehnert.

Family and Friends were invited to a special "Celebration of Life" in honor of our mother Fern from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 14th at Fern's home in Viking, with memorials starting at 2:30 p.m. Mom treasured one red rose over a dozen, so in lieu of any flowers all memorials were given to Hospice of Red River Valley.

Fern (Mathson) Bock was confirmed at St. Pauli Church on September 3, 1950 by Rev. Fjelstul.

Photo taken on old front steps of church. L to R: Carol Lokken, Fern Mathson, Gail Iverson, Loren Engelstad.



May God Bless the Memory of Fern Bock.

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Where have our Quilts and Kits Gone?

For the past two years, Virginia Anderson, stewardship chair, has been logging in to Lutheran World Relief's "Quilt & Kit Tracker" to print out a special barcode that is put on St. Pauli's shipments of quilts and kits. That way, she can track our gifts at LWR online as they reach those in need all around the world. Here's where our gifts have gone thus far:

<u>Date Shipped</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Shipped to</u>
9/28/2016	Personal Care Kit	Burkina Faso
8/31/2017	Personal Care Kit	Ukraine
1/17/2017	New School Kit	Djibouti
3/28/2017	New School Kit	Angola
9/21/2017	New School Kit	Niger
3/21/2018	New School Kit	Senegal
3/21/2018	Baby Care Kit	Angola

Minutes of the Church Council

March 8, 2018

The St. Pauli Church Council met on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Pauli Church. Board Members present: Ivette Garrett, Faye Auchenpaugh, Gary Iverson, Larry Hurst and Arlo Rude. Council President Garrett brought the meeting to order and asked that Pastor Hansen lead us in prayer.

Approval of Agenda: **M/S/C** (Rude/Hurst) to approve agenda as submitted.

Secretary's Report: **M/S/C** (Rude/Hurst) to approve the February 15, 2018 secretary's report as read.

Treasurer's Report: **M/S/C** (Auchenpaugh/Iverson) to approve the treasurer's report as presented.

Balances as of 2/28/18:

Checking Account as of 1/31/18	\$ 26,848.90
Income	\$ 4,086.15
Expenses	\$ (11,290.22)
Checking Account as of 2/28/18	\$ 19,644.83
Investor Savings	\$ 36,068.68
Certificates of Deposit	\$ 20,000.00
Edward D. Jones Investments	\$ 46,657.50
Memorial Fund Savings & CD	\$ 10,820.39
Mission Grant Fund Balance	\$ 4,026.59
Education Fund Balance	\$ 530.03
Total Church Funds as of 2/28/18:	\$ 137,748.02

Pastor Carl's Report:

The Wednesday round robin Lenten services are underway with pastors from six participating congregations. Pastor Hansen's impression is that these services are going very well with positive reactions from the congregations and pastors.

His granddaughter Chelsea will be graduating from Navarro High School (Texas) on May 25. He will be heading south for that event and will be gone on Sunday, May 27. He may also be gone on May 20 to visit with his Nebraska family, but will let us know as plans develop.

Pastor Bill Reck, who has served as pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran in Crookston for 31 years, will be retiring at the end of August. Pastor Bill has served St. Paul's and the Crookston community with true dedication and commitment to the Gospel. He has hosted a pastor's weekly Bible study for the past 31 years and Pastor Carl has been privileged to participate in that group since 2002. "Well done, good and faithful servant," said Pastor Carl.

Pastor Carl is planning to attend the Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly on June 8-9 in Moorhead.

Pastor John Voelker goes overseas every summer and Pastor Carl will be conducting services at Trinity Lutheran in Thief River Falls in his absence on June 17 and 24. Service times are 9:00 am, which allows him to conduct services at St. Pauli as well. Pastor Voelker may be returning to Hungary in August for his daughter's wedding.

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

New members or interest in membership: None.

Reports:

- 1) Auchenpaugh said that she will be in Illinois and Indiana on March 18 and 25, in Missouri on May 27 to attend her grandson's wedding, and in Norway on June 3 and 10.
- 2) Garrett said that she is considering attending the Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly in June.
- 3) WELCA: Personal Care Kit collection during Lent is going well. Lutheran World Relief spring shipment is scheduled for May 5.
- 4) Board of Education: No report.
- 5) The piano was sold for \$100 to Pastor Kristen Dahlen Ostercamp.

Old Business:

- 1) 501(c)(3) status: Garrett has done research and all we need to do is email our tax identification number to the ELCA.
- 2) Internet service: Rude reported that Sjoberg's will bring the cable into the furnace room and the modem will be installed there.
- 3) Edward D. Jones investments: Rude will meet with Vanessa Martell on March 21 and arrange a time for her to attend a council meeting.
- 4) Project Status: Don Schindler has suggested cheaper doors for the storage closet since they will be painted. He will not begin work on our projects until sometime in April. Rude hopes to have bids on shingling the roof by May 1st, after which time we can call a special congregational meeting.

New Business:

- 1) 125th Anniversary: Garrett suggested we set up committees to begin work on this. She will also bring this up at the next WELCA meeting. Pastor Carl said Little Norway Church in Fertile did an excellent job for their anniversary celebration. Information from our 100th anniversary is in the safe.
- 2) **M/S/C** (Auchenpaugh/Iverson) to approve Pastor Carl's contract agreement for another three months.

M/S/C (Hurst/Auchenpaugh) to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Faye Auchenpaugh
Secretary

The stranger approached the pastor after service and said, "I'd like you to pray for my hearing."

The pastor placed his hands on the man's ears and said a passionate, earnest prayer.

"How's your hearing now?" the pastor asked.

Looking surprised, the man said, "Well, it's not until tomorrow."

Minutes of the WELCA

January 25, 2018

The St. Pauli Women of the ELCA met on January 25, 2018 with 7 members present.

President Cindy called the meeting to order and led us in a responsive litany on our mission and purpose.

The secretary's report was read and approved.

Faye presented the treasurer's report as follows:

December income:	\$310.00
December expenses:	\$225.10
Checkbook balance December 31, 2017:	\$667.79
Savings balance December 31, 2017:	\$1,564.03
CD balance December 31, 2017:	\$6,024.88

Updated balance for Fall Event:

Donations:	\$ 2,317.00
Pies sold:	378.00
Thrivent card:	250.00
Total Income:	\$ 2,945.00
Expenses:	(704.62)
Net Profit:	\$ 2,240.38

Virginia and Evie reported that shipping for stewardship will be Saturday, May 3. Today the ladies tied 8 quilts. Our Lenten collection will be Personal Care Kits.

Old Business: Quotes for storage cabinet and display case given by Don Schindler has been accepted at the annual meeting. Ladies discussed ideas on how to best use, and ideas on wood and color.

Cindy read thank you's from the Keith Nelson family, Little Brother/Little Sister, Haiti Medical Mission, Salvation Army, LWR, Can Do Canine, and Northland Rescue Mission.

Cindy also thanked all those who decorated for Christmas and Faye for hosting our Christmas Brunch at the schoolhouse.

New Business: Northwest Synod Convention in Detroit Lakes September 2018.

Lydia A-F are in charge of serving after our annual meeting on January 28, 2018.

Ash Wednesday services are February 14 at 7:00.

Many of our ladies will be traveling during the winter months. We have made some changes to our schedules. We will quilt January 30, 9:30-4:00, and February 8, 9:30-4:00. Lydia Circle will be canceled in February.

Prayer partners exchanged. Lord's Prayer prayed.

Thank you to Cindy for serving the ladies a delicious lunch and treats for coffee.

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Quilting on January 30, 2018 – Sharon Bugge served lunch and coffee treats.

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Quilting on February 8, 2018 – Evie Johnson served lunch and treats for coffee.

Thank you to these ladies who provided us with nutrition so we could continue quilting. We are blessed to have great cooks. A total of 18 quilts were made in these two days.

Kathy Alberg, Secretary

Historic Minutes of the St. Pauli Congregation

11 November 1931

St. Pauli congregation held its annual meeting in the Church on November 11, 1931.

The meeting was opened by the chairman Pastor M. L. Dahle with reading from the Bible and prayer. The report of the secretary was read and accepted as it was read. The report of the treasurer was read and accepted as it was read.

Pastor M. L. Dahle reported that he had, during the year, held 24 divine services, 2 Holy Communions and that the attendance at the services had been acceptable, and that there had been held five weeks of religion school.

And that there were three families who wished to be accepted in the congregation. Namely Ed Houskie and wife, Elias Melvie and wife and children, Andrew Arne and wife and children. They were unanimously received.

The following officials were elected.

Secretary: O. J. Snetting, 1 year

Treasurer: Tobias Stene, 1 year

Trustee: Helmer Finstad, 3 years

Sexton: Nels Nelson

School committee: Mrs. Tobias Stene, Mrs. Ole Odegaard, Mr. Olaf Snetting

Assessment committee: John Kval, Ole Valsvig, Tobias Stene
Organists: Miss Marie Oien and Mrs. Carl Alberg

A committee of three was elected to contact those who have not contributed to the budget. Namely Pastor M. L. Dahle, Emil Thune, Ole Pederson

On proposal the meeting was ended.

Secr. O. J. Snetting

Historic Minutes of the St. Pauli Luther League

9 June 1929

The St. Pauli Luther League held its annual meeting at the church Sunday evening, June 9. The meeting was called to order by Oscar Odegaard, president.

The following program was rendered:

Song by audience.

Scripture Reading and Prayer: Rev. Dahle

Song by audience

Talk: Rev. Dahle

Minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted as read.

The treasurer's yearly report was read and accepted as read.

The following officers were elected:

President: Oscar Odegaard

Vice President: Helmer Finstad

Secretary: Gust Gustafson

Treasurer: Joe Thorstveit

The following program committee was appointed:

Mrs. Carl Finstad, Mrs. Carl Alberg, Gust Gustafson

On motion duly made and carried, the meeting adjourned.

Lunch was served by Mrs. Tobias Stene, Mrs. Martha Thorstveit. Proceeds: \$17.00

Gust A Gustafson, Secretary

21 July 1929

The St. Pauli Luther League held its last meeting at the church Sunday evening, July 21, 1929. Meeting was called to order by President Oscar Odegaard.

The following program was rendered:

Song: Audience

Scripture Reading and Prayer: Rev. Dahle

Song: Choir

Recitation: Thelma Stene

Song: Gust Gustafson

Recitation: Omer Lian

Talk: Rev. Dahle

Song: Choir

On motion made and carried, the next meeting will be held in two weeks.

The following program committee was appointed: Mr. Carl Alberg, Marie Oien, Gina Valsvik.

Lunch was served by Marie Oien and Mrs. Martin Finstad. Proceeds: \$14.00.

Gust A. Gustafson, Secretary

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14 June 1955

An officer's meeting was held on Tuesday, June 14, 1955 to plan the joint Luther League meeting. The meeting was opened with scripture and prayer by Rev. Person. We discussed the program after we had read the program together. We also discussed the lunch

Lorrie Weckwerth, Recording Secretary

10 July 1955

The July meeting of Luther League was held on July 10, 1955 with President Betty Rude presiding. The secretary's report was read and approved.

A report was given by Janice Finstad on a meeting to organize the ice cream social. It was decided to call it July Jumble and it was to be held on July 20, 1955. A committee to publicize the social was chosen. Those on it were Lyle Bjorge, Corrine Torkelson, Robert Arneson and Lorrie Weckwerth.

Nominations were then accepted for treasurer. Lyle Bjorge was elected. "O That the Lord Would Guide My Ways" was sung by the congregation. Readings were then given by Beverly Rolandson, Gary Rolandson, Carol Rude, Robert Arneson and Janice Finstad. Betty then closed the subject with a reading.

A talk on Bible Camp was then given by Elinor Gustafson.

We then prayed the Lord's Prayer and sang the Table Blessing together.

Servers: Mdmes. Willard Johnson, Orville Rolandson, Omer Lian. Proceeds: \$12.70.

Lorrie Weckwerth, Secretary

14 August 1955

The regular meeting of the Luther League was held at the church on August 14 with President Betty Rude presiding.

The business meeting opened with the secretary's report which was read and approved. The treasurer's report was also approved as read.

Betty Rude thanked all of the people who helped to make the ice cream social a success.

Leadership school was then discussed. We were asked to make an amount that would be standing through the future. We decided to pay registration and \$5 extra.

The program opened with scripture and prayer by Janice Finstad. "Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" was sung by the audience. A skit was then presented with a family discussing the fourth commandment. Eugene and Lorrie Weckwerth were the father and mother and Carol Rude and Lyle Bjorge were their two teenage children. In between speeches by the family, Betty Rude, Fern Mathson, Janice Finstad and Connie Alberg helped them with some of their problems that they were discussing. After the skit, "Oh, Happy Home" was sung by the audience. A humorous poem about Father entitled "When Daddy was a Boy" was read by Harlan Rude. "Recollection," a poem about Mother was read by Dian Folkedahl. "The Church's One Foundation" was sung by the audience.

The program closed with the Lord's Prayer and Table Blessing.

Servers: Mdmes. Martin Mathson, Anton Johnson, Iver Iverson. Proceeds: \$12.70.

Lorrie Weckwerth, Secretary

Blanket Sunday



Each year, we place the quilts, personal care and baby care kits donated and created by our church members around the altar for blessing before they are shipped to Lutheran World Relief. This is followed by a potluck with freewill donations going to Lutheran Social Services Meals Program.

Virginia Anderson is our stewardship chair and she prepares barcodes to attach to each item. See earlier article in this newsletter to see where they have gone since LWR first started using barcodes.

St. Pauli a Community Center in More Ways than One!

On Saturday, April 27th, REA equipment was spotted at the church. Branden Narlock and his crew were installing an arm and router to the top of the pole. (It's not easy to spot in this photo, but it's on the upper left.)

Branden said this router will collect information from all of the new meters in an area of about six miles and send it on to the head office.



Arlo Rude receives Helen Keller Award

At a recent Lions District Governor's Banquet held in Thief River Falls, Arlo Rude (left) was presented the Helen Keller Award, one of the highest service awards given to active Lions Club members. This award is given to individuals who have distinguished themselves on behalf of sight. The award was established in honor of Helen Keller, whose achievements as a person robbed of sight and hearing, are well known. In 1925, Keller challenged Lions International members to become "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness." The award was presented to Arlo by Lions District Governor John Wollenzien.

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The following photos and articles are in honor of Norway and its national independence day, May 17: *Syttende Mai*

Norway has had a very long and cold winter this year. This is a recent photo of the road over the Jotunheimen (Home of the Giants) mountains.

Several of our church members have driven over the Jotunheimen and have seen the tall stakes marking the road so it can be identified in the winter. This wall of snow certainly doesn't lend itself to sightseeing, does it.



How Norwegian Trees Tell the Story of a Cloaked Nazi War Ship

Effects of a toxic fog created to hide a Nazi battleship are revealed by the surrounding trees.

CBC Radio · April 12, 2018



A new study suggests toxic artificial fog deployed by the Nazis during the Second World War had a lasting impact on certain trees in a Norwegian fjord. (Submitted by Claudia Hartl, Public domain)

The story of the battleship Tirpitz is no secret.

It was the German navy's largest and heaviest of the Second World War — significantly heavier than its sister ship, the Bismarck. It was stationed in northern Norway during the war.

But even though the story of the Tirpitz has been well-preserved in documents and history books, scientists have recently discovered some missing links — or rather, missing rings — by reading trees. Winnipeg-born Scott St. George is one of the researchers of the study, presented this week at a conference in Vienna. St. George, a geography professor at the University of Minnesota, spoke with *As it Happens* host Carol Off from Innsbruck, Austria. Here is part of their conversation:

What did researchers notice was different about these trees in this area of Norway?

What we noticed was the trees closest to the Kafjord — closest to the water — had a very unusual ring in 1945. The growth patterns that we saw in all the other years before 1945 and after 1945 were really the same as the other trees in the same area. But 1945 was really different.

How many trees did you find [with] something different about them?

About 60 percent of the trees in the Kafjord in 1945. And we know that happens when trees are under extreme

environmental stress — for example, by drought or when they're attacked by insects or affected by a wildfire — they often compensate to that stress by shutting down wood production. As a result, they don't get a ring for that year.

So what were the theories as to why these trees didn't have a ring in 1945?

If we had seen this skipped year in other trees in other places, we would have assumed it was because of an insect attack. That's the most common cause of trees skipping a ring.

This time it turned out to be due to Hitler's navy.

In this area, the Kafjord — that specific bay in northern Norway — is historically famous because of its role in harboring and protecting the Tirpitz, the largest ship of the German navy, during the Second World War.



A toxic 'artificial fog' created by the German navy hangs around the battleship Tirpitz in Kafjord, Norway (Imperial War Museum)

So what did the Tirpitz being in this fjord have to do with the trees not having rings?

There's a famous memo from Winston Churchill — the shortest memo he wrote in the entire Second World War — that simply asked, "Where is Tirpitz?"

So for about a year-and-a-half, the British military were trying to find the Tirpitz, sink it, and end the threat that it posed to allied shipping. And when bombers were spotted by the German navy, they would attempt to shield the ship by producing what they described as artificial smoke or artificial fog to prevent the ship from being spotted.

And what was in that smoke?

It was pretty nasty stuff. According to intelligence reports the U.S. military filed in 1943, it was primarily made up of chlorosulfuric acid and sulfur trioxide. First-person accounts described the chemical concoction as stripping the paint off the boats and taking the putty off the windows of the same boats.

And so what effect did that have on the trees?

The smoke eventually drifted into the nearby forest. And what we think happened was that it chemically damaged the needles, and essentially acted as a defoliator, stripping the needles off pine and birch trees growing nearby. And because the trees were stripped of their needles, they had to completely re-grow a new crop of needles for the next year. And because of that, they made a trade-off. In order to expand their needle crop, they drew down resources dedicated to growing wood.

“Most people who study trees don't think about long-ago military conflicts as one of the stories that might be preserved in those trees.”- *Scott St. George*

As a result, many of the trees in the area formed an exceptionally narrow ring in 1945. And many of them just didn't form any wood at all. In the most extreme case, one tree didn't form wood for nine years after 1945.

They often say, "If trees could talk, the stories they could tell." Have you had a tree tell you so much about history before?

Never something like this. I think it's fair to say that most foresters and most people who study trees don't think about long-ago military conflicts as one of the stories that might be preserved in those trees.



I think that that's one of the important lessons of the study. Now that 70 years have gone by, we've really lost that direct memory of 1945 in most places.

But in the Kafjord, the trees still keep this very subtle clue that tells us a little bit about what happened at that time.

Written by Kevin Ball. Interview produced by Katie Geleff. Q&A edited for length and clarity.

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The ice formed shards of 5cm in length (about 2"). Photo: Olden Camping Gytri

See ice shatter into crystals on Norwegian lake

Norway has experienced a very cold winter this year. The late onset of spring has brought one advantage at least. A campsite owner caught a stunning video of ice crystals melting in the idyllic Oldevatnet lake.

“I was measuring the fence at the campsite when I heard a sound a little like glass being broken,” Kristin Sveum told Norwegian state broadcaster NRK. When she went to find out what was happening she saw that the ice on the lake was melting so fast, that it was causing the ice to shatter into millions of tiny shards.

“All the crystals were completely white and almost identical, all about 5cm long,” Sveum said. “I have never seen anything like it. Normally, the ice breaks into large ice sheets. It was amazingly beautiful and fascinating to watch.”

When she posted the video on the Facebook page for her campsite, Olden Camping Gytri, it quickly spread to more than 30,000 people.

Watch it, hear, and remember to turn the volume all the way up for the full experience. Use the following link:
<https://www.nrk.no/sognogjordane/sja-det-heilt-spesielle-naturfenomenet-1.14018133>



Come and join us for our annual week-long celebration of Syttende Mai, Norway's Constitution Day!

Saturday, May 12

- Uff Da Day at Pioneer Village

Sunday, May 13

- Concert by Inger-Kristine Riber and Reidun Horvei from Norway. "Migrasong - the tunes they carried across the sea." United Methodist Church, 7 p.m. Freewill donation.

Monday, May 14

- Norwegian Movie Night, award winning 1948 movie "I Remember Mama." NCTC Auditorium, 7 p.m. Freewill donation.

Tuesday, May 15

- Dr. Odd Lovoll, history professor and author of many books on Scandinavian immigration, will speak on "Observations on the History of the Norwegian American Experience." NCTC Auditorium, 7 p.m. Freewill donation.

Wednesday, May 16

- Scandinavian Smorgasbord Dinner, Zion Church. 5-7 p.m. \$12 adults, \$5 children under 12.

Thursday, May 17, Syttende Mai

- Syttende Mai Open House with Scandinavian goodies and coffee, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Northern State Bank.

Friday, May 18

- 'Old Time Dance' with the Cathy Erickson Band, folk dancing instructions by Jeanne O'Neill, 7-11 p.m. at the Eagles Club. \$7.50, includes lunch.

Saturday, May 19

- Author Susan Foote speaking on MN mental institution reform led by Engla Schey, daughter of Norwegian immigrants who settled near Newfolden. TRF Public Library. 10 a.m. Free.
- "Ole & Lena's Wedding" comedy theater performance by Change of Pace Productions, NCTC Auditorium. 7 p.m. \$10.

Sunday, May 20

- "Ole & Lena's Wedding" comedy theater performance by Change of Pace Productions, NCTC Auditorium. 2 p.m. \$10.

For more info, go to [facebook.com/snorrelodge/](https://www.facebook.com/snorrelodge/) or call (218) 686-0205



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How to Rile a Norwegian

From insideoutofnorway.wordpress.com

Norwegian society is known worldwide as being harmonious and calm. A Norwegian abroad will likely never complain if the food he is served is of poor quality, because we are too modest to do so. At home, most arguments can be solved over a cup of coffee. In public life, a major strike that lasts for any longer than 24 hours is considered a national crisis. We frequently ridicule the tempers and active body language of southern Europeans.

Yet, if you dig deep enough, there will be many, many opportunities to make our Viking blood boil.

1. Suggest that Sweden is better than us

Or Denmark. Or Finland. But especially Sweden. We see our welfare system as absolutely perfect; we believe we are better than them at sports and just about everything else. To the average Norwegian, the best thing about Sweden is lower prices on cigarettes, alcohol and candy. Challenge this truth and you will provoke reactions. Be aware that saying the opposite in Sweden will either provoke a very good laugh or even more anger.

2. Make eye contact

You'll find this situation on trains, in buses, and in general public. Everyone is staring in a slightly different direction. This is because we like to avoid eye contact. In fact, a total stranger making eye contact will often be regarded by a Norwegian as a *threat to his or her existence* and treated thusly. This sometimes leads to absurd situations where the last arrivals on a will start playing with their cellphones because every single field of view available to them overlaps with somebody else's.

3. Sit down beside a complete stranger when there are other seats available

If there are unoccupied banks of seats available on a bus, you use one of them. It's that simple. And in the unfortunate event that you have to sit next to a stranger, under no circumstances should you talk to him/her. Sit down and SHUT UP!

4. Show up late for anything

There is probably only one people in the world that cares more about punctuality than the Scandinavians, and that people is the Germans. Showing up late for anything more formal than a family party is considered a grave offense. And don't even think about showing up early unless you want to do the host's work.

5. Build something in our back yard

Okay, this applies to all western countries. But Norwegians in particular have a firm belief that immediate access to nature is a human right. Basically, wherever you are in Norway, if you look in the right direction, you will see a forest. And even if not nearly all of us use it, the fact that it's there is vitally important. This occasionally leads to roads having to take mile-long detours every time they come within the same postal code as a forest so as not to impede access for the 50 people living in the nearest village. Also, skyscraper construction in Oslo has been impossible for several years because it might obscure a couple people's view of the woods.

6. Say anything negative about the King

A lot of Norwegians are passive republicans. But nobody dislikes the King. Nobody can think of anything negative to say about the King, actually. His father, King Olav, was known to say, "I have 4.5 million bodyguards". Because nobody has anything negative to say about him, all criticism of the King will basically be taken personally: as if you just insulted someone's father. Politicians, however, are mostly fair game.

7. Say anything negative about the country; in general

Norway is the greatest country in the world. In fact, former Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland said in one of her new year's speeches, "It's typically Norwegian to be good." We are and will be the greatest country ever. Just try telling a Norwegian that Norway isn't the greatest country in the world. I dare you. Never mind that most of us hate parts of it. "This is such a moralist and conformist country. I hate it! I want to move to Denmark, where you're allowed to be yourself." If you manage to convince a Norwegian that anything is bad about Norway except the high taxes, poor infrastructure and the bad weather, you should immediately run for political office. If you don't manage to convince them, the floodgates will open.

8. Mention that nobody cares about the sports we're good at

We are, like the U.S., one of the world's greatest sporting nations...mostly at sports nobody cares about. Where the U.S. has baseball and American football, we have cross-country skiing, orienteering and handball. We, however, believe that most of our athletes are known worldwide. And never mind that our football team was beaten by obscure Moldova – Petter Northug won the World Cup race yesterday! We don't care about the fact that "We beat you at handball" will likely draw a blank stare in Brazil. We are the greatest sporting nation on Earth – so don't ruin it for us!

9. Tell us that our dialect is ugly/nice

Most Norwegians speak in a particular dialect. The dialects were formed as a result of Norway consisting of about a million different little valleys with very little contact with each other, meaning that in some regions two guys who live one kilometer down the road from each other speak almost comically different dialects. The dialects divide people into two camps: those who worship their dialect, and those who wish they were born where they speak a different dialect. Tell the wrong person the wrong thing, and they *will* actually get angry at you.

The Back Page

Thoughts of Spring

"In the spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours." –Mark Twain

"Never cut a tree down in the wintertime. Never make a negative decision in the low time. Never make your most important decisions when you are in your worst moods. Wait. Be patient. The storm will pass. The spring will come."
– Robert H. Schuller

"The garden of love is green without limit and yields many fruits other than sorrow or joy. Love is beyond either condition: without spring, without autumn, it is always fresh."
- Rumi

"I believe in process. I believe in four seasons. I believe that winter is tough, but spring is coming. I believe that there's a growing season. And I think that you realize that in life, you grow. You get better." – Steve Southerland

"I am going to try to pay attention to the spring. I am going to look around at all the flowers, and look up at the hectic trees. I am going to close my eyes and listen." – Anne Lamott

"To find the universal elements enough; to find the air and the water exhilarating; to be refreshed by a morning walk or an evening saunter . . . to be thrilled by the stars at night; to be elated over a bird's nest or a wildflower in spring – these are some of the rewards of the simple life." – John Burroughs

"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." – Margaret Atwood

"Earth, teach me to forget myself as melted snow forgets its life. Earth, teach me resignation as the leaves which die in the fall. Earth, teach me courage as the tree which stands all alone. Earth, teach me regeneration as the seed which rises in the spring." – William Alexander

"Spring won't let me stay in this house any longer! I must get out and breathe the air deeply again." – Gustav Mahler

"The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day that He created spring." – Bernard Williams

"We cannot stop the winter or the summer from coming. We cannot stop the spring or the fall or make them other than they are. They are gifts from the universe that we cannot refuse. But we can choose what we will contribute to life when each arrives." – Gary Zukav

"Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush." – Doug Larson

"Spring is God's way of saying, 'One more time!'"
– Robert Orben

"I want to do what spring does with the cherry trees."
- Pablo Neruda

"Spring has returned. The Earth is like a child that knows poems." – Rainer Maria Rilke

"In winter, I plot and plan. In spring, I move." – Henry Rollins

"The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month." – Henry Van Dyke

"Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed . . . Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders." – Henry David Thoreau

"When all the world appears to be in a tumult, and nature itself is feeling the assault of climate change, the seasons retain their essential rhythm. Yes, fall gives us a premonition of winter, but then winter will be forced to relent, once again, to the new beginnings of soft greens, longer light, and the sweet air of spring." – Madeleine M. Kunin

"Expect to have hope rekindled. Expect your prayers to be answered in wondrous ways. The dry seasons in life do not last. The spring rains will come again." – Sarah Breathnach

"One of the most graceful warriors is the robin. I know few prettier sights than two males challenging and curvetting about each other upon the grass in early spring. Their attentions to each other are so courteous and restrained."
– John Burroughs

"The true harbinger of spring is not crocuses or swallows returning to Capistrano, but the sound of the bat on the ball."
– Bill Veeck

"Vines will be planted, corn will spring up, a whole growth of new crops; and people will still fall in love in vintages and harvests yet to come. Life is eternal; it is a perpetual renewal of birth and growth." – Emile Zola

"The human animal originally came from out-of-doors. When spring begins to move in his bones, he just must get out again. Moreover, as civilization, cement pavements, office buildings, radios have overwhelmed us, the need for regeneration has increased, and the impulses are even stronger." – Herbert Hoover

"Every spring is the only spring, a perpetual astonishment."
- Ellis Peters

"Music comes from an icicle as it melts, to live again as spring water." – Henry Williamson

"Spring, when the earth tilts closer to the sun, runs a strict timetable of flowers." – Alice Oswald

"One swallow does not make a summer, but one skein of geese, cleaving the murk of March thaw, is the Spring."
- Aldo Leopold

"The little windflower, whose just-opened eye is blue as the spring heaven it gazes at." – William C. Bryant

"In spring, the dead trees, roots, and animals come to life again exactly as they were, thus providing hundreds of thousands of examples, specimens, and proofs of the supreme resurrection." – Said Nursi