

St. Pauli News in Detail



St. Pauli Cemetery Association

Thursday, January 16, 2020
8:00 pm

St. Pauli Congregation

Sunday, February 2, 2020
11:30 am

Potluck dinner at 12:30 pm
Freewill offering to benefit Hospice

Pastor Carl will be on vacation the entire month of January, so the Congregational Annual Meeting will be held the first Sunday in February.

IMPORTANT: Designated persons must submit their organizational reports to Erin Rondorf no later than January 19th for inclusion in the St. Pauli Annual Report. The booklets will be ready for review on January 23rd.

Submittals can be made in electronic (Word or Excel) or typed paper formats. Please email to erin.rondorf@gmail.com, or place in Erin's church mailbox.

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Pulpit Supply

A huge "Thank You" to Kari Torkelson for being so willing and so very able to provide lay leadership on January 5 and 12. Finishing the month are lay pastors Russ Steer (January 19) and Phyllis Johnson, VP Eastern ND Synod (January 26).

Greeting and Ushering

Jan. 5 Marc Haugen
Jan. 12 Ryan Haugen
Jan. 19 Darin Hurst
Jan. 26 Larry Hurst



Altar Preparation: Barb Nelson

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St. Pauli Handbook

Be sure to check your church mailbox & pick up your 2020 Handbook.

It contains the schedules for St. Pauli meetings and events, cleaning/ushering schedules, contact information, and much more. Thanks go to Jan Strandlie for updating this handbook each year.

Extra 2019 calendars and *Christ in our Home* devotion booklets are also available for pickup on the table below the mailboxes.

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January Milestones

Birthdays

Jan. 13 Noah Haugen
Jan. 17 Erin Rondorf

Anniversaries

Jan. 3 Jim and Jan Strandlie

In Memoriam

Lenard Swanson

*Lenard was the brother of two St. Pauli members:
Skip Swanson and Sharon Bugge.*



Lenard Swanson, 91 of Thief River Falls, MN passed away peacefully on Monday, December 16, 2019 at Sanford Thief River Falls Medical Center with his loving family at his side.

Lenord James Swanson was born on July 28, 1928 in Thief River Falls, the second of ten children born to George and Kate (Anton) Swanson. He was baptized into the Lutheran faith in St. Hilaire, MN. Lenord graduated from Lincoln High School in Thief River Falls in 1947.

Lenord entered the Armed Services in 1947 and served at Camp Gordon, Georgia until his honorable discharge in 1951. He also served for several years in the National Guard.

On June 19, 1951, Lenord was united in marriage to Marlys Claire Elseth at Zion Lutheran Church in Thief River Falls. To this union three children were born: Kathi Jo, Jani, and Hal. The family lived in rural Thief River Falls from 1956 until 2017.

Lenord worked for Maves Standard Oil Station in Thief River Falls until returning to the family farm in 1955 where he farmed in partnership with his two brothers, Chester and Donald. This farm was established in 1928 by George and Kate Swanson and is still owned by the family today. Lenord and his brothers were considered to be very progressive farmers, known for their operation's size and innovation. It included dairy, poultry, hog, and grain operations. Lenord continued to actively manage the farm until the age of 89.

Farming was his life's passion.

Lenord enjoyed spending time with his family, his siblings and their families. He was a very social guy who loved to dance.

In April of 2002 he was united in marriage to Dorothy Pederson at the Evangelical Covenant Church in Thief River Falls.

Lenord served on the boards of Production Credit Association and Farm Service Agency for nine years and was also a member of the American Legion. He was a lifelong member of Zion Lutheran Church in Thief River Falls.

Lenord is survived by two daughters: Kathi Jo (Rick) Arbues of Fallbrook, CA, and Jani (Mike) Wiebolt of Motley, MN; son, Hal (Tamie) Swanson of Baxter, MN; six grandchildren: Ryan and Spencer Arbues, Michael and Ben Wiebolt, Randie (Nate) Blumhagen, and Cam Swanson; four siblings: Lillian "Mickey" Richards, Oliver "Skip" Swanson, Leslie Swanson, and Sharon (Neil) Bugge; sister-in-law, Shirley Swanson all of Thief River Falls; and many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

He was preceded in death by wife, Marlys; his second wife, Dorothy; his parents, Kate and George Swanson; siblings: Chester Swanson, Eleanor Swanson, Donald Swanson, Clifford Swanson, and Dennis Swanson; sisters-in-law: Patricia Swanson, Janet Swanson, Cerise Swanson, and Bernadette Swanson; and brother-in-law, Charles Richards.

The funeral service to celebrate Lenord's life was held at 11:00 am on Friday, December 20, 2019 at Zion Lutheran Church in Thief River Falls with Rev. John Golv and Rev. Ale Tulu officiating. Burial was at Greenwood Cemetery in Thief River Falls.

Visitation was held from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm with a 6:00 pm prayer service on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at Johnson Funeral Service in Thief River Falls. Visitation also took place one hour prior to the funeral service on Friday at the church.

God Bless the Memory of Leonard Swanson

Historic Minutes of the St. Pauli Congregation

*In commemoration of the 125th anniversary of St. Pauli's first Annual Meeting,
the minutes and constitution are herein printed.*

3 January 1895

The annual meeting of the St. Pauli Norwegian-Lutheran congregation was held in the schoolhouse on January 3, 1895. At the meeting Pastor Evensen acted as chairman and Pete Paulson as secretary.

Mr. A. A. Odegaard with wife and four children were admitted as members of the congregation. The constitution was read by the chairman and accepted by the congregation of St. Pauli congregation. Sponsors from Thief River Falls congregation admitted.

As trustees the following were elected:

- A. A. Odegaard, trustee for 3 years
- Gilbert Skjerva, trustee for 2 years
- Pete Paulsen, secretary for 1 year
- Ole Pedersen, treasurer for 1 year

John Skjerva church singer [*kirkesanger*] for indeterminate time proposed that the regular annual meeting shall be held in early December. Before the end of December the pastor's salary shall be paid to the trustees and this was unanimously accepted.

Proposed that every home-owning member of the congregation, or family breadwinner, shall pay annually \$3.00 towards the pastor's salary. This was accepted.

A. A. Odegaard is nominated to allot gravesites for the congregation, unless the grave site is distributed in lots to families belonging to the congregation. But for those not belonging to the congregation, who wish to bury theirs, we will demand 50 cents for every grave. This was unanimously accepted.

Upon proposal the meeting was ended.

P. Paulsen, secretary

Copied by Pete Semonson

Menighedens Constitusien (1894)

§ 1.

The name of our congregation shall be: St. Pauli Norwegian Evangelical-Lutheran Congregation, Pennington Co., Minnesota.

§ 2.

This congregation recognizes the Holy Word of God, as it is revealed in the Old and New Testaments canonical books, as the only source, rule and guide for faith, teaching and learning.

§ 3.

We will in everything stay true to the genuine, old evangelical-Lutheran faith, because it emanates from the clear fountain of God's word.

§ 4.

The congregation professes itself adherent of the symbolical books of the Lutheran church, because these offer a true and unadulterated presentation of the teaching contained in the word of God.

These symbolical books are:

1. The Apostles' Creed
2. The Nicene Confession
3. The Athenasian Confession
4. The Confession of Augsburg, or the confession that was delivered to Emperor Charles V at the Convention in Augsburg in the year 1530
5. The Apologia of the Confession of Augsburg
6. The Schmalkaldian articles
7. Dr. Martin Luther's shorter catechism
8. Dr. Martin Luther's greater catechism
9. The Concordance formula

§ 5.

This congregation will not appoint or employ anyone as pastor or spiritual guide, unless this person is legally tried, in good order called, and initiated according to the Church into the spiritual office, or unless he has committed himself to all the canonical books of the Holy Scriptures as the manifest word of God, and to the symbolical books, listed in paragraph 4. Above all he must obey our doctrine mentioned above, and profess and also endeavour to set the congregation a good example, and to be faithful in his duties both to great and small.

§ 6.

The divine service actions in the congregation shall be performed according to the ritual of the Church of Norway dated 1685, and Altarbook of 1688. However, these may be modified as the congregation, owing to the circumstances, may find it suitable to decide.

§7.

Whoever wants to join the congregation will apply to its pastor, who will acquire and inform about the relevant particulars. For the admission of an adult the following is required:

- a. that the person concerned must be christened in a Christian baptismal rite
- b. at least have as much knowledge in Scripture as is required from a confirmee
- c. not be guilty of any apparent sin, but strive to live according to Christian morals
- d. adopt the fundamental rules of the congregation, and follow what is decided by the congregation, provided that this is not contrary to the word of God, and allow himself in brotherly love to be admonished, should he have done wrong.

The pastor of the congregation will present the application at the next service or meeting, and at the first congregational meeting after the application, the applicant shall be admitted into the congregation if he is present and willing to follow the fundamental rules of the congregation. On being asked about these rules the applicant shall answer a distinct "Ja". Thereupon is voted with ordinary acclamation.

Thereupon the pastor shall wish him welcome and briefly direct to him and the congregation some admonitory words about Christian conviviality and work in faith and love. Should it, at the accepting of new members of the congregation, become apparent or come about, that there is not agreement, then the admission of the person concerned shall be postponed until a later meeting.

§8.

The duties of a member of the congregation are:

- a. By the Grace of God to beware of sin and offence; on the other hand to endeavor to live according to Christian morals

- b. with devotion and diligence to use the holy (measures? standards?) for the awakening and augmenting of faith and the confirming of love
- c. take part in the meetings of the congregation and thereby promote further religious edification of the congregation
- d. from confirmation onwards, according to his ability, contribute to the expenses of the congregation and to the preservation and propagation of the Church of God as the Lord has taught us to pray: "Thy Kingdom come".

To work so that a brotherly love and confidence can exist between pastor and congregation and between the members of the congregation, in that everybody helps with his particular ability.

§ 9.

The congregation shall every year hold its annual congregational meeting for the election of trustees and other officials. The trustees of the congregation shall deal with its economical matters, in the way that the congregation has instructed them.

§ 10.

Besides the annual meeting mentioned, the congregation can also hold meetings as often as it finds suitable. Summons to these meetings will be announced by the parish pastor at the preceding service or by a proclamation signed by him.

§ 11.

If a majority of trustees or ten voting members of the congregation in writing to the pastor request that a congregational meeting be held on a certain mentioned day, the pastor is under obligation to summon to the meeting. If then the Pastor fails or refuses to assemble the meeting, one of the trustees can in writing demand the meeting called for.

If, in absence of the pastor, a matter that cannot be postponed demands to be settled by a meeting of the congregation, it can be convened by a majority of trustees. This paragraph applies only on condition that the meeting can not be held until after the lapse of three days following that the summons has reached all the members entitled to vote in the congregation.

§ 12.

The congregation's meetings are as a rule presided over by the pastor as a chairman. In case of the pastor's absence or when special circumstances make it desirable, the members can elect another chairman.

§ 13.

The power of the congregation in [*illegible*] in external and internal management of clerical and congregational matters. The congregation has no right, however, to arrange or decide anything whatsoever against the word of God's symbolical books. If it does so, then all actions and resolutions are invalid.

§ 14.

The right to speak and vote at congregational meetings only belongs to the male members of the congregation, who

- a) are 21 years old,
- b) annually contribute to the expenses of the congregation, unless they are exempt from it by the congregation. He, who has not for a whole year contributed anything to the congregation, has thereby lost his right to vote,
- c) has not been taken in ("*tukf*" can mean either to be disciplined or to live respectably) by the congregation,
- d) is not according to decisions of the congregation from other reasons deprived of his right to vote.

§ 15.

It is the duty of the members of the congregation to take part in their meetings. Whoever does not appear cannot exercise his right to vote, but shall have to accept the decisions of the congregation.

§ 16.

Special matters or matters of conscience can not be decided upon by voting, but only according to the word of God, the symbolical books of our Church.

§ 17.

Two thirds of the votes are necessary

- a) on election of pastor or schoolteacher, after the congregation first have agreed upon candidates to be elected,
- b) on receiving or initiating speech or voting rights,
- c) on changing or adding to the congregation's order.

In difficult cases the congregation should seek advice from experienced and pious brethren in the faith. Moreover other matters are settled by direct voting, and should both sides be equal, after all together with the chairman have voted, then one person whom the chairman chooses, blindfolded picks out one ballot, and the other ballots are re-counted again.

§ 18.

To be trustees and other positions of trust, can only be elected such persons of the congregation who are capable both in practical and Christian confession, such men who show fervour and zeal for the word of God, and are regular in hearing the public preaching of the word and take part in the Lord's Supper.

§ 19.

All officials of the congregation can in Christian order be removed or discharged from his position. Well-founded reasons for dismissing a pastor or school teacher are stubborn and despite warning instance of false teachings, offensive behaviour or continuous unfaithfulness in his office.

§ 20.

It is in the duty of everyone confirmed member of the congregation, according to his capacity, to contribute to the maintenance of church and school, and help to settle the debt in case the congregation has one. If any person during one year does not contribute to the expenses of the congregation, and has not been exempt by the congregation owing to poverty, then he shall be admonished in a brotherly way.

§ 21.

If a member, in accordance with the word of God, is suspended from the congregation, then such person shall have no rights in the congregation, and shall lose all right to the property of the congregation, and the same shall apply to whoever resigns from the congregation.

§ 22.

Should, the grace of God forbid, a disruption arise in this congregation, then shall the property of the congregation, personal or real belong to the party which, besides being loyal to the rules of this congregation, remains true to the word of God and the symbolical books, and demands that pastor and schoolteacher commit themselves to these. While dealing with such matters that are mentioned in this paragraph, majority of those present is not valid, but there must be a majority of all the voting members of the congregation.

§ 23.

Of these paragraphs the following shall remain immutable: 2-3-4-5-13-16-19-21-22 and this paragraph. Remaining paragraphs may be changed or new ones added, such changes or additions may, however, never conflict with any of the immutable paragraphs, nor be decided upon other than on the regular annual meetings or after a proposal about it has been presented in writing at a conducted service at least two months earlier.

§ 24.

These congregational regulation shall take effect as from it has been accepted.

Minutes of the Church Council

November 21, 2019

The St. Pauli Church Council met on Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 7:00 PM at St. Pauli Church. Members present: Ivette Garrett, Virginia Anderson and Gary Iverson. Members absent: Pastor Carl Hansen, Arlo Rude and Erin Rondorf.

The meeting was called to order by President Garrett.

Secretary's Report:

In the absence of Secretary Rondorf, Virginia Anderson acted as Secretary and no secretary's report was available to be read. It will be acted upon at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Arlo Rude was absent but had presented the council with his report. There were a couple of questions about the report that need to be addressed at our next meeting.

Pastor's Report:

Due to his absence, there was no Pastor's report.

Report of members in sickness or distress:

Larry Hurst was mentioned but we didn't have a current update as to his health.

New members or interest in membership: G. Lane was asked to join the group that goes for lunch after church and it was decided that we would approach him about joining the congregation at a later date.

Reports:

- WELCA's Northland Rescue Mission Baskets of Promise was discussed and the opportunity to bring items will be presented to the congregation to share in this project before Christmas.
- Board of Education: it was reported that the Christmas program will be on December 22 with potluck to follow.

- Constitution and Bylaws Committee: it was reported that the project is pretty well done.

Old Business:

We will talk about obtaining a Smart TV at the annual meeting.

New Business:

- a. It was brought to our attention that Danita Torkelson has been voluntarily mowing the cemetery grass this past summer. Her son is buried there. We need to find out if we have been paying someone else to mow also.
- b. Our telephone bill is being paid by the church women. Does the church need to pay that bill, or should be this matter be brought up at the annual meeting?
- c. 125th Anniversary was discussed. Kathy Alberg is on the decorating committee and needs to be paid up to \$100 for decorations she has purchased. The church women would also like improvements to our church bathroom in the form of remodeling, a new sink, and putting in a vanity. This needs to be brought up at the annual meeting as the cost would come to more than \$500. Ideas had been discussed at the prior WELCA meeting.
- d. The subject of our annual Christmas tree was brought up and it was decided that we should look for a Fraser fir that typically doesn't shed needles so fast. Ron and Virginia Anderson will pick one up after Ivette Garrett checks around when she goes to Grand Forks.

Lord's Prayer was prayed.

Adjournment meeting motion: Virginia. Second: Gary

Virginia Anderson
Acting Secretary

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Sunday School Christmas Program



Once again, the Sunday School children did a wonderful job in presenting the Christmas story, including a guitar solo by Gabe Haugen, "We Three Kings of Orient Are."

Teachers and parents worked as a team to bring this about and the traditional paper bags of peanuts, candy and apples were distributed to everyone present.

We sincerely thank our Sunday School students and teachers for stirring our hearts and helping us to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth.



Dr. F. Melius Christianson—A Brief Biography

Birth and Early Years

Frederick Melius Christiansen was born April 1, 1871, in a little settlement called Berger, a few miles from the town of Eidsvold, the cradle of Norway's independence. He was baptized in the Lutheran Church in Eidsvold, the church in which the St. Olaf Choir years later sang one of its tour concerts under his direction. His paternal grandfather was a smith and mechanic by trade. His father, Anders Christiansen, who married Oleana Jonsen, and his brothers were mechanics and were employed at various times in the factories of nearby towns.

Both the Jonsen and Christiansen families were interested in music, especially instrumental music, and the boy F. Melius as a three-year-old was given a three-key clarinet which he soon learned to play. Members of the family played in local orchestras and bands wherever they lived, some of which the father directed. As a six-year-old, F. Melius marched as a member of his father's band in the 17th of May parade. He had great respect for his father and throughout his entire life was very grateful to him for the encouragement and help he had received from him to study music and learn to play first the clarinet, then the violin, and later the pipe organ.

Boyhood in Larvik

F. Melius was eight years old when his father moved from Agnes to Larvik. The next nine years in this beautiful coast city were very important formative years for him. He attended public school, getting very good grades in his studies, and he came in contact with a number of very able musicians who took special interest in him and started him on his life's career.

One of these, Professor Oscar Hansen, was his instructor in piano and another, Professor Olsen, gave him his first violin lessons. Professor Hansen was the conductor of a fine orchestra in the city and the youthful F. Melius soon became a member and at times was called upon to play solo numbers at public appearances of the organization. Professor Hansen also gave the boy lessons in organ playing and in the course of time he became so proficient that when Mr. Hansen had to be absent from the city, the boy took his place in the large local Lutheran church and very ably played the music for the services. Although he made splendid progress in both piano and organ, he favored the violin and became a violinist of exceptional ability.

During these years in Larvik the young boy worked hard to help pay for his piano, organ, and violin lessons by copying music for Mr. Hansen and by giving piano and violin lessons to beginners. He came to the conclusion it would be difficult to make a satisfactory living there, since there already were such able music instructors in the city who could take care of all prospective needs. An uncle and a brother had gone to America some years before, so more and more he considered going to the new world, where he thought there were more opportunities and good jobs more easily obtainable. In the spring of 1888, when he was seventeen years of age, he had fully made up his mind to seek a new life in America, but it was not until fall that he was ready to leave his native land.

A New Life in America

On his boat trip to America many strange incidents occurred, some of which caused him no little grief. The same was true of the long train ride from New York to Oakland, for he was unable to speak English and had difficulty in answering questions and in making his wishes known.

When he came to his uncle's house, he began looking for work. Surely there must be an opening for an organist in a city of so

many churches! After days of walking from one church to another without success, he gave up and tried to find employment of some other kind. For a while, he did office work for a Norwegian periodical but that kind of work was not at all to his liking. His money was just about gone when he received a letter from his brother Karl, containing \$60 and an invitation to come to Washburn, WI, where his brother was director of the local band.

The two year stay in Washburn was of value to F. Melius in more ways than one. With the help of his older brother, he secured profitable employment and made great progress learning to speak and write English. He also began to advertise in some of the Norwegian papers for a position as band director or instructor in piano and violin and received a number of favorable replies. One of these came from Marinette, Wisconsin, and led to his move to that city where he became the director of the city band, director of the church choir, and instructor in piano and violin.

In the summer of 1892, a male quartet from Augsburg College and Seminary in Minneapolis gave a concert in the church in Marinette. One of the men spoke briefly and made a plea for young men to enroll as students at Augsburg. F. Melius was favorably impressed and entered college in Minneapolis in September when he was twenty-one years old.

Minneapolis, 1892-1897

During his first year in Minneapolis, he finished the prescribed freshman courses at Augsburg, directed a male chorus there and taught classes in choral singing. Then he entered the Northwestern Conservatory of Music where for two years he studied theory and counterpoint, graduating with highest honors. At various times, he also directed a number of choruses in the city, one of which was "Nordlyset" — and served as organist in several Lutheran churches. He also had quite a number of students to whom he gave private violin instruction. He was kept busy though his work was varied and scattered; he probably saved some money, however, for in July 1897 he returned to Marinette to marry a girl whom he had met there when he directed the church choir, Edith Lindem. After the wedding, they left for a two year stay at the Conservatory in Leipzig, Germany.

The Years in Leipzig, Germany

Dr. Christiansen often told his friends that the years in Leipzig were two happy and consequential years. His brother Karl from Washburn had come with them from America and he too enrolled as a student in the conservatory. The three were fortunate in finding a pleasant and suitable apartment not far from the places where they probably spent much of their time — the Royal Conservatory, the Gewandhaus where important concerts were given, and St. Thomas Church where in his day Johann Sebastian Bach had been choir director. F. Melius enrolled in a number of theory classes at the conservatory and studied violin with Hans Sitt, who was regarded as a violin virtuoso. Sitt is said to have remarked that he considered this young man from Minnesota one of his ablest students.

Perhaps the most important contact he made in Leipzig was with the director of the St. Thomas Church Choir, Gustav Schreck, who was his teacher at the conservatory in composition, counterpoint, and choir conducting. F. Melius also attended regularly the rehearsals of the St. Thomas Choir and never missed one of their public concerts. There is no doubt that the association with Schreck and his choir had much to do with his success as choir director and composer in America.

Early in 1899 after receiving his diploma from the conservatory, he decided to return to America. The family now had increased,

as a boy had been born in Leipzig. When they reached the Middle West, Mrs. Christiansen and baby Elmer went to Marinette, Wisconsin, to live for a while with her parents while F. Melius came to Minneapolis to seek employment and establish a suitable home.

In Minneapolis — 1899 to 1903

The employment he secured was of a varied nature. He joined the faculty of Northwestern Conservatory as teacher of violin, was organist in one of the Lutheran churches, and served as director of Kjerulf Male Chorus, a fine organization that gave a number of splendid concerts in the city. At times he was also called upon to conduct large choruses, one of which was a benefit concert in the Swedish Tabernacle. In its review of this concert, December 9, 1899, the Tribune said: "The renditions by the chorus were something remarkable when it is known that Mr. Christiansen had welded the fragments from half a dozen singing societies into the harmonious whole which appeared that evening. There were no fragments then. It was an organization that stood on its merits."

He was also quite often called upon to appear as violin soloist in concerts of different kinds. He worked hard and was willing to accept appointments provided there was some remuneration as he was concerned about his earning enough to provide properly for his family.

It was the summer of 1903 that Mr. Christiansen decided to accept the call to come to St. Olaf College in Northfield as head of the music department.

The Family

Seven children were born to Dr. and Mrs. Christiansen, three of whom died very young. Elmer was born in Leipzig, Germany, and lived to be only four years old when he died quite suddenly of spinal meningitis. Carl, born in Northfield, was severely injured in an automobile accident on his tenth birthday and lived only one day afterwards. Mrs. Christiansen was also severely burned in that accident and was hospitalized a long time.

A girl, Tullah, was born in Northfield and died there at the age of five years. Mrs. Christiansen passed away in May 1949. Four children lived to adulthood, two of them adding their own legacy to the Christiansen tradition of choral music in America:

- Jake Christiansen: coach and athletic director at Concordia College, Moorhead. Jake Christiansen Stadium, "the Jake," was built in his honor.
- Olaf Christiansen: succeeded his father as head of the music department at St. Olaf and conductor of the St. Olaf Choir. His accomplishments include maintaining the tradition and high standards of his father while introducing many choral arrangements, and more than 20 years of conducting the Choir.
- Paul J. Christiansen: conducted the Concordia Choir from 1937 to 1986, developing it into what is now one of the world's finest and most accomplished undergraduate cappella choirs. Paul, like his father, composed and arranged hundreds of hymns and countless choral compositions. Paul helped to spread his father's music and tradition (as well as developing his own reputation of excellence) to generations.
- Elsa Christiansen Wycisk: married Kurt Wycisk, manager of the Concordia Choir.

Dr. Christiansen himself enjoyed good health until late in life and very seldom was absent from choir rehearsals or classes because of colds or other ailments. In 1952, however, he suffered a stroke and for some years was in poor health, part of the time bedridden. Late in May 1955 he passed away, just before the St. Olaf Lutheran Choir under the direction of his son Olaf was to leave on a concert tour of European countries. The choir had already left Northfield to

give the first concert of the tour in a nearby city, but returned to be present at the funeral service in the chapel of St. Olaf College on June 3. The choir sang "Asleep in Jesus" and Dr. Christiansen's own immortal arrangement of "Beautiful Savior."

Dr. Christiansen had been made Commander of the Order of St. Olaf by the King of Norway in 1928. Four institutions had conferred on him the honorary Doctor of Music degree: the University of Minnesota, Capital University, Oberlin, and Muhlenberg.

Some Personal Characteristics

Dr. Christiansen had few interests besides music. He did not play golf and didn't seem to be interested in other forms of physical exercise. During the day he was busy teaching classes at St. Olaf College in theory, counterpoint, and choir conducting; if you paid him an evening visit at his home you would most likely find him at the piano with pencil in hand, either studying a new number for the choir or working on a new composition of his own. During summer vacations in his later years he conducted the "Christiansen Choral School" around the country.

As a choir conductor or teacher he was very strict and demanded from all his students hard work, punctuality and strict attention to the work in hand. He had an uncanny way of discovering the student who had not made sufficient preparation for rehearsal or class recitation and as a rule a few rather unpleasant moments then followed. This does not mean that he was a hard master. On the contrary, his students loved him and made every effort to do the work as he wished it done.

A description of Dr. Christiansen while conducting a rehearsal has been given by a visiting music critic as follows:

"A strikingly calm, cool exterior might easily mislead the careless observer into a belief that the celebrated Minnesota Kapellmeister is a musician of the purely scientific, intellectual variety. "But a view of his face while he conducts a rehearsal, a glimpse of his eyes as he discusses some great composer, the tone of his voice as he expounds the great principles underlying his work, these tell the story of an ever-burning spiritual flame which now and again reaches white heat."

No wonder the choir members held him in such high regard!

He conducted concerts with vigor, yet with a minimum of flourish. He was always dignified and composed and very modestly acknowledged applause. He often would have preferred no applause at all especially after the singing of such numbers as Bach's "Jesus, Priceless Treasure" or his own arrangement of "O Sacred Head Now Wounded." Hundreds of music critics have not only commented on the "flawless" singing of the choir and the endless amount of work the director must have done to make it possible for his singers to reach such "perfection," but they also invariably praised in highest terms his refined and forceful conducting which added so much to the presentation of the concert.

After every concert there always were crowds of people who wished to shake his hand, ask questions, and engage him in conversation. Not infrequently he slipped away unobserved through some rear door and hurried to his hotel and to bed.

In his general conversation with people Dr. Christiansen was often inclined to be argumentative. He seemed to enjoy taking "the other side." He was very original in what he wrote or said, and whenever he spoke in public he usually tried to put across some worthwhile thought or idea with emphasis and accentuation.

His originality was also frequently noted in characteristic statements he would make during choir rehearsals or while examining students for admission to membership in the choir. Hundreds would try for admission but only a few would be accepted. To those who had to

be told they had not succeeded, he usually had an original way of doing it.

A gentleman who tried out for the choir when he was a student at St. Olaf years ago, recently gave this version of the experience he had: Dr. Christiansen asked him if he was anxious to get into the choir. Of course he said, "Yes." Did he really have great respect and admiration for the choir? Again his answer was, "Yes, certainly." Then, Dr. Christiansen said, "Will you please apply for membership in the band." This was a polite way of telling him he could not join the choir. Similar experiences are told by many former students and choir members as one meets them in various parts of the country.

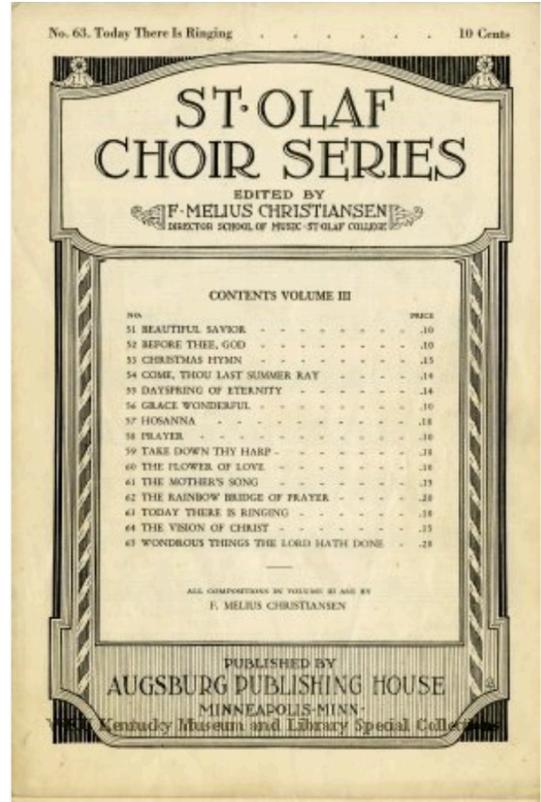
Through his work as composer, too, he has exerted a profound influence on church and school choirs. Many of his compositions and arrangements are sung by choirs everywhere: "Beautiful Savior," "Praise to the Lord," "Wake, Awake," "Lost in the Night," "Lullaby on Christmas Eve" are just a few of the best known.

He began composing as a boy in Larvik, but by far the greatest number of arrangements and compositions date from his best years at St. Olaf College, 1912 to 1940. These include six or seven volumes of Song Service, a number of volumes of Easy Lyric Songs and the well-known St. Olaf Choir Series, all of which have been published by Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis.

The influence this quiet and unassuming teacher, director, and composer has exerted principally in the field of sacred choral music is indeed far-reaching and can not be overestimated. Hundreds of young men and women were so inspired by him that after graduation they accepted positions in schools and churches around the country where they conducted choirs. Some wrote original choral compositions of high merit.

**Sheet music image courtesy of WKU Library Special Collections*

Commendable choirs that point to the St. Olaf Choir as their model and inspiration may now be heard in all parts of the land. Without question, it was through this choir that his influence was most keenly felt.



Sámi Culture Represented in "Frozen 2"



After a debate on social media about how the Sámi culture was represented in the 2013 box office hit movie "Frozen," Disney took the time to address the audience's concerns and looked to the experts. The animators collaborated with a group of Sámi people to get their input on the film.

The Sámi parliaments of Norway, Sweden and Finland, along with the Saami Council (a non-governmental organization of the Sámi people) reached out to Disney to collaborate on the sequel. Both parties signed a contract to work together to "ensure that the content of Frozen 2 is culturally sensitive, appropriate and respectful of the Sámi and their culture."

The Sámi experts acted as cultural consultants for the animation team. The group worked very closely with the filmmakers and approve of the final outcome. Anne Lajla Utsi, a member of the group said, "It has been a very, very good collaboration, I must say. We are really proud of that, and happy about the film, as it is now."

Sámi influences can be seen throughout the sequel. The fictional community featured in "Frozen 2," Northuldra, is inspired by the Sámi. Two main characters, Anna and Elsa, head north to meet the Northuldra, a group that lives closely with reindeer, much like the Sámi in real life. The clothing worn by the Northuldra characters was inspired by the traditional Sámi clothing known as *gákti*.

Additionally, a South Sámi musician and composer, Frode Fjellheim, who wrote the intro song for the original "Frozen," also has music featured in the sequel. This time, the Northuldra characters sing the song. Fjellheim's music uses *joik*, an ancient chanting type of singing from the Sámi.

In exchange for the input provided by the Sámi for the film, Disney agreed to produce a dubbed version of the movie in the North Sámi language—the most commonly spoken form of the Sámi language. The Sámi dubbed version will be released alongside the Norwegian version later this month in Norway.



Gary Iverson retires from Ace Hardware

For 95 years, Ace Hardware has been known as the “place with the helpful hardware folks” in thousands of neighborhoods across America, providing customers with a more personal kind of helpful.

For more than 30 years, Gary Iverson has exemplified that “personal kind of helpful” at Ace Hardware in Thief River Falls. He began working on his birthday, February 20, 1989 and retired on December 31, 2019. Over those 30+ years, he was the person to whom you could bring your hardware problems, and he would find a solution. And if he couldn’t find a good solution, he would never recommend a poor substitute. Instead, he would say, “You can try this, but I can’t guarantee it will work.”

Ace Hardware was formed in 1924 by Richard Hesse, E. Gunnard Lindquist, Frank Burke and Oscar Fisher in Chicago, Illinois. It was named after the Ace fighter pilots of World War I who were able to overcome all odds.

Ace Hardware was started in Thief River Falls in 1945 as store #114, along with stores in Greenbush and Roseau. Vic Kalinoski began his hardware career in Thief River Falls in 1939, went to Roseau Ace Hardware for two years, returned to Thief River Falls where he became the manager of Ace Hardware for three years, and then moved to Ace Hardware in Waukegan, Illinois for two years.



In March of 1962, Victor came back to Thief River Falls and purchased Ace Hardware. He sold it to his son Ron on January 1, 1982. Ron had worked at Ace during his growing-up years and worked full-time at the store from the time he was 21 years old until he retired and sold it to his son Nick in February 2019. Gary has worked for all three owners.



Ace became a cooperative in 1973. In 1976, Ace became a retailers' cooperative, and independent owners became dealer-owners and shareholders in the company. Because it's a cooperative and not a franchise, each Ace store looks different.

As of 2005, the \$13 billion retail hardware cooperative contains over 4,600 independent stores throughout the United States and in 70 different countries.

Gary, we will miss you at Ace, but we wish you the best for your well-deserved retirement.

Fun Facts about Canada

- Canada is the second largest country in the world after Russia.
- Canada is the most educated country in the world. Over half of its residents have college degrees.
- Canada's lowest recorded temperature was -81.4 Fahrenheit in 1947.
- Canada has more lakes than the rest of the world's lakes combined.
- Canada consumes more macaroni and cheese than any other nation in the world.
- Residents of Churchill, Manitoba leave their cars unlocked to offer an escape for pedestrians who might encounter polar bears.

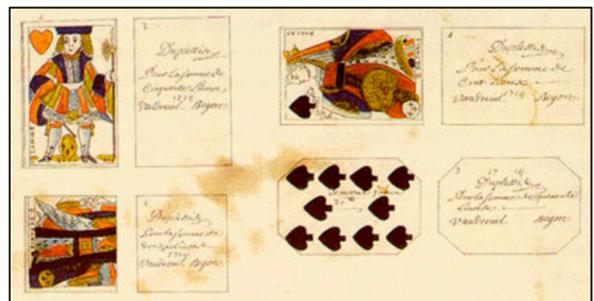


- Prostitution is legal in Canada. Buying the services of a prostitute is not.
- Canada has the largest coastline in the world.
- In Newfoundland, the Atlantic Ocean sometimes freezes so people play hockey on it.
- Every Christmas, 1 million letters are addressed to Santa Claus at his own postal code: HOH OHO, North Pole, Canada.
- The Mall of America is managed by the Triple Five Group, which in turn is owned by Canada's Ghermezian family.
- The U.S./Canada border is the longest international border in the world and has no military defense.
- Canada has had no weapons of mass destruction since 1984 and has signed treaties repudiating their possession.
- After the attack on Pearl Harbor during WWII, Canada declared war on Japan before the U.S. did.
- "Canada" is an Iroquoian language word meaning "Village."
- Canada's official phone number is 1-800-O-CANADA.
- Large parts of Canada have less gravity than the rest of Earth. This was discovered in the 1960s.
- Police departments in Canada give out "positive tickets" when they see people doing something positive.
- Americans have invaded Canada twice: in 1775 and in 1812. They lost both times.
- Canada has the third largest reserves of oil in the world after Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- The third country in space, after the U.S. and USSR, was Canada, which was considered to have the most advanced space program in 1962.
- In Canada, Mexico, India, Russia and Israel, bank notes have Braille-like markings on them for the blind.
- The Eiffel Tower was almost relocated to Canada in 1967.

- It is illegal to carry a product designed for personal protection against a human attack, according to the Canadian Criminal Code of Conduct.
- License plates in the Canadian Northwest Territories are shaped like polar bears.



- During WWII, Canada gave out buttons to people who tried to enlist but were refused due to medical reasons to show their willingness to fight.
- Canada consumes the most doughnuts and has more doughnut shops per capita of any country in the world.
- The North American beaver is Canada's national animal.
- Canada and Denmark have been fighting over an uninhabited island since the 1930s by leaving each other bottles of alcohol and changing their flags.
- Ontario, Canada has more than 250,000 lakes. They contain about 1/5 of the world's fresh water.
- In 2015, a man was arrested after tying more than 100 balloons to a garden chair and flying over the city of Calgary.
- According to the Department of Homeland Security, it is estimated that 93,000 Canadians live in the U.S. with expired visas, more than any other immigrant group.
- The province of Alberta has been rat-free for over 50 years.
- The Hawaiian pizza was invented in Ontario, Canada.
- Canadians can order a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II and have it shipped to them for free.
- In Canada, due to a chronic shortage of coinage, playing cards were once used as currency. New France's first paper money was playing cards, specially cut and signed by the governor and issued in 1685 to supplement the chronically short supply of French and Spanish silver coins then used.



Playing-Card Money, courtesy of Library and Archives

- Canada has a strategic maple syrup reserve supply in case of emergency.
- When flights got diverted or grounded during 9/11, Canada housed, fed and sheltered over 30,000 passengers.
- One of the thirteen articles in the 1781 U.S. Articles of Confederation states that if Canada wants to be admitted into the U.S., it will automatically be accepted.

Your Editor's Favorite 2019 Christmas Letter

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. We have snow, slippery roads and, now, an Arctic air mass that is bringing us sub-zero temps in the -20 degree range. It has been years since we had any of these cabin-fever-inspiring spans of cold. Two-week spans when the daytime temps rise to a balmy -20 degrees and then plunge into the -40 degree temps at night. Perhaps the most memorable of those Old Fashioned Winters occurred sometime in the 1970s—1972 comes to mind, but that is only a guess. We had a two-week span of sub-zero temps followed by a brief warm-up that teased us into thinking the coldest part of winter was over. Then we were plunged into another two-week span of sub-zero temps.

I'm no longer much of a winter driver. Car hockey at icy intersections is not my idea of proving your expertise as a driver and those drainage ditches can look pretty deep when you're the one sliding to the edge of the road. Driving is a necessity for everyone living in rural areas, and I remember how stranded a person could be without a license to drive. Driving the back roads didn't always get a person where they needed to go.

Still, memories of those back road escapades are memories that need to be relished. The ridge road was our scenic drive and our choice for an evening outing whenever the heat of the summer day got the best of us. Here we could cruise with all the windows rolled down—there were no air-conditioned cars in those days—enjoying the cooling breezes coming through the windows. Skipper, our dog, of course commandeered one of the windows. The rattle of the car keys was all he needed as a signal to head for the car. We rarely saw any deer, but if Karen was with us, strange people lurked behind the trees and clumps of bushes.

The imagination of a child was not needed to enjoy the countryside. The horses and livestock in Einar's pasture had manicured it into a state equal to that of any public park and, even as old as we are now, parts of that pasture are still considered sacred ground. Here was where the pioneers labored as they developed the roads in the area by taking gravel from a site on the eastern edge of the pasture. It was here where those pioneers had walked that the Boy Scouts camped one weekend each summer. Even at that time, this was a gravel pit so old that oak trees had grown together creating a canopy of interlocking branches that sheltered the pit and, in that process, created a sanctuary.

The ridge road was our link to the world the homesteaders knew. Here was a road where travelers passed through places shrouded by shady groves of trees and then suddenly found themselves in wide open sections that provided a panoramic view of the countryside. A countryside that has changed little since those years. It was the road that people in horse and buggy, buckboards and sleighs, traveled to bring milk and cream into town and groceries home. Those with automobiles traveled it in style and those young'uns with the intent of enjoying the evening events in Holt often walked. Here was where kids could run barefoot along the sandy surface and young men could impress their girlfriends by creating Sahara-like dust storms by chaining tires to the back bumpers of their cars and tearing up and down the road.

So once again "tis the season" to send Holiday Greetings. Time moves all too quickly and it seems each day is over before there is a chance to accomplish much of anything. So it is that time passes and everyday events become memories to share. Now is the ideal time to wish both Kith and Kin: Happy Holidays and a Prosperous New Year in 2020!

The Arctic—A Frozen Region Warms Up

By Kåre R. Aas, Norway's ambassador to the United States

In November 2019, millions of families visited an Arctic fairytale land when Disney's "Frozen 2" opened in movie theaters across the United States. With its snow-covered mountains, fjords, trolls and reindeer, the movie will surely remind many Norwegian-Americans of their ancestral homeland.

The movie's release provides a convenient opening for conversations about the real Arctic. The region is a critical priority for Norway, a place where our economic, political and strategic interests come together.

While some may picture the Arctic as a barren expanse of ice, for many Norwegians the Arctic is home. In the Norwegian Arctic, warm water brought by the Gulf Stream keeps the ports along our coastline ice-free year round. Northern Norway is bustling with human activity—with universities, innovative businesses, airports, broadband internet, film festivals, coffee shops and more. The people living in the region are at the core of Norway's Arctic policy. Nearly 10% of Norway's inhabitants live north of the Arctic Circle—the highest percentage among Arctic counties.

The Sámi, Norway's indigenous people, make up a significant part of that population. While Sámi now live all across Norway, most can trace their roots to places north of the Arctic Circle. With a lifestyle traditionally based on reindeer herding and fishing, Sámi culture is characterized by closeness to the land and responsible harvesting of natural resources. That culture has served as partial inspiration for the makers of "Frozen 2," and if you listen closely, you'll note that the soundtrack features the traditional Sámi song, the *joik*.

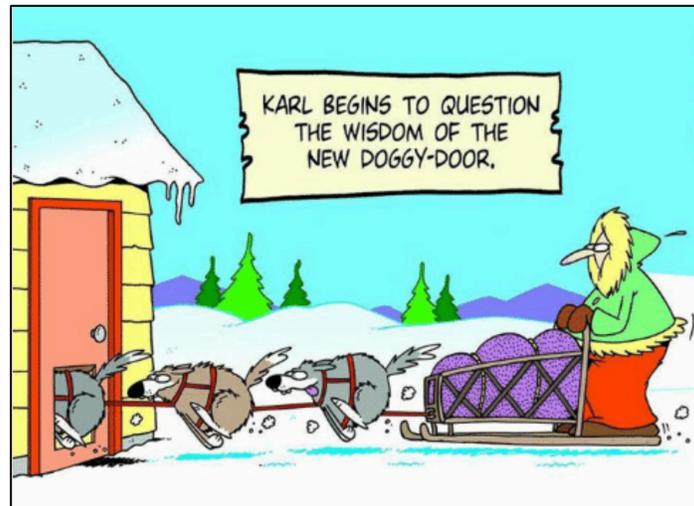
In the real Arctic, climate change is bringing changes at an alarming speed. The ice is melting, and the ocean is warming. This leads to changes in the fine-tuned ecosystem. While these changes are taking place at double speed in the Arctic, the melting of the ice happens mainly because of activities outside the Arctic. To limit the temperature increase, we need to find green and sustainable solutions for the future.

The changes taking place in the Arctic will make resources and shipping lanes increasingly accessible. However, this does not mean that there is a "race for the Arctic." Far from it. Most of the resources and activities in the Arctic fall under the national jurisdiction of one of the Arctic states. Questions of borders and delimitation of maritime zones are settled in accordance with international law. All of the Arctic coastal states—Canada, Denmark, Norway, Russia and the United States—have agreed that any overlapping claims shall be resolved in an orderly way. Norway settled the maritime border with Russia in 2010 after 40 years of negotiations.

The peace and stability we see in the Arctic is no coincidence. It is the result of political choices and a realization among the Arctic nations that it is smart to work together based on common interests and respect for international law. Norway and the United States have a strong dialogue on Arctic issues. We agree that the Arctic Council is the primary arena for Arctic discussions. On a regional level, the cooperation between businesses and academia in northern Norway and Alaska continues to grow.

The Arctic continues to be a region of cooperation. Norway will work diligently to keep it that way. As climate change alters the region, the common challenges we face will make it imperative to keep up the cooperation.

The Back Page



If you choose not to find joy in the snow, you will have less joy in your life but still the same amount of snow.

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