

St. Pauli News in Detail



Greeting and Ushering

Sept 1	Mike Stickler
Sept 8	Jim Strandlie
Sept 15	Skip Swanson
Sept 22	Craig Torkelson
Sept 29	Wallace Torkelson

Altar Preparation: Barb Nelson

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125th Anniversary of St. Pauli Church

Mark Your Calendars!

2020 is the year in which St. Pauli will celebrate 125 years of service to the Lord.

**A two-day celebration event will be held the first weekend in August:
Saturday and Sunday, August 1-2**

A special service will be conducted on January 5, 2020 to commemorate the formal organization of the church and adoption of the constitution.

The first meeting was held in the Braaten schoolhouse (the first log school building) on January 3, 1895. Reverend Evenson was chairman and Pete Paulson was secretary. The constitution of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church was read and adopted. St. Pauli was chosen as the name for the new congregation which was to be served by Reverend I. T. Aastad, pastor of what is now Trinity Lutheran Church in Thief River Falls.

125th Anniversary Committee members are: Virginia Anderson, Faye Auchenpaugh, Ivette Garrett, Bruce Mathson and Erin Rondorf. If you have thoughts or ideas, please relate them to a committee member.



Stewardship

WELCA's Stewardship Projects are gearing up for the fall shipment to Lutheran World Relief. We are collecting **good/used or new** items for Baby Care Kits. The following items are requested if you wish to donate to the kits:

- Sleepers (with no feet) or Sleeping Gowns (knit pants and top can be substituted for a sleeper)
- Receiving blankets (can be knitted, crocheted or flannel)
- Sweaters/Sweatshirts/Light Jackets (no heavy winter coats)
- Baby/Toddler Socks
- Hand Towels
- Bath Size Bar Soap
- Cloth Diapers (or flannel material for sewing diapers)
- Baby Shirts (pullover or button)—No "onesies" (unless they are cut off and hemmed already); no religious, military, patriotic symbols, no camouflage

Sizes preferred are 6-24 months.

Please—no stained, dirty or worn out items.

If you wish to donate any of these items, please deliver them to the basement of the church by October 1st.

If you're interested in learning more about this project, go to: lwr.org/get-involved/build-kits-of-care/baby-care-kits.

An item list is also found in the St. Pauli Handbook, pg. 18.

Thank you for your assistance in providing items for these kits. We cannot include or substitute items that are not on the list, except for those mentioned above.

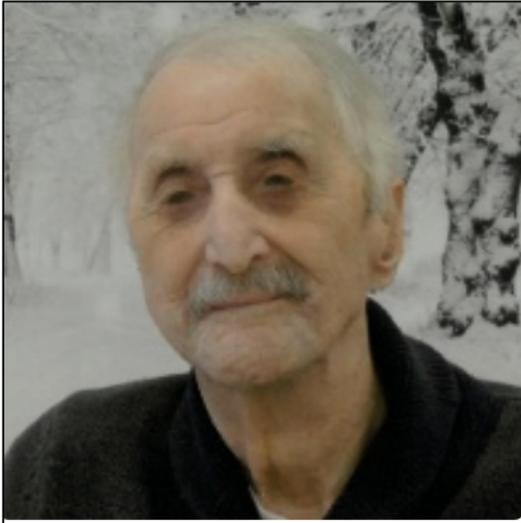
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Milestones

Birthdays:

September 1	Deb Ernst
September 12	Nancy Jensen
September 15	Cindy Cedergren
September 16	Sally Torkelson
September 17	Bruce Mathson
September 19	Wally Torkelson

Anniversaries: None that we are aware of.



In Memoriam

Robert Gunstad

October 22, 1921 - June 22, 2019

Robert Gunstad, 97, passed away peacefully on Saturday, June 22, 2019 at Oakland Park Communities in Thief River Falls, MN with his loving family at his side.

The service to celebrate the life of Robert was held at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, July 2, 2019 at Johnson Funeral Service in Thief River Falls, with Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt officiating. A lunch and reception followed in the funeral home dining area. Burial was at the Community Cemetery in St. Hilaire, MN. Visitation was from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM at the funeral home.

Robert Willis Gunstad was born October 22, 1921 in River Township, Red Lake County, MN, the son of John and Anna (Anderson) Gunstad. He was baptized in Thief River Falls. He attended Hazel school #178 and graduated in 1939 from St. Hilaire High School in St. Hilaire, MN.

On July 12, 1946, Robert was united in marriage to DeVona Armstrong in St. Hilaire. The couple made their home on the family farm east of St. Hilaire in Rocksbury Township. DeVona passed away on March 14, 1979.

He was a member of St. Pauli Lutheran Church.

He was an avid craftsman/woodworker and made numerous keepsakes and toys for family and friends. He loved to go dancing in his later years and work in his flower garden, especially with his hollyhocks. He was a great cook (to his own liking) but enjoyed going to the Lantern for lunch and the Pizza Hut for an occasional pizza and beer. He enjoyed a drive in the country to look at the crops and talk about old times. Robert had an amazing sense of humor making jokes, telling stories and giving advice.

He is survived by children: Robert (Leslie) Gunstad, San Diego, CA; James Gunstad, Sartell, MN; and Debra (David) Rustad, St. Hilaire, MN; grandchildren: John (Beth) Gunstad, Angeline (Dan) Kallhoff, Elizabeth (Greg) Bailey, Tami (Jeremy) Anderson, Gary Holmgren, Cody (Serena Swenson) Holmgren, Mark (Molly) Rustad, and Michelle (Casey) George; special niece: Katherine Hanson; numerous great grandchildren; one great-great grandson; and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his wife, DeVona; parents, John and Anna Gunstad; grandson, Casey Holmgren; granddaughter, Amy Cline; sister, Dorothy (Kermit) Hanson; brother, Raymond Gunstad; nephew, Charles Hanson; and special friend, Jean Nelson.





In Memoriam

David Wayne Davidson

November 14, 1958 – July 18, 2019

David Wayne Davidson was born November 14, 1958 in Red Lake Falls, MN, the son of Robert “Bob” and Darlene “Dolly” Davidson, and passed away peacefully on July 18, 2019, surrounded by his family at Sanford Hospital in Fargo, ND.

David was baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church in Thief River Falls, MN. He worked on the oil rigs in Williston, ND and for his father’s well drilling business in Thief River Falls. David enjoyed fishing, hunting and a good laugh.

He is survived by his parents, Robert and Dolly Davidson of Thief River Falls; wife, Debra; children, Matthew (Megan) Davidson, Brooke (Yves) Davidson- Hoareau, Michael Davidson and Miciah Davidson; grandchildren, Dean & Lyla Davidson and Zoey Hoareau; siblings, Tony (Debbie) Brennan, Shelly Brennan, Dawn (Tracy) Kofstad and Robert Charles (Ranae) Davidson; and many nieces, nephews and extended family.

He is preceded in death by his brother, Dean; niece, Amanda; grandparents; and many special aunts and uncles.

The service to celebrate David’s life was held at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, July 24, 2019 at Johnson Funeral Service, Thief River Falls, with Rev. Carl Hansen officiating. Family and friends were welcomed for food and fellowship following the service and were invited to join as the family lay David to rest at Holt Cemetery.



In Memoriam

Darlene “Dolly” Davidson

January 3, 1933 – August 10, 2019

Darlene “Gramma Dolly” Davidson, 86 of Thief River Falls, MN, passed away with her loving family by her side on Saturday, August 10, 2019 at the Thief River Care Center in Thief River Falls, MN.

Memorial service was held at 2:00 PM on Friday, August 16, 2019 at St. Pauli Lutheran Church with Rev. Carl Hansen officiating. Burial followed at Holt Cemetery after the luncheon.

Darlene Delores Dahl was born January 3, 1933 in Thief River Falls, MN the daughter of Harry W. and Helen (Langer) Dahl. She was baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church.

Dolly attended Knox Elementary and graduated from Lincoln High School with the class of 1951. She went on to earn her LPN Degree in 1952. In her younger years, Dolly spent lots of time with her parents in North Dakota who were working with road construction.

Dolly was united in marriage to Robert J. Davidson on August 4, 1958 and the couple made their home in Thief River Falls.

Dolly was the bookkeeper for the family well drilling business throughout the years. Dolly worked at hospitals in North Dakota and Thief River Falls. She also worked at Oakland Park Nursing Home in Thief River Falls.

Hunting, fishing, playing cards, bingo and rummage sales were a favorite pastime. She loved spending time at their lake cabin at Clearwater Lake in Ontario, Canada and fishing Lake of the Woods. Dolly especially enjoyed her days as a homemaker raising her family. Dolly would never let the grass grow under her feet. She always said what she meant and meant what she said. She was very open-minded and ready

for adventure. She loved everyone and was eager to help anyone in need.

Dolly was a member of St. Pauli Lutheran Church, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2793 and was past-president of the Eagles Club in Thief River Falls.

Survivors include her husband, Robert; children, Tony (Debbie) Brennan, Shelly Brennan, Dawn (Tracy) Kofstad and Bobby (Ranae) Davidson; 9 grandchildren, Brooke (Yves) Davidson-Hoareau, Matthew (Megan) Davidson, Michael Davidson, Miciah Davidson, Justine Kofstad, Cody (Kayla) Kofstad, Desiree Baker, Annie & Dylan Davidson; 5 great-grandchildren, Dean & Lyla Davidson, Paisley & Briggs Kofstad and Zoey Hoareau; and many other special relatives and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents; sons, Dean Davidson and David Davidson; granddaughter, Amanda Hope Brennan; mother & father-in-law, Hilmer and Anna Davidson; and many other special relatives and friends.



In Memoriam

Myrtle Thune

April 14, 1923 – August 17, 2019

Myrtle and her husband Harvey were members of St. Pauli Church while they lived on what had been the Peder Thune homestead.

Myrtle Thune, 96, passed away August 17, 2019 at the Thief River Care Center.

Myrtle Ann Brady was born April 14, 1923, the third of six children born to John Joseph and Bertha Alvina (Hayes) Brady on the family farm in Flat Willow, MT. She attended country school in Montana for 10 years, until the family moved to Crookston, MN. Her mother left the family and Myrtle helped to raise her siblings.

She was baptized before her marriage to Harvey Piere Thune on June 2, 1942 at St. Pauli Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, MN. The couple made their home on the Thune farm near Hazel, MN. They then moved to Thief River Falls, MN in 1951.

She worked at Land O'Lakes and Larson's Style Shop, both in Thief River Falls. When Digi-Key was in its infancy, Myrtle worked in the garage in packaging, retiring when she was 65 years old. She enjoyed gardening, raising flowers, reading and quilting for all of her grandchildren. Myrtle was a member of Abundant Life Church, Thief River Falls.

Myrtle is survived by children: Sharon (Roger) Lappegaard, Thief River Falls, James (Linda Earline) Thune, Alpena, AR, and Michael Thune, Harrison, AR; grandchildren: Lori (Mike) Noll, Lisa Larson, Chad (Molly) Lappegaard, Jana (Sam) Inman, Jennifer (Zac) Masters, Angie Thune and Ricky

(Courtney) Thune; great grandchildren: Jacob, Joshua, Abby, Hunter, Riley, Sydney, Hayden, Grace, Wyatt, Natalie, Jeremiah, Brody, Caiden, Graysen, Kimberly, Austin; a sister Irene Merkel, Rapid City, SD and several nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband Harvey in 1975, son Richard in 1957, grandson Baby Lappegaard in infancy; three brothers: Charles Brady, Calvin Brady and Alvin Brady and a sister Mabel Nelson; brothers-in-law Herb Merkel and Russell (Jane)Thune, and sister-in-law Beverly Houston.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at 11:00am at Abundant Life Church in Thief River Falls with Reverend LeRoy Flickinger officiating. Burial was at Greenwood Cemetery, Thief River Falls. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service on Wednesday at Abundant Life Church.



In Memoriam

Orville Nelson

April 14, 1923 – August 21, 2019

Orville Paul Nelson was born November 14, 1932 in Thief River Falls, the son of Edwin and Evelyn (Peterson) Nelson. He was baptized on March 11, 1933 at St. Pauli Church with Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Snetting and Mr. and Mrs. Ole Lian as sponsors. He was confirmed June 22, 1947 at St. Pauli Lutheran Church.

After attending old Washington School District 221 near Hazel, MN, Orville attended Agricultural College in Crookston, MN. In the early 1950s he worked various jobs such as rolling logs at a Bemidji sawmill, repairing radios at the TRF Montgomery Ward radio department, and working for a TRF sign company making signs such as the TRF Bridgeman Dairy Company's neon sign.

He then served in the Army in the mid-50s before marrying Doris Mae Mackereth in Moorhead, MN on January 10, 1959. The couple made their home in Golden Valley, MN where Orville worked for Golden Valley TV Repair and where their four children were born. In the spring of 1968, Orville and his family returned to the Nelson farm in rural Thief River Falls where he farmed, drilled wells for Davidson Well Drilling, and later established O&D TV repair business.

As a young father he would often sing and play guitar and accordion for his children. Orville was an avid ham radio enthusiast whose call sign was "Barefoot Swede." With the advent of the Internet, he greatly enjoyed chat rooms as "Cold Toe" and connecting with people around the world. He liked reading about geology, geography, genealogy, and history. His television favorites included war documentaries, Perry Mason, and Hee Haw! Orville faithfully attended the annual Tractor Festival in Rollag, MN.

Survivors include his children Jean Marquis, Denise (Roger) Johnsrud, Bradley (Darcy) Nelson, and Patricia (Walter) Maurer; 12 grandchildren Dustin (Katie Jo) Marquis, Jason & Brandon Johnsrud, Matt (Jessica) Johnsrud, Shelly (Jason) Kruchowski, Holly Johnsrud, Timothy (Christine) Nelson, Travis (Ashlee) Nelson, Brady Nelson, Alyssa (Nathan) Hersey, Andrew and Shane Maurer; and 8 great-grandchildren: Kenley and Gabe Marquis Ruby, Grace and Maverick Kruchowski; Ethan, Keira and Declan Nelson.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Doris Mae (Mackereth) Nelson; sister Lois (Nelson) Ofstedahl; and grandchild Ariel Johnsrud. Burial was at St. Pauli Cemetery.

He delighted in putting a smile on anyone's face with his stories or a joke or two. He will be greatly missed by family and friends.



1947 Confirmation Class. Front Row left to right: Pastor Fjelstul, Ruby Alberg, Sylvia Lokken, Geraldine Torkelson. Back Row left to right: Reuben Finstad, Curtis Johnson, Orville Nelson, Dale Netteland, Jim Gilbertson.

When someone you love becomes a memory...
That memory becomes a treasure.

God Bless the Memories of Our Dear Loved Ones.

Minutes of the Church Council

June 20, 2019

The St. Pauli Church Council met on Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Pauli Church. Board Members present: Virginia Anderson, Ivette Garrett, Erin Rondorf, Arlo Rude and Pastor Carl Hansen.

The meeting was called to order by President Garrett. Pastor Carl opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed and approved after the addition of items c. d. e. under new business.

Secretary's Report: **M/S/C** (Rude/Anderson) to approve the May secretary's report.

Treasurer's Report: **M/S/C** (Rondorf/Anderson) to approve the report as presented for the month of May.

Balances as of 5/31/18:

Checking Account as of 1/1/19	\$ 21,496.15
Income	\$ 19,250.58
Expenses	\$ (17,489.42)
Checking Account as of 5/31/19	\$ 23,257.31
Investor Savings	\$ 36,327.96
Edward D. Jones Investments	\$ 67,478.01
Memorial Fund Savings & CD	\$ 10,914.63
Mission Grant Fund Balance	\$ 4,046.07
Education Fund Balance	\$ 517.52
Assets:	\$ 133,604.70
Total Church Funds:	\$ 142,541.50

Pastor's Report:

1) Pastor Bill Tesch was elected Bishop of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod at the Synod Assembly on June 9, 2019. Bishop-Elect Tesch's term begins on September 1, 2019 and concludes on August 31, 2025. Bishop-Elect Tesch served as a U.S. Army Chaplain for twenty years. He is currently the Evangelical Outreach Coordinator for the South Dakota Synod, ELCA. Tesch will be installed as Bishop on September 8, 2019 at 4 pm by ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead. Pastor Carl is planning to attend the service and would be happy to have a car full of St. Pauli

members joining him.

- 2) Bishop Larry Wohlrabe will conclude his 12 years of service as Synod Bishop on August 31, 2019, as will Assistant to the Bishop Laurie Natwick. Both Bishop Wohlrabe and Pastor Natwick are retiring after their 12 years of superb service to the Northwestern Minnesota Synod. Please keep Pastor Tesch, Bishop Wohlrabe and Pastor Natwick in your prayers.
- 3) Pastor Carl will be taking his family to a Twin's game on July 6 and will be on vacation Sunday, July 7.
- 4) He is leading worship at Trinity, TRF, at 9am on June 16, June 23, August 18 and August 25.
- 5) He is happy to report that attendance at Luther Seminary has increased. We pray that this trend may continue.

Reports of members in sickness or distress: Prayers were given for various members experiencing sickness.

New members or interest in membership: No report given.

Reports:

- 1) WELCA: N/A.
- 2) Board of Education: N/A.
- 3) Other: N/A.

Old Business:

- 1) Carpet on entry step: Will be replaced as it is worn.

New Business:

- 1) Sound System: The new system sounds good and is functioning well.
- 2) Pulpit supply is needed for July 7th.
- 3) Rude has enrolled us in auto pay to cover the Sjoberg's bill.
- 4) Rude reported that the roofing project is complete, and the total was under the quoted price.
- 5) Council approved \$665 for flood relief for the ELCA Disaster Relief (half of budgeted funds).

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

M/S/C (Rude/Rondorf) to adjourn.

Erin Rondorf, Secretary

July 18, 2019

The St. Pauli Church Council met on Thursday, July 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Board Members present: Virginia Anderson, Gary Iverson, Erin Rondorf, Arlo Rude and Pastor Carl Hansen. The meeting was called to order by Virginia Anderson. Pastor Carl opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed and approved as submitted.

Secretary's Report: **M/S/C** (Rude/Anderson) to approve the June secretary's report.

Treasurer's Report: **M/S/C** (Anderson/Rondorf) to approve the treasurer's report as presented for the month of June.

Balances as of June 30, 2019:

Checking Account as of 1/01/19	\$ 21,496.15
Revenue	\$ 21,724.69
Expenses	\$ (25,382.19)
Checking Account as of 6/30/19	\$ 17,838.65
Investor Savings	\$ 36,347.07
Edward D. Jones Investments	\$ 69,159.76
Memorial Fund Savings & CD	\$ 11,034.98
Mission Grant Fund Balance	\$ 4,047.53
Education Fund Balance	\$ 517.71
Assets as of 6/30/19:	\$ 134,260.69
Total Church Funds as of 6/30/19:	\$ 138,945.70

Pastor's Report:

- 1) Bishop-Elect Tesch will be installed as Northwest Minnesota Bishop on September 8, 2019 at 4pm by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead. Pastor Carl is planning to attend the service and would be happy to have a car full of St. Paul members joining him.
- 2) David Davidson has passed away. Pastor Carl will be meeting Friday with the family to plan the service. The funeral will be held at Johnson's Funeral Home on Wednesday, July 24th.
- 3) We will begin using Setting 10 of the liturgy on July 28th. We will resume use of Setting 8 on the first Sunday in Advent.
- 4) The Northwest Minnesota Synod is asking Synod congregations to consider taking up a special "Catch-Up" offering to help the Synod catch up with the loss of income occasioned by last winter's adverse weather. He encourages St. Pauli to participate in a "Catch-Up" Sunday offering.

Reports of members in sickness or distress: Prayers were given for various members experiencing sickness.

New members or interest in membership: No report given.

Reports:

- 1) WELCA: Received a generous Thank You for providing the lunch following Brad Swanson's burial.
- 2) Board of Education: The Board will meet Sunday, July 21st at 9:15am to discuss the upcoming year.

Old Business:

- 1) Carpet on the entry step: Rondorf will seek out options and pricing from Five Star Flooring in St. Hilaire.

New Business:

- 1) South flowerbed: The ever-growing chore of weeding and maintaining has increased. Different options were discussed to help. Rondorf suggested options be brought to the council to consider that would help with weeding, e.g. mulch. Thanks to Virginia and Ron Anderson who weeded the bed earlier in July.
- 2) West side of building: Rude discussed repairs that will be done prior to planting fresh grass before the 125th anniversary celebration.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

M/S/C (Iverson/Rude) to adjourn.

Erin Rondorf, Secretary

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WELCA Minutes

June 26, 2019

The St. Pauli Women of the ELCA met on June 26th at Valley Home at 7 pm with nine members present.

President Jan Strandlie called the meeting to order and led us in devotions and prayer. She shared an article about conditions in border facilities for refugees. She urged members to contact our legislators to voice concerns and provided their names and contact information.

Secretary's report was read by Cindy Cedergren in Sharon Bugge's absence. It was approved as read.

The treasurer's report was given by Faye Auchenpaugh and was approved as read.

Jan read various correspondence from Project 24 in Kenya, Lutheran Social Services, and Skip and Talli Swanson, along with a thank you gift of \$200 from them for serving the lunch on June 16th.

Jan reported that we can still donate to the Child Safety Council for this year and be listed as a donor. It was agreed at last month's meeting to donate \$75.00. She also submitted ideas to the "Building a Bigger Table Challenge," but our ideas weren't chosen in the random drawing held at the Synod Assembly.

Jan thanked everyone who prepared and served lunch after service on June 16th in honor of Brad Swanson and for visiting guests: Carolyn Swanson and her daughters (family of the late Pastor James Swanson).

New Business: A watering schedule for church flower beds was discussed. Volunteers signed up at the meeting, and Jan will send out an email asking for more volunteers for the month of August. It was noted that the weeds on the south side are very bad and need to be dug out. This matter will also be brought up at Council, if needed. The west side of the church needs work as well.

125th Anniversary committee members Virginia Anderson and Faye Auchenpaugh asked members if they thought the first weekend in August 2020 would be suitable for the celebration. They are planning a two-day event in addition to a special service in January 2020 to commemorate the first service held for the St. Pauli Congregation. The committee consists of Faye, Virginia, Ivette Garrett, Bruce Mathson, and Erin Rondorf. It was noted that River Fest is typically held the first weekend in August and may be of interest to guests from out of town.

Prayer partners were exchanged, offering taken, and the Lord's Prayer prayed.

Faye Auchenpaugh provided the program, sharing her experiences of being a delegate to the Synod Assembly held at Concordia College in Moorhead in June. She and Ivette were delegates, along with Pastor Carl. She shared the process of electing the new Synod Bishop, Pastor Bill Tesch from South Dakota who will be assuming his duties on Sept. 1.

Table blessing prayed. Lunch served by Faye.



The Rev. Bill Tesch Elected Bishop of Northwestern Minnesota Synod

After five ballots, more than 400 Rostered Leaders and Lay Voting Members of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) have called Pastor Bill Tesch as its Bishop-Elect.

"I'm incredibly excited!" Bishop-elect Tesch said. "This is an amazing call, it's an amazing honor. I'm deeply humbled and I'm still processing it and will be doing so for a while. I'm grateful to God and to the people of this synod for this opportunity."

"This is the beginning of an exciting collaboration with the people of this synod as we explore how to be the church in the twenty-first century, how to reach people with the exciting good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ," Bishop-Elect Tesch says. "I'll be collaborating with the people of this synod to explore how we can raise up leaders, both rostered and lay leaders, across our synod to serve congregations, especially our rural congregations. I'll also be exploring how we can collaborate and reach out to people who have experienced marginalization, including our Native American brothers and sisters."

In the ELCA, Synod Bishops serve six-year terms. According to the Synod's Constitution, the bishop is elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. The fifth and final ballot results were: 265 Pastor Bill Tesch, Sioux Falls, SD; 161 Pastor Genelle Netland, Bemidji, MN. A simple majority of votes was needed on this final ballot.

Pastor Tesch's personal mission statement is: "A Follower of Jesus: Creating Gospel Collaborations with Faithfulness, Authenticity and Love."

Tesch, who grew up in Green Bay, Wisconsin, has been serving as the Director of Evangelical Mission and Associate to the Bishop in South Dakota since 2007. He also serves as a Chaplain in the United States Military (South Dakota Air National Guard) and is a senior leader holding the rank of Colonel. Pastor Tesch's responsibilities with the military will come to a close near the end of 2020.

Pastor Tesch has served in South Dakota since his Ordination in 1989. Before his election to Bishop, he served first as Pastor of a two-point rural and small-town congregation (St. Paul and St Peter in Humboldt and Orland

and then as the Founding Pastor and later Sr. Pastor of Messiah New Hope in Sioux Falls, and finally as Director of Evangelical Mission and Associate to the Bishop on the South Dakota Synod staff.

Education: Pastor Tesch is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Madison and Luther Seminary as well as the USAF Air War College, Air Command and Staff College, the Air Force Basic Chaplain's Course and Officer's Training School.

He is married to Chris Tesch who teaches Nursing at the University of South Dakota. He and Chris have two adult children. In his spare time Pastor Tesch enjoys exercise, hunting, fishing, book club, entertaining friends and family... and a host of other hobbies for which he says he really has no time!

The new bishop will assume office on September 1, 2019. Reverend Dr. Lawrence Wohlrabe, who began his ministry as NW MN Synod Bishop on September 1, 2007, is retiring effective the same date. Bishop Tesch's installation will be held September 8, 2019, at Trinity Lutheran Church (210 7th St S) in Moorhead.



Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton Re-Elected

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton was re-elected presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Aug. 6 at the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

On the first ballot, 897 votes were cast and 670 votes were needed for election. Eaton received 725 votes, which is 81.19% of the vote.

Eaton is the first ELCA presiding bishop to win re-election on the first ballot. She was elected to a first term as presiding bishop at the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Pittsburgh.

What Might it Mean to Be a Sanctuary Church Body?

By Bishop Larry Wohlrabe and Bishop-Elect Bill Tesch, NW MN Synod ELCA

On Wednesday, August 7, 2019, voting members of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted a memorial that included an amendment “to declare the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America a sanctuary church body.”

CA19.03.11 Churchwide Memorial Declaring the ELCA a Sanctuary Church Body

To receive with gratitude the memorial from the Metropolitan New York Synod concerning sanctuary;

To reaffirm the long-term and growing commitment of this church to migrants and refugees and to the policy questions involved, as exemplified most recently in the comprehensive strategy “Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities” (AMMPARO);

To recognize that the ELCA in congregations, synods and the churchwide organization are already taking the actions requested by this memorial; and

To request that appropriate staff on the AMMPARO team, LIRS, and the Domestic Mission, Global Mission, and Mission Advancement units review the existing strategies and practices by the five current sanctuary synods and develop a plan for additional tools that provide for education and discernment around sanctuary;

To declare the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America a sanctuary church body; and

To request the ELCA Church Council, in consultation with the appropriate churchwide units and offices, provide guidance for the three expressions of this church about what it means to be a sanctuary church body and provide a report to the 2022 Churchwide Assembly.

Unfortunately this action was picked up by a national cable news network that broadcast a five-minute “discussion” by three panelists, *none of whom were present at the Churchwide Assembly, nor are they members of the ELCA or authorized to speak on behalf of the ELCA.* The broadcast conveyed misinformation about the Assembly's action, implying that ELCA congregations would simply ignore U.S. law, which is not true. Also, a panelist implied that undocumented immigrants carry disease and pose a public health risk, which is also not true.

So what might it actually mean for our ELCA to be a “sanctuary church body?” In response to this legitimate question, ELCA leaders familiar with our church's strategy for engaging issues around immigration and refugees have offered the following information:

- In its simplest form, becoming a sanctuary denomination means that the ELCA is publicly declaring that walking alongside immigrants and refugees is a matter of faith. The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the highest legislative authority of the ELCA, declared that when we preach on Sunday that Jesus told us to welcome, we will use our hands and voices on Monday to make sure it happens.
- We have a broken system regarding immigration, refugees and asylum-seekers. To declare ourselves a sanctuary

church body is to say that we seek to provide concrete resources to assist the most vulnerable who are feeling the sharp edges of this broken system.

- Being a sanctuary denomination is about loving our neighbors. While we may have different ideas about how to fix this broken system and may have different ways of loving our neighbors, our call to love our neighbor is central to our faith.
- Being a sanctuary denomination will look different in different contexts. It may mean providing space for people to live; providing financial and legal support to those who are working through the immigration system; or supporting other congregations and service providers. The ELCA churchwide organization cannot mandate or direct our congregations and ministries to respond in specific ways. Each must work out what this means for them in their context.
- While we don't yet know the full scope of the work that this declaration will open for the ELCA, we do know that our faith communities are already doing sanctuary work. Sanctuary for a congregation may mean hosting English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, marching as people of faith against the detention of children and families, providing housing for a community member facing deportation, or, in some of our congregations, having thoughtful conversations about what our faith says about immigration. All of these are a step closer to sanctuary in our faith communities and sanctuary in our world for people who must leave their homes.
- Except for our members whose ancestors were here before European settlement or others who were forced to come to the U.S. against their will, the ELCA is an immigrant church. Our decades-long work with immigrants and refugee is how we practice our faith in the world. Lutherans started Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), one of the nine refugee resettlement agencies in the U.S.
- At our 2016 Churchwide Assembly, we also committed to walking alongside Central American children and families fleeing their communities by passing the AMMPARO strategy (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities).
- Through the AMMPARO strategy, we are also working through our global partners in Central America to alleviate the conditions that cause people to migrate. We support organizations and faith communities that work with deported migrants in Central America and advocate for the humane treatment of immigrants in Mexico. In the U.S., we have a network of 151 welcoming and sanctuary congregations that are committed to working on migration issues and a welcome for immigrant communities. The church also has five sanctuary synods (our regional structures), all of which do work with immigrants, refugees and asylum-seekers.

- In baptism, we are brought into a covenantal relationship with Jesus Christ that commits us to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Following the example of Martin Luther, we believe that advocacy is a crucial expression of baptismal identity. As a church, we have advocated for stopping the detention of children and families for decades. We have spoken out against family separation, sought a pathway to citizenship for community members that have lived in the U.S. for many years, and have taken steps to address the root causes of migration in a way that honors the humanity in people who must flee.

- Being a sanctuary denomination means that we, as church together, want to be public and vocal about this work. At the same time, we will have conversations about what sanctuary means with many of our members and discern future action and direction. For us, welcoming people is first and foremost a matter of faith which impacts how we live out all our vocations in God's world, including our political life.



Sharon Josephson Elected Vice President of NW Minnesota Synod

On the third ballot, more than 400 Rostered Leaders and Lay Voting Members representing churches of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) have elected Sharon Josephson of Detroit Lakes, MN, as Synod Vice President.

Josephson received 214 votes; John Wold of Underwood, MN received 208 votes. 212 Votes were needed to be elected Vice President.

"I am honored to have been elected vice president of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA. The Holy Spirit is working in amazing ways as we elect a new bishop today," Josephson said. "I promise to support and help the leadership of the synod as we move into the adventure of God's plan for the future."

Josephson is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Detroit Lakes, where she has served in a number of roles on committees and as a 3-term congregational president. She has also served as the chair of the Bishop Election Committee, a member of Synod Council, and a 2-time

Churchwide Assembly voting member. She is a retired Senior High School social studies teacher and is a former congressional staff member for Congressman Collin Peterson.

The Vice President is a lay person who chairs the Synod Council, and in the event of a bishop's death, resignation or disability, would consult with the Presiding ELCA Bishop to convene the Northwestern MN Synod Council to arrange for the conduct of duties of the bishop until a new bishop shall be elected or until the bishop can resume full performances of the duties of office.

Salem of Rural Stephen Holds Closing Worship Service

On Saturday, June 22, Salem Lutheran Church of rural Stephen, MN, was packed with members and friends for its closing service of worship. After 136 years of mission and ministry, the members of Salem had decided last January that it was time to say "Mission Accomplished."

The celebration of Salem's life coincided with their annual Midsummer Picnic and Sale, a tradition treasured by Swedish immigrants like those who founded Salem in 1883.

Over Salem's long history, the congregation raised up at least four pastors and two deaconesses. Three of the "children" of Salem who became pastors of the ELCA were present and participated in the service of closure: retired Pr. Peter Schmidt of West Fargo, retired Pr. Marlene Anderson of Moorhead, and Pr. Janna Kontz who serves with Hospice of the Red River Valley in Fargo. Each of them offered greetings to the worshipers and helped lead the liturgy for "retiring" the key places of Word and Sacrament ministry: the Pulpit, the Altar, and the Baptismal Font.

Greetings from several former pastors were read by Marilyn Grandstrand, president of the congregation, and two additional former pastors were present. Pastor George and Nancy Johnson, who now live in southern Ontario, reminisced

on their time of service at Salem. Pastor Curtis and Darlene Matz had come all the way from Fairbanks, AK, to recall their years of service (Darlene served as a Synodically Authorized Minister alongside her husband) when Salem was part of the Four Crosses parish.

Bishop Larry Wohlrabe preached the sermon, based on the celebration's theme text, John 15:1-11 (the Vine and the branches). He also led the closing liturgy before the final ringing of the church bell.

During the service Ms. Grandstrand announced the final distribution of assets of the congregation. She remarked that initially some members thought that all the assets should simply go to the Salem Cemetery Association, which is taking over the land, the building and its upkeep. But other members



thought the assets should all go toward mission endeavors in the wider world.

The members of Salem compromised, leading to the following distribution plan for Salem's remaining financial assets:

\$10,000 (in a Certificate of Deposit) will go to the cemetery association, earmarked for use in the future, when its board determines it is time to raze the church building.

The remaining cash assets, after all bills are paid, will be distributed as follows:

- 30% to the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;
- 10% to Pathways Bible Camps;
- 20% to the synod's Next Generation Fund (the synod endowment fund);

- 20% to the NW MN Synod Fund for Leaders Endowment;
- 20% to the Salem Cemetery Association.

Ironically, this distribution of remaining assets reflected an intriguing tidbit from Salem's history. Way back in 1886, when members of Salem needed to raise the "huge sum" (back then!) of \$100 to pay the workmen who were erecting Salem's church building, an appeal for contributions went out to all members of Salem. Times were tough economically though, and they struggled to come up with the entire \$100. But then Salem received a gift "out of the blue" of \$54.29 from the Alexandria District of the Augustana Lutheran Church—Salem's "synod" back in the 1880s! In other words: just as Salem in 1886 received crucial funds from the wider church, so now in 2019 Salem is giving gifts to the wider church, to help other congregations in their mission and ministries.

Story and photo by Bishop Larry Wohlraabe



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ST. PAULI FALL EVENT

**Sunday, October 13, 2019
3:00 pm**

**An afternoon of FUN, with musical entertainment
by Cathy Erickson and whomever she brings
to keep our toes tapping!**

**She has stories to tell of her various engagements
traveling the country with her accordion, farming,
or hosting a radio show. She's been one busy gal!**

Annual Fundraiser with proceeds supporting various charities.

**Homemade pie & ice cream following the program.
Pies for sale while supplies last.**

Freewill Donation

**St. Pauli Church is located at 11015 170th Ave NE, Thief River Falls, just six miles south of
Thief River Falls on Hwy. 59 & County Road 20.**

Everyone is welcome!

THE BACK PAGE



Rest Stop God Moment

Reflection by Dana (Torkelson) Connett

One concept that has stuck with me from my time as a confirmation guide is “God moments.” We were often challenged to be on the lookout for God moments in our lives during the week. On July 19, God was not just in a moment; rather, He was encircling my family and holding in the palm of His hand the family of Jim at a South Dakota rest stop.

My family was traveling toward the Badlands and Black Hills of South Dakota in a rented RV. Only an hour after leaving Sioux Falls our first morning, I suddenly felt a need to stretch. (Although I had broken my hip and injured my knee this winter and was still struggling with pain and stiffness, I was normally able to sit a few hours at a time.) We pulled into the next rest area and planned to visit the little roadside chapel there; however, on the sidewalk was a woman on her phone who seemed quite distraught. We stopped to see if she was okay, and she said her husband, Jim, was in a diabetic coma and she was on with an emergency dispatcher.

Keith went to assess the situation and sprinted to the RV for some juice. He motioned the girls and me away from the picnic shelter where Jim lay, as he didn’t want the girls to witness what was unfolding, nor did we want to invade the family’s privacy. While Keith tried to assist Jim’s daughter, a hospice nurse, with CPR, the girls and I wept, held each other, and prayed for the ambulance to arrive, for healing, and for comfort for their family.



“...we may be asked to be God’s hands, feet, and heart in even the most unlikely places.”

-Dana Connett

When the on-call EMTs finally arrived, the girls in brightly colored T-shirts ran to the parking lot to direct the ambulance to Jim’s location. Keith and the EMTs got Jim onto the gurney but, sadly, it was too late. Jim’s wife rounded the corner of the shelter with vacant eyes and told me he had passed away. All I could do was embrace her, cry with her, and let her know that we would be praying for her. I knew that although Jim was with God, for the moment, those left behind would feel alone.

As we got back into the RV, I was reminded that we may be asked to be God’s hands, feet, and heart in even the most unlikely places. This “eternal rest” stop experience reinforced our common humanity, grieving for a stranger purely because he is a fellow child of God.

God moments occur around us every day but often go unnoticed...until a God event jolts us out of our complacency.

Proverbs 16:9 In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their shapes.