

St. Pauli News in Detail



Greeting and Ushering

- April 3 Kari Iverson
- April 10 Jim Kotz
- April 17 Bruce Mathson
- April 24 Barb Nelson

Altar Preparation: Cindy Cedergren



BLANKET SUNDAY

April 24th

Blankets and quilts for Lutheran World Relief and our local area will be placed on and around our altar ring for blessing prior to shipment.

**This is also our Potluck Sunday.
Freewill offering for Violence Intervention Project**

Spring Cleaning

May 2nd
6:00 pm

We need your help! None of us is getting any younger, so we would appreciate people of all ages to come out for this night of cleaning. Yes, cleaning, but also conversation and fun. Root beer floats at the end!

There is a task checklist on the kitchen serving counter. When a task is completed, it is checked off.

This is a congregational effort. We volunteer to do this in lieu of hiring a professional, so please do your part.

Draft Recommendations from Ad Hoc Cemetery Committee

At the 2022 St. Pauli Cemetery Association's annual meeting, an ad hoc committee was created to draft operating guidelines that extend and enhance the bylaws. Members of the committee are Faye Auchenpaugh, Cindy Cedergren, Ivette Garrett, Gary Iverson and Arlo Rude.

Their draft document included in this newsletter. The congregation and interested parties are asked to read these over carefully. If you have suggested changes or edits, please contact Cindy Cedergren at cindyced@outlook.com by April 30, 2022.

Once this document has been finalized, it will be presented to the St. Pauli Cemetery Association Board of Directors at their next quarterly meeting.

St. Pauli receives award

"Hello, leaders of St. Pauli Lutheran Church. It is my honor to inform you that your congregation has been selected to receive the "Servant of Christ" award for the Northwest Synod of Minnesota (ELCA). We were pleased to receive a nomination from Faye Auchenpaugh, who told us about the love St. Pauli Lutheran Church has for its neighbors and your longstanding generosity to your community. Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) thanks you for the care you have provided your community and with this award we shine a light on your service! More information to come." Julie Wright, LSS

April Milestones

Birthdays

It is with sadness that we mark the passing of our only April birthday members: Shirley Johnson and Eunice Grove.

Anniversaries

(None that we know of)



Letter from Bishop Tesch

*He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire. "Be still and know that I am God!"*

– Psalm 46:9-10a

Dear Ones in Christ of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod,

As Russia's dangerous and unjust war against the people of Ukraine continues into its second month, we find ourselves in what has become the all too familiar space of being dismayed at what is unfolding in our world and asking with God's people of old, "How long, O Lord?" Our hearts go out to the Ukrainian people as we see the horrific images of their suffering. We also acknowledge that we come into this feeling "crisis fatigue." We are worn out from two years of unending crises: a pandemic, political unrest, racial reckoning and a war. Beloved, we must not allow our weariness to undermine our faithful response as followers of Jesus Christ.

Jesus experienced crisis fatigue, too. Crowds of desperate people confronted him with their diseases, demons and intra-family conflicts. Followers looked to him to free their occupied nation. So, Jesus sought out "lonely places" where he dwelled with his Father in prayer and was refreshed by God's word. In quiet times with God, we discover that we "are like trees planted by streams of water" whose "leaves do not wither;" (Psalm 1) and that, "the law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul." (Psalm 19) So, our faithful response to crisis must begin by being still and knowing that God is God. Like Jesus, we seek out the quiet place, not as a way of avoiding the issue, but to empower us to be more deeply involved and led by the Holy Spirit.

After that, there are so many faithful ways to respond. Here are just a few.

- PRAY for a swift, just and peaceful end to this war, and for a continuing compassionate response by nations of the world. And pray for *ALL* refugees around the world. This crisis is a reminder that there are still millions of other refugees fleeing wars in Syria and Afghanistan who also stand in need of our care.
- COMMUNICATE with your representatives in Congress and the president, urging them to continue to do all that is prudent to bring this crisis to an end.
- GIVE to Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR), Lutheran World Relief (LWR) or other charities working in and around Ukraine and other areas of conflict in our world. (NOTE: 50% of your gifts to our Easter Appeal/Synod Assembly Offering will go to LDR.)
- GIVE to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS), our partner ministry that works to resettle refugees.
- LEARN how you and your congregation can help with refugee resettlement with LIRS's partner here in Minnesota: Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota.

Then, when you find yourself tired, discouraged, worn out - RETURN to the Lord your God who is faithful and merciful and abounding in steadfast love.

Thank you for your faithfulness in proclaiming the Gospel, and for your partnership in ensuring that the Gospel has free course in the world and that every neighbor is loved and cared for.

In Christ our brother,



Pastor Bill Tesch
Bishop of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA

Pastor Carl's Sermon
Ash Wednesday - March 2, 2022
SIN: Genesis 3:1-13

President Calvin Coolidge was a taciturn New Englander. After attending worship one Sunday, Mr. Coolidge was asked, "What was the sermon about?" "Sin," replied the President. "What did the pastor say about it?" his questioner continued. President Coolidge replied, "He was against it."

Regardless of political affiliation, all of us are in agreement with President Coolidge's pastor. We are all against sin. So what else needs to be said about sin? Let's sing another hymn or two, be anointed with ashes, receive an offering, say a prayer, receive the Lord's Supper, and head home.

But before you gather up your coat and prepare to leave, I have one question for you: "What is sin anyhow?" What is it that we are against? Are we against people doing bad things? Absolutely. Is 'doing bad things' the best definition of sin?"

Suppose you have a fever. What do you do about it? Perhaps you take an aspirin or another medication to bring it down. But suppose you take the medication and the fever goes down, but then it pops right back up and you feel absolutely awful. What do you do then? You may well head to the doctor to find out what is causing the fever, in the hope that he or she can prescribe a medication or treatment which will both cure the underlying disease and get rid of the uncomfortable symptoms.

Biblically, sin is the underlying disease of humanity. You and I are sick. A well-known hymn says that "There is a Balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul." The disease, or dis-ease, of sin produces specific symptoms—or what we often call sins. These sins can be sneaky, blatant, nasty, destructive, or just irritating. But we will not wipe out the disease of sin, the sickness unto death of sin, by simply chasing symptoms with spiritual aspirin. "Take two Bible verses and call me in the morning" won't do it. We must go deeper.

Have you ever said to your child, grandchild, or great-grandchild, "You should have known better!" Did they likely know better than to do what they did? Yes. They knew better—and so do you. So do I. The key to the question of sin is not knowledge. It's not education. It's something else.

What is that something else? Let's focus on our story—the human story of Genesis 3.

What is the temptation that the serpent places before the woman? After she spells out the blessings of God and somewhat exaggerates the limits that he has placed upon her and her husband, the smooth-as-syrup, flattering response comes back from the serpent, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and *you will be like God*, knowing good and evil."

The woman is invited to judge God, to stand apart from him as an equal. And then she is told that she will be like him. She will be her own god.

The word that is translated from the Hebrew as "knowing," as in knowing good and evil, that word is talking about far more than what we know in our heads. What is meant here comes closer to control and independence. "You will be like God." You will be God. You will be in charge. You will be in control.

The core question of the disease of sin is this: "Who's in charge here?" With Eve, whose name means "Mother of All Living," and with Adam, whose name means "Mankind," we want to be in charge. We thank God for giving us life, but now it's our time. We are independent of our creator and we can do what we jolly well please, thank you very much.

But there are a couple of problems with this new-found independence and control. What happens when Eve and Adam eat this tasty fruit? Enlightenment? Joy? Bliss? No! They cover up. They are embarrassed at the very center of their being. They are embarrassed in front of each other and they hide from God.

When confronted by God about their behavior, Adam utters one of the most classic and repeated lines in the scriptures and in life: "The women whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." It's your fault, God. You put her here, and it's her fault—she gave me the fruit. I'm not responsible. You are. And she is. She is 'sinnier' than me.

Sin drives us away from God and from those we love the most. Sin is not overcome by our own exertions. Admonitions to "Shape Up" do not change our innate desire to be in control and be our own god. We can shape up for a while, but then we fall back into the same old rut.

The Confession of Sin in the Lutheran Book of Worship says: "*We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.*"

In other words, we are stuck. Stuck on ourselves. Stuck to ourselves. And by ourselves, we are going nowhere.

But the story of our lives does not end in bondage. After exploring the depth of our sin in its first two verses, our next hymn puts it this way: "*Just as I am without one plea, But that thy blood was shed for me, and that thy blood was shed for me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*"

Amen.

Extension Recognizes Leaders



Reprinted from the Thief River Falls Times

Jordan and Erin Rondorf are Pennington County's representatives in the 2022 Red River Valley Emerging Leadership Program. They, along with individuals from 16 other counties in northwest and west central Minnesota, were honored March 26 for their participation in the leadership program and for their commitment to leadership in their community.

Jordan is a farm owner/operator on a family farm alongside his parents, farming 1,350 crop acres that are put into spring wheat, soybeans and alfalfa. They also raise Angus cow/calf pairs. Seasonally, in the winter months, Jordan is an operations specialist for Northland Grain – Hazel location. Erin is an inventory planner for Digi-Key Electronics.

While meeting in Detroit Lakes, Thief River Falls and Mahanomen, Jordan and Erin have networked with leaders from across the region and gained insight on personal leadership styles, communication, rural issues, and facilitating effective meetings. The group will gather once more in Crookston to focus on setting goals for how they will lead and follow in their work and community roles, and to celebrate their completion of the program.

The theme for the Class of 2022, "Be..." has served as a reminder that it isn't what we accomplish, but rather how we will BE in our relationships and in our leadership roles. Jody Horntvedt, Extension educator, said, "These leaders of the Class of 2022 will Be...inspiration for the future in their communities as they continue to seek out different perspectives, innovate ideas, and lift up their vision for the future."

University of Minnesota Extension coordinates the Emerging Leadership Program and provides educational content. Local partners include Northwest Minnesota Foundation, Red River Valley Development Association, and many donors from a variety of other sources across the region, including ag producer groups, electric cooperatives, community business, financial institutions and individual in counties through northwest and west central Minnesota who contribute each year.

SONS OF NORWAY SNORRE LODGE
THIEF RIVER FALLS, MINN.



Nordic Fest

A Celebration of All Things Scandinavian
MAY 14-28, 2022

Saturday, May 14

- **Pioneer Village Uff Da Day** at the Pioneer Village. \$3 per person. 11am-4pm Viking reenactments, Lefse demonstration, Norwegian foods, and more.

Monday, May 16

- **Movie: "The 12th Man"** 7:00 pm at the Northland College Auditorium.

Tuesday, May 17

- **Potet Klub:** Viking Café in Viking, MN, Paradise Café in Strathcona, MN, Jeff's Kitchen at the Am. Legion in TRF, and Hugo's grocery store in TRF will be serving this Norwegian specialty.

Wednesday, May 18

- **Smorgasbord Dinner:** a torsk and pork chop buffet dinner. \$15. Serving 6-7 pm at the Eagles Hall. Reservations required by May 12 to 218-681-6368 or 218-686-7209. 150 tickets only.

Thursday, May 19

- **Old Time Dance:** dance to the music of the Cathy Erickson Band from 7-11 pm at the Eagles Hall. \$7.50. Lunch will be served.

Friday, May 20

- **Viking Scholar:** Vikings: Weapons, Clothing, Jewelry, and More: 7:00 pm, Northland College Auditorium. Presentation by Viking scholar and re-enactor Luke Borsvold. He has a master's degree in Renaissance History from Oxford University in England.

Thursday, May 26

- **99th Battalion, WWII:** 7:00 pm, Lincoln High School Auditorium. Dr. Kyle Ward presentation on the history of the 99th. Visiting dignitaries and families of the local 99th veterans introduced. Hall of Honor open from 6:00 - 9:00.

Friday, May 27

- **99th Battalion, WWII:** 10:40 am Lincoln High School. LHS assembly and presentation for the entire high school student body.

Saturday, May 28

- **99th Battalion, WWII:** 10:00 am Dr. Kyle Ward presentation on the history of the 99th. Again, honoring the families of local 99th veterans. Hall of Honor will be open from 9:00 - Noon.



Norwegian-Americans and the 99th Infantry Battalion (Separate)

Early in WW II, the U.S. recognized a need for special units with the cultural and linguistic background needed to conduct unconventional warfare operations in countries occupied by Germany or Japan.

Norway was one of those countries. It was hoped that at least four objectives could be accomplished in Norway through the use of unconventional warfare: (1) eliminate Norway as an economic asset for Germany; (2) force Germany to keep large numbers of troops on occupation duty in Norway and away from other active fronts; (3) limit the ability of German troops in Norway to attack allied convoys transporting supplies to the Russian port of Murmansk; and (4) prepare for the future occupation of Norway and create a link through Norway to Russia.

The first unit tasked with the Norwegian mission was the 1st Special Service Force. It was activated on 2 July 1942 and was to be trained as infantry with special skills as paratroopers, skiers, and mountain climbers. The T-15 Weasel tracked vehicle was developed to support their winter operations.

A week later, on 10 July 1942, the 99th Infantry Battalion (Separate) was ordered to be formed by H.Q. Army Ground Forces. The men needed to be able to blend perfectly into the local Norwegian countryside, so requests for Norwegian speaking volunteers were sent throughout the army. Native speakers were preferred but Americans of Norwegian descent who were fluent in the language were also accepted. Efforts were made to recruit Norwegians stranded in America by the war, and it was hoped that many tough Norwegian merchant seamen would enlist. All volunteers had to be citizens of the United States or must have applied for citizenship.

As might be expected, many of the men who volunteered came from Minnesota and the Dakotas. Those accepted were ordered to report to Camp Ripley, Minnesota, where they engaged in enhanced soldier skill training and physical conditioning. Training went well until an unseasonal mid-September snowfall that was very wet, heavy, and deep collapsed all the unit's tents. Captain Hanson then moved his unit to Ft. Snelling. The battalion's motor officer, Lt. Lester Carlson from southern Minnesota, had contacts with the State Highway Patrol and was able to make special convoy arrangements for a non-stop motor march to Ft. Snelling. At Ft. Snelling the battalion continued the training started at Camp Ripley--physical conditioning, long road marches, enhanced soldier skills, and Norwegian language classes. The Twin Cities' large Scandinavian population made sure that the men were well cared for, and many social events were organized to entertain the men when off duty.

In December the battalion was transferred to Camp Hale, Colorado. Getting off the train and realizing that the snow was 6 feet deep, many soldiers wondered what they had really gotten themselves into. They soon found out. Carrying equipment weighing up to 90 pounds, the unit spent much of the winter training in the mountains on skis and snowshoes, and developing winter survival skills. In the spring when the snow melted the men received extensive rock-climbing training.

In Spring of 1943 the feasibility of ground operations in Norway was reconsidered, and it was determined that large unit operations would not be productive. Ground troops, once deployed, could not be recovered. The 1st Special Service Force therefore lost its Norwegian mission. They were sent to Britain for training and attached to various units that fought in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe. In April 1945 the 99th received the mission to supply guards and vehicles to transport Nazi gold and art treasures from the Kaiseroda salt mine in Merkers, Germany, to the Reichsbank in Frankfurt. The total value of the items moved was estimated to be \$2.1 billion. Needless to say, the movement had the highest transportation security priority. Air Force fighters provided air cover, and the convoy completely shut down the Autobahn in both directions.

Two days after the war ended, the 99th finally received the mission they had hoped for. They would move to Norway to assist in the disarming and demobilizing of Germany's 300,000-man army there. When Norway's King Haakon returned to Norway, he was greeted by an honor guard from the 99th Battalion, and in turn the King honored the 99th by designating it as his personal honor guard unit. Of course, these men who spoke Norwegian fluently were able to meet relatives there and make friends with the locals. Several met and married Norwegian women. Norway was where they had always hoped to be when they had first volunteered.

The 99th Infantry Battalion, with its strong Minnesota roots, remains one of the most unique units in the history of the United States Army. Several men from our area were part of the 99th: Leonard Furuseth, Helmer Myhrer, Martin O. Hanson, Walter Hoaas and Ed Hestad from Thief River Falls; Harry Solberg and Clifford Johnson from Goodridge; George Thompson from Grygla; Alton Jorgenson from Argyle; and Clifton Brickson from East Grand Forks who was killed in action in 1944. Families of these veterans will participate in the Hall of Honor.

More Details on the 99th Battalion Events

Dr. Kyle Ward, history professor at MN State University-Mankato, is the featured speaker. Dr. Ward has done extensive research on the 99th Battalion and has recently collaborated with Dr. Odd Lovoll in writing a book on the 99th, soon to be published. Dignitaries from the Norwegian Embassy in Washington, DC will be in attendance—Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Torliev Opland and Military and Assistant Defense Attache' Col. Eric F. Kelly—as well as representatives of the 99th Battalion Foundation, Sons of Norway International and Norway House in Minneapolis.

“HALL OF HONOR”

We are inviting every family of a 99th Battalion veteran to host a table in the auditorium lobby with pictures, souvenirs, letters, or other memorabilia they might want to exhibit in honor of their veteran. The Hall of Honor will be open to the public one hour prior to each program and for one hour following each program.

EXHIBIT from MINNESOTA MILITARY MUSEUM

The Minnesota Military Museum at Camp Ripley is bringing their 99th Battalion exhibit and this will be on display in the lobby area of the auditorium. They are also furnishing a 99th Battalion re-enactor who will be in full winter dress.

SCHEDULE for the 99th EVENT

Thursday, May 26, 7:00 pm: Dr. Kyle Ward presentation to the public. We will introduce dignitaries from the 99th Foundation, Norwegian Embassy, Sons of Norway Foundation, Norway House in Minneapolis, and recognize the families of 99th veterans. This repeats for all three presentations.

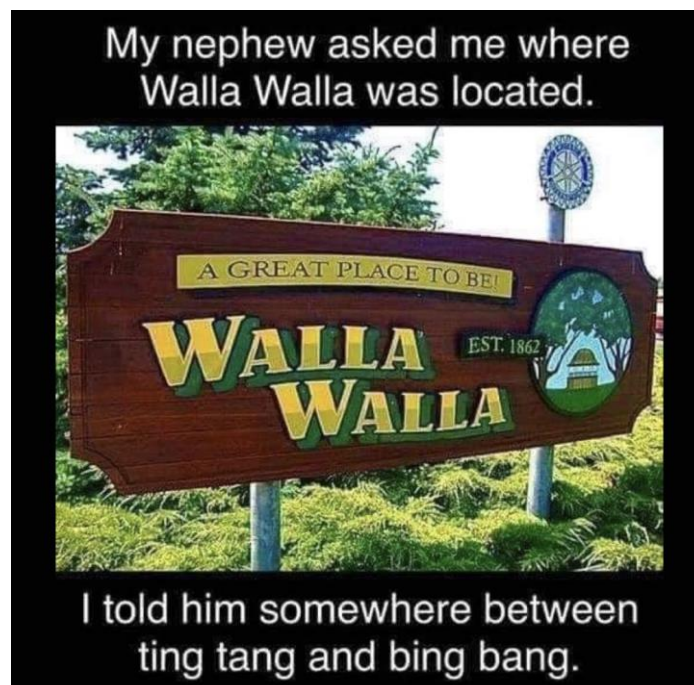
Friday, May 27, 10:40 am: Assembly and presentation for the entire high school student body.

Saturday, May 28, 10:00 am: Final presentation to the public. Hall of Honor open from 9:00 - Noon.

Forty-seven flags from all of the Scandinavian countries, including the Sami, will be flying in downtown Thief River Falls from May 15 through May 30, properly placed alongside the American flag.

Except for the smorgasbord and the dance, there is no admission charge to our Nordic Fest programs, just a freewill offering at the door.

As an aside, Snorre Lodge member Faye Auchenpaugh is hosting a private reception on Friday, May 27, 7:00 pm at her Country School for the Norwegian Embassy dignitaries as a fundraiser for the Sons of Norway Foundation. The first 50 persons who mail her a check by May 17, 2022 for \$100 per person, tax deductible, made out to the Sons of Norway Foundation will be invited. Attending will give you a chance to personally meet and converse with Mr. Opland and Col. Kelly.



The Back Page

1 Peter 1:3

IN HIS GREAT MERCY HE HAS GIVEN US NEW BIRTH INTO A LIVING HOPE THROUGH THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE DEAD .

Luke 24:5-6

WHY DO YOU SEEK THE LIVING ONE AMONG THE DEAD? HE IS NOT HERE, BUT HE HAS RISEN.

Acts 3:15

YOU KILLED THE AUTHOR OF LIFE, BUT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD. WE ARE WITNESSES OF THIS .

Titus 3:5

HE SAVED US, NOT BECAUSE OF RIGHTEOUS THINGS WE HAD DONE, BUT BECAUSE OF HIS MERCY.

1 Corinthians 1:18

FOR THE WORD OF THE CROSS IS FOOLISHNESS TO THOSE WHO ARE PERISHING, BUT TO US WHO ARE BEING SAVED IT IS THE POWER OF GOD.

Acts 2:24

BUT GOD RAISED HIM UP AGAIN, PUTTING AN END TO THE AGONY OF DEATH, SINCE IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO BE HELD IN ITS POWER.

John 11:25-26

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE. THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN ME WILL LIVE, EVEN THOUGH THEY DIE; AND WHOEVER LIVES BY BELIEVING IN ME WILL NEVER DIE..

Romans 10:9

IF YOU CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH THAT JESUS IS LORD AND BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, YOU WILL BE SAVED.