

St. Pauli News in Detail



Greeting and Ushering

March 6 Jerod Haugen
 March 13 Marc Haugen
 March 20 Ryan Haugen
 March 27 Gary Iverson

Cleaning: Clean *prior* to your Sunday to usher. Don't forget to check the wastebasket in the pastor's office.

Sunday Service:

- Light altar candles before service and put out flames after church.
- Act as Greeters and hand out bulletins.
- Usher for offering and communion.
- Tidy up pews after church to make it ready for the next Sunday's services.

Altar Preparation: Roxane Rondorf

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March Milestones

Birthdays

Mar. 4 Ken Cedergren
 Mar. 10 Laurie Nelson
 Mar. 13 Gabe Haugen
 Mar. 15 Sue Kotz
 Mar. 22 Deone Cerny
 Mar. 26 Staci Reay



Anniversaries

Mar. 12 Neil and Sharon Bugge

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Mask Wearing Update

Due to the decline in covid cases in our area and mask mandates no longer being in place, the Council decided at their February meeting to make mask wearing in the church optional and a matter of personal choice.

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Lenten Service Schedule

There is no Round Robin schedule for this year's Lenten services, but we will serve coffee and refreshments after the services.

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Journey with LWR this Lent!



We will again take part in collecting items for Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief.

- March 13 – (2) Bars of soap (4 or 5 oz in original wrapper)
- March 20 – Bath towel (sturdy, max size 27" x 52", dark color preferred)
- March 27 – Toothbrush (adult size, in original package)
- April 3 – Sturdy comb (wide-tooth preferred)
- April 10 – Nail Clipper (metal, attached file optional)

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March is Food Shelf Month

March is Food Shelf Month at St. Pauli and the Food Shelf receives some matching funds this month. A basket for the donations is located in the narthex.



In Memoriam

Eunice Grove

April 3, 1919 – February 3, 2022

Eunice Grove, 92, of Thief River Falls, MN passed away peacefully on Thursday, February 3, 2022 at Thief River Care Center in Thief River Falls, MN.

Eunice Ione Doeden was born April 3, 1929 to George and Ruby (Munter) Doeden in Traill County, ND. She was baptized at the Methodist Church in Hillsboro, ND. She attended a country grade school and graduated from Hillsboro High School in 1947. She attended Mayville State College and taught school for several years in North Dakota and Illinois.

On August 4, 1957, she was united in marriage to Verdeen Grove in Hillsboro, ND. The couple made their home in Grand Forks, ND until 1965, when they moved to rural Thief River Falls, MN where they farmed until retiring in 1983. Verdeen passed away in 2004 and Eunice continued to live on the farm until 2008 when she moved to Thief River Falls.

Eunice was a member of St. Pauli Lutheran Church where she was actively involved with Sunday School and the Church Women’s organization. She was a long-time member of the Hazelnut Homemakers’ Club. After moving to town, she joined the Red Hat Society and enjoyed many adventures with her friends.

She is survived by children Bryan (Vicky) Grove, Thief River Falls; Pam (Mike) Gilberg, Mendota Heights, MN; Scott (Shelley) Grove, Warroad, MN; grandchildren Jennifer (Andy) Gonnerman, Lindsey Gilberg, Kyle Gilberg, Elizabeth Grove, Evan Grove; great-granddaughters Kate and Isabelle Gonnerman. Also surviving are sisters Lorraine (Odney) Ellingson and Gwen Apodaca; and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded by sisters and brothers-in-law: Joyce Doeden, Ruth (Bob) Crotty, LuVerne (LeRoy) Erickson, Dona (Hank) Doeden, and Grace (Glenn) Peterson.

The service to celebrate Eunice’s life was held at 11:00 AM on Friday, February 11, 2022 at St. Pauli Lutheran Church, rural Thief River Falls, MN with Rev. Carl Hansen officiating. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service. Visitation was also held from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM with a 7:00 PM prayer service on Thursday, February 10, 2022 at Johnson Funeral Service in Thief River Falls. Burial was at Greenwood Cemetery in Thief River Falls, MN.

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Eunice was a quiet and unassuming, but huge presence at St. Pauli – always willing to be of service – as evidenced by this photo of our WELCA ladies serving as ushers for the TRF Concert Association’s presentation of “Lutheran Basement Ladies.” Front row L to R: Kathy Alberg, Eunice Grove, Inez Mathson, Jan Strandlie, Faye Auchenpaugh. Back row L to R: Evie Johnson, Joan Nelson, Roxane Rondorf, Wahna Smith, Cindy Cedergren.

While the weather was brutal the day of Eunice’s funeral with temperatures of -10 F. and blowing snow with winds up to 50 mph, the church was almost filled with friends and family who wouldn’t miss being present to honor this dear soul.



In Memoriam

Harold Arneson

April 10, 1942 – February 8, 2022

Harold and his parents and siblings were long-time members of St. Pauli Church.

Harold Arneson, of Thief River Falls, MN, passed away on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at Sanford Hospital in Thief River Falls, MN, at the age of 79.

A Memorial Service in honor of Harold will be held at a later date.

Harold Eugene Arneson was born on April 10, 1942 in Thief River Falls, the son of Clarence and Eloise (Merritt) Arneson. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith at St. Pauli Lutheran Church, rural Thief River Falls. He grew to adulthood in the Thief River Falls area and attended country school in Smiley Township. As a kid Harold participated in 4-H.

On August 24, 1978 Harold was united in marriage to Joyce Newland in Millbank, SD. Together, Harold and Joyce made their home in Thief River Falls, where they raised their family.

Throughout his life Harold worked on the farm, Arctic Cat, the Turkey Plant, the River Road Casino which changed to the Seven Clans Casino, and raised pheasants.

Harold had many friends with whom he liked to visit and have coffee with. He made many wonderful friendships with his co-workers. Harold enjoyed gardening, fishing, watching older television programs, grilling food, and hunting. He was very good at baking. During the holidays, Harold enjoyed cooking his lutefisk for the family.

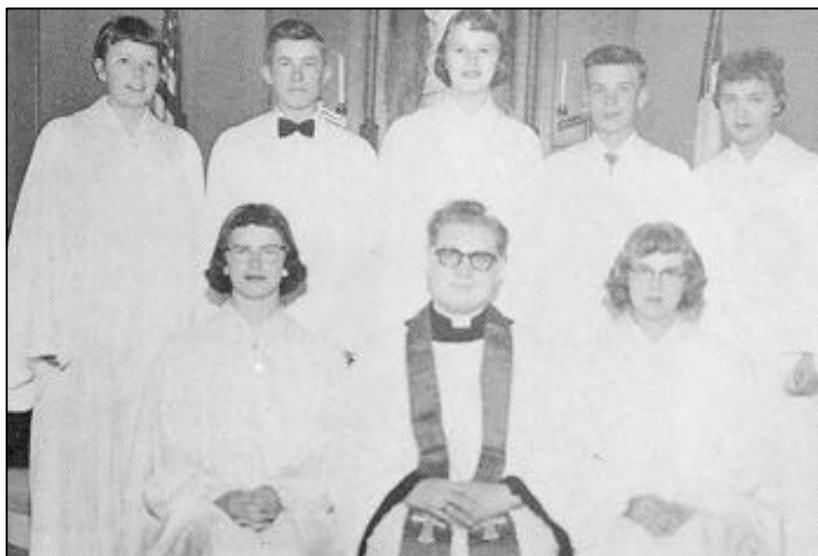
His one love was his family with whom he loved spending time.

Harold is survived by his wife, Joyce of 43 years; sons, Darrel (Shawn) Flaten of Warren, MN, and Mark Flaten of Thief River Falls, MN; grandson, Allen Langlie; sister, Florence Gjerstad of Grand Blanc, Michigan; and many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Shelley; his parents, Clarence and Eloise Arneson; brother, Robert; sister, Margaret Lian; and niece, Liesel Gjerstad.

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Harold was baptized on June 4, 1942 at the home of his aunt, Clara (Arneson) Thune. Sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Carl Alberg and Mr. and Mrs. Ole Lian.



Harold was confirmed at St. Pauli Church by Rev. Eldon Person in 1957.

Front row L to R: Carolyn Nelson, Rev. Person, Carol Yonke (St. Hilaire).
Back row L to R: Dian Folkedah, Harold Arneson, Sharon Rude, Norris Thune, Yvonne Johnson.

In Memoriam

Steve Swanson

April 3, 1919 – February 3, 2022

Steve is the nephew of St. Pauli members Sharon Bugge and Skip Swanson.

Steven Wayne Swanson, 74, of Thief River Falls MN, passed away Wednesday February 9th 2022.

Steve was born January 24th, 1948 to Chester and Beverly (Thune) Swanson in Thief River Falls, MN. He attended grade school and graduated from Deer River High School in 1966. He enlisted and served in the United States Army from 1968-1970. Steve served in the 75th MACV unit and was Rifleman of his platoon.

He was united in marriage to Laurel Jean Rude on July 18th, 1968 at Grace Lutheran Church in Grygla, MN. Laurel is, and was, the love of his life. The couple made their home in rural Thief River Falls where they lived until 1996, at which time they relocated into town. Together they raised 3 children: Michael, Michelle, and Jeremy.

Steve was a jack of all trades and held many jobs throughout his life. He did carpentry work, was a jeweler, and worked in the oil fields of western ND. He finally settled in as a rural mail carrier out of Red Lake Falls, MN., where he retired 2012.

Growing up and throughout his life Steve enjoyed being outdoors, shooting rifles, hunting, and fishing. He especially enjoyed riding motorcycle, snowmobiling, and fixing on them. He enjoyed spending time with his family, grandchildren, and friends.

Steve is survived in death by his wife of 53 years, Laurel Swanson of Thief River Falls. His children: Michael Swanson and Michelle (Brian) Benitt of Thief River Falls, Jeremy Swanson of Fargo. Grandchildren: Dylin Davidson, Jacob and Kayli Swanson, Megan, Eryn, and Keegan Benitt, Liviana, Scarlett, and Porter Swanson. Siblings: Debra Johnson, Rick Houston, and Ricky (Char) Swanson. In-Laws: Richard Rude, LuAnn (Duane) Lusignan, David (Jade) Rude, Julie (Les) Trandem, as well as many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Beverly Houston; father, Chester Swanson; stepmother, Janet Swanson; brothers, Duane Swanson and Scott Houston; sister, Karla Thompson; in-laws, Clifford Rude, Fay and Harvey Ness; grandchild, Grady Benitt.

An open house celebration of life was held from 1:00 - 4:00 pm on Saturday, February 19, 2022 at the Quality Inn in Thief River Falls.

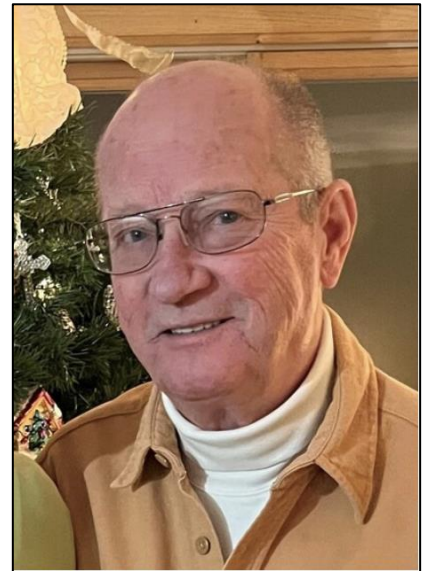
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Steve had a long lineage with St. Pauli Church.

- His mother, Beverly (Thune) Houston, was baptized and confirmed at St. Pauli.
- His maternal grandparents were Ole and Clara (Arneson) Thune
- His great-grandparents were Peder and Gro Thune, charter members of St. Pauli.
- His grandfather, Ole Thune, died suddenly in 1941 at the age of 50. Three years later, his grandmother Clara married Melvin Stene, son of St. Pauli charter members Peder and Beret Stene.



God Bless the Memory of our Loved Ones.



Minutes of the Church Council

January 13, 2022

The St. Pauli Church council met Thursday, January 13, 2022 at the church at 7 PM with the following council members present: Virginia Anderson, Wade Benson, Craig Folkedahl, Pastor Carl Hansen, Tammy Haugen and Jim Strandlie.

The meeting was called to order by President Craig Folkedahl. Pastor Carl Hanson opened with prayer.

Agenda: Remained as presented.

Secretary's Report: M/SC (Hansen, Haugen) to approve the December 2021 Secretary's report.

Treasurer's Report: M/S/C (Anderson, Folkedahl) to approve the December Treasurer's report.

St. Pauli Treasurer's Monthly Report December 2021

Checking Account Balance End of Nov 2021	\$ 18,532.28
Dec 2021 Revenue:	\$ 5,876.00
Dec 2021 Expenses:	<u>(\$ 2,899.58)</u>
Checking Account Balance End of Dec 2021:	\$ 21,508.70
Other Account Balances End of Dec 2021:	
Education Fund	\$ 1,101.21
Edward Jones	\$ 78,951.29
Memorial Fund	\$ 14,878.82
Mission Grant	\$ 4,437.35
Savings	<u>\$ 36,615.24</u>
Total St. Pauli Balances End of Dec 2021:	\$157,492.61

Cemetery Association Funds End of Dec 2021: \$ 62,943.56

Pastor's Report: Pastor had just returned from vacation, didn't present a report. His trip went well and he enjoyed some special family activities commemorating several family events.

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

New members or interest in membership: N/A

Reports:

- WELCA - No meeting was held in December. The ladies enjoyed the Christmas Tea on December 12th.
- Board of Education – N/A
- Other Reports – N/A

Old Business:

- Carpet Cleaning – has not been done due to the fact that the service that was contacted has been quite ill and not working right now. It would be good to wait until he's back on the job because he has been out and looked the job over before his illness set in. He is reliable and a good cleaner so it may be worth the wait being there is nothing pressing. Virginia contacted him again and he will let us know the state of his health.
- The matter of having a potluck after the Annual Meeting was discussed and it was a unanimous decision not to hold the potluck because the cases of COVID have again risen in the area.

New Business:

- The Annual Meeting will take place as we have been doing our Sunday morning services with emphasis on wearing masks and social distancing.
- The Slate of Council Members for the Annual Meeting was presented by the nominating committee consisting of Arlo Rude, Cindy Cedergren and Virginia Anderson. It was also brought up that Marisa Benson has been playing piano faithfully each Sunday on a volunteer basis without compensation. Council decided to ask her if she would continue or would she like to be compensated. If so, she should then be listed as a member of the church staff like the organist. This will be addressed by the new church council in 2022.
- In the absence of Pastor Carl, after his medical procedure, Kevin Reich, of Red Lake Falls will fill in for Sunday service on the 23 rd of January. Kari Torkelson will be contacted and asked to fill in on January 30th for Sunday service. It was suggested that we have a shorter worship service due to the fact that we will be having both Annual Meeting and Cemetery Association Annual Meeting that morning. The council was in agreement to shorten the service so we can get on with our meetings after worship.

Lord's Prayer was prayed.

Council Meeting Adjourned.

Virginia Anderson
St. Paul Church Council Secretary

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Minutes of the Cemetery Association

January 13, 2022

The St. Paul Cemetery Association met on Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 8:00 PM with the following council members present: Virginia Anderson, Wade Benson, Craig Folkedahl, Tammy Haugen and Jim Strandlie. Member absent, Pastor Carl Hansen.

The meeting was called to order by President Folkedahl.

Approval of Agenda: Remained as presented.

Secretary's Report: Approved from last meeting on October 21, 2021.

Treasurer's Report: Approved from last meeting on October 21, 2021.

Old Business: Old pine tree at the cemetery has been taken down by REA as it was damaged and growing fairly close to the highline wires. All branches were cut and hauled away by

a volunteer group. A huge stump remains along with some large timbers.

B & K Stump Grinding of Thief River Falls has been contacted for stump removal in the Spring, also for fill and leveling ground where necessary. Ron Anderson will be called when B & K can get at the job. Volunteers will be asked to take care of remaining timber.

“Distance” signs were put up at St. Pauli Cemetery and at the Church.

New Business: St. Pauli Cemetery Rules and Regulations were discussed.

The proposal for a Tree Project on the perimeter of the cemetery for Spring 2022 was discussed and it will be brought up and explained by Jim Strandlie at the Annual Meeting.

Meeting Adjourned by President Craig Folkedahl.

Virginia Anderson, St. Pauli Church Council Secretary

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WELCA Minutes

January 26, 2022

The St. Pauli Women of the ELCA met on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 4:00 pm with 5 members present.

President Kathy Alberg opened the meeting with devotions.

The secretary’s report was approved as read.

Cindy Cedergren sent the treasurer’s report in via phone and it was approved as read. Balances in our accounts:

Checking	\$ 1,162.70
Savings	\$ 573.48
CD	\$ 6,209.21

Stewardship: Thank you to the ladies who quilted today from 1:00 – 4:00 and thank you to Jan Strandlie for bringing us pizza.

Old Business:

Kathy read thank you letters from TRF Area Community Fund, NW MN Foundation, Bags of Blessings, Hospice of the Red River Valley, Lutheran Social Service, Women of the ELCA, and the TRF Food Shelf.

Inez Mathson sent a generation donation and Kathy sent a thank you note to her on our behalf.

Kathy contacted Alecia Hunt at the Food Shelf regarding which months they receive matching funds. Alecia said they are March and July. She would like us to come and tour sometime.

Thank you to Ron and Virginia Anderson for purchasing the Christmas tree and setting it up, and to Sharon Bugge for decorating. Thank you to Faye, Marisa and Damita for an incredible Christmas Tea at the Country School. Thank you to Jan and Cindy for preparing the 2022 church handbook.

New Business:

Our next meeting is February 22-23 with quilting on Tuesday from 1:00 – 9:00 and Wednesday from 10:00 – 4:00 with our business meeting at 4:00.

Lydia Circle will meet February 12 at 9:30 am at the home of Sue Kotz. Communion preparation for February is Tammy Haugen. Offering was taken and the Lord’s Prayer prayed.

Faye Auchenpaugh, Secretary

BOLD WOMEN SUNDAY

Bold Women’s Day—observed annually on the fourth Sunday of February—celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Some women are bold in their unceasing prayers. Other women are bold in their service to those in need. Still other women are bold in their advocacy or through their hospitality. Whether we live out our bold story of faith in the workplace, family home or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others. It’s all about living out our baptismal call, about being a disciple of Christ.



In honor of Bold Women’s Sunday, the WELCA ladies wore hats to church on February 27th.

Front row L to R: Faye Auchenpaugh, Wahna Smith, Kari Torkelson, Kathy Alberg, Heidi Haugen.

Back row L to R: Marisa Benson, Shelley Mathson, Cindy Cedergren, Barb Nelson, Virginia Anderson.

Pastor Carl's Sermon

February 13, 2022

The book of Psalms is the most popular book in the Bible. The word "Psalms" means "songs" in Greek. And a large number of the Psalms have been set to music, including many of the hymns that we sing at worship.

Today's first reading from the prophet Jeremiah speaks to a Psalm like tenacity.

"Blessed are those who trust in the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit."

For me, the picture that Jeremiah paints is that of a lone cottonwood tree that stands at the base of a hollow alongside a creek. While other vegetation may dry out in the summer, the cottonwoods reach down for water and remain green while other vegetation dries out.

The word of the Lord is expressed by the writer of the first psalm with these magnificent words:

"Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seat of the scornful! Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper. It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away."

I have served as the interim pastor of St. Pauli for more than 10 years. In that time, I feel as if there is a sense in this community of faith that is somewhere between earth and heaven. This congregation is alive. I discern that in the ways that you care for one another, and for the community. The music is joyful and out of sight.

In my ten-plus years here, I have presided at approximately 10 funerals. The most recent funerals at St. Pauli were those of Shirley Johnson, who died about a year ago at the age of 94, and Eunice Grove, who just departed this life at the age of almost 93. We who are gathered here today abide in the knowledge that we shall all sing the praises of Our Lord with Eunice and Shirley when we gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God. But in the meantime, we will serve the Lord and sing His praises right here and right now.

I have served in eight ministry settings in my 55 years as a pastor. In seven of those parishes, the spirit of the Lord permeated the hearts of the people. In the largest congregation in the small town where Mary and I served, there seemed to be persistent jousting, grumbling and scuffling. The congregations and parishes that Mary and I served ranged in membership from fewer than 100 members up to 1,200 members. The smaller congregations typically were the warmest and the healthiest.

Some of you have read Pastor Lyle Schaller's book, "The Small Membership Congregation." At Doctor Schaller's events, he would ask, "If there are two congregation—one large and one small—which congregation will likely be functioning as a congregation 100 years from now?" The vast majority of attendees would answer that the larger congregation would still be going.

Dr. Schaller would then say that out of 100 small membership congregations worshipping today, 99 would still be functioning as a congregation 100 years later. The large membership congregations were more likely to close their doors.

That may seem counterintuitive to you. Let me share a couple observations of a funeral director and the other a 78-year-old pastor. After sharing a delicious lunch following Eunice's funeral on Friday and engaging in warm conversation, I wandered over to visit with my friend, Anders Macy. Anders was the funeral director in Fertile when Mary and I served in Fertile from 2002 until retirement. Mary retired for health reasons in 2005 and I retired in 2011. Anders and his wife lived in a house across from the parsonage and we frequently visited in the back yard, at the funeral home, and other places as well. Anders is a gem. And I'm delighted that he is now working with Johnson Funeral Service.

As Anders and I were visiting, we got to talking about two small membership congregations: St. Pauli and Little Norway in rural Fertile. Anders and I agreed that there is a very special warmth here at St. Pauli, as there is at Little Norway. One of my retired colleagues, Pastor Cathy Rhodes, spoke frequently about the warmth of the ladies at St. Pauli. You do not get lost in a small membership congregation. Everyone is the important person that God wants us to be. God cares about you—each and every person and we are God's children. Each and every one of us.

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**At one magical instant in your childhood,
the page of a book—that string of
confused, alien ciphers—shivered into
meaning. Words spoke to you, gave up
their secrets; at that moment, whole
universes opened. You became,
irrevocably, a reader.**

Alberto Manguel, *A History of Reading*

Why “Tock-Tick” Does Not Sound Right to Your Ears



Ever wondered why we say tick-tock, not tock-tick—or ding-dong, not dong-ding—King Kong, not Kong King? Turns out it is one of the unwritten rules of English that native speakers know without knowing.

The rule, explains a BBC article, is: “If there are three words, then the order has to go I, A, O.

If there are two words, then the first is I and the second is either A or O. Mish-mash, chit-chat, dilly-dally, tip top, hip-hop, flip-flip, tic tac, sing song, ding dong, King Kong, ping pong.”

There’s another unwritten rule at work in the name Little Red Riding Hood, says the article.

“Adjectives in English absolutely have to be in this order: opinion-size-age-shape-color-origin-material-purpose noun. So you can have a lovely little rectangular green French silver whittling knife. But if you mess with that word order in the slightest, you’ll sound like a maniac.”

That explains why we say “little green men” and not “green little men,” but “Big Bad Wolf” sounds like a gross violation of the “opinion-size-noun order. It won’t though if you recall the first rule about the I-A-O order.

That rule seems inviolable: “All four of a horse’s feet make exactly the same sound. But we always, always say clip-clop, never clop-clip.” This rule even has a technical name, if you care to know it—the rule of ablaut reduplication.

As the word signifies, ‘reduplication’ in linguistics is when you repeat a word, sometimes with a modified vowel (e.g., ding dang dong) or sometimes with an altered consonant (e.g., nitty-gritty). As such, if there are two words, then the first word contains I, and the next word contains either A or O (e.g., ‘mish mash’, ‘hip hop’, ‘chit chat’ etc.).

However, if there are three words in question, then the first word contains I, the next contains A and the last word contains O (e.g., bish bash bosh). It doesn’t have anything definite about it, but it somehow just *sounds* right.

It’s one of those unconscious rules of English pronunciation that we all have. Without anyone telling us, we have somehow learned on our own that this is the correct order, and putting vowels and consonants in any old order just sounds strange (if not outright wrong).

We really don’t know why this rule holds good and is followed all over the world, but it’s believed that it might have something to do with the movement of your tongue or the ancient language of the Caucasus. Also, it might be related to the physics of sound.

In the end, life is simpler knowing that we know the rule without knowing it. How many examples can you come up with?

Shoes in Church

I showered and shaved. I adjusted my tie.
I got there and sat In a pew just in time.
Bowing my head in prayer as I closed my eyes.
I saw the shoe next to me touching my own. I sighed.

With plenty of room on either side, I thought, 'Why must our soles touch?' It bothered me, his shoe touching mine. But it didn't bother him much.

A prayer began: 'Our Father' and I thought,
'This man with the shoes, has no pride. They're dusty, worn, and scratched. Even worse, there are holes on the side!' 'Thank You for blessings,' the prayer went on.
The shoe man said a quiet 'Amen.'
I tried to focus on the prayer, but my thoughts were on his shoes again. Aren't we supposed to look our best when walking through that door? 'Well, this certainly isn't it,' I thought, glancing toward the floor.

Then the prayer ended and the songs of praise began. The shoe man was certainly loud, sounding proud as he sang. His voice lifted the rafters, his hands were raised high. The Lord could surely hear the shoe man's voice from the sky.

It was time for the offering and what I threw in was steep.
I watched as the shoe man reached into his pockets so deep. I saw what was pulled out, what the shoe man put in. Then I heard a soft 'clink' as when silver hits tin.

The sermon really bored me to tears, and that's no lie. It was the same for the shoe man, for tears fell from his eyes.

At the end of the service, as is the custom here, we must greet new visitors and show them all good cheer. But I felt moved somehow and wanted to meet the shoe man. So after the closing prayer I reached over and shook his hand.

He was old, his skin was dark, and his hair was truly a mess. But I thanked him for coming, for being our guest. He said, 'My name's Charlie. I'm glad to meet you, my friend.' There were tears in his eyes, but he had a large, wide grin. 'Let me explain,' he said, wiping tears from his eyes. 'I've been coming here for months and you're the first to say 'Hi.' I know that my appearance is not like the rest, but I really do try to always look my best. I always clean and polish my shoes before my very long walk, but by the time I get here, they're dirty and dusty, like chalk.'

My heart filled with pain and I swallowed to hide my tears as he continued to apologize for daring to sit so near. He said, 'When I get here, I know I must look a sight. But I thought if I could touch you, then maybe our souls might unite.'

I was silent for a moment, knowing whatever was said would pale in comparison, I spoke from my heart, not my head. 'Oh, you've touched me,' I said, 'and taught me, in part, that the best of any man is what is found in his heart.'

The rest, I thought, this shoe man will never know. Like just how thankful I really am that his dirty old shoe touched my soul.

Live each day as though your last, for we never know our time here on earth. And remember that it is not how we look on the outside, but how we look within

John Deere and “the plow that broke the Plains”

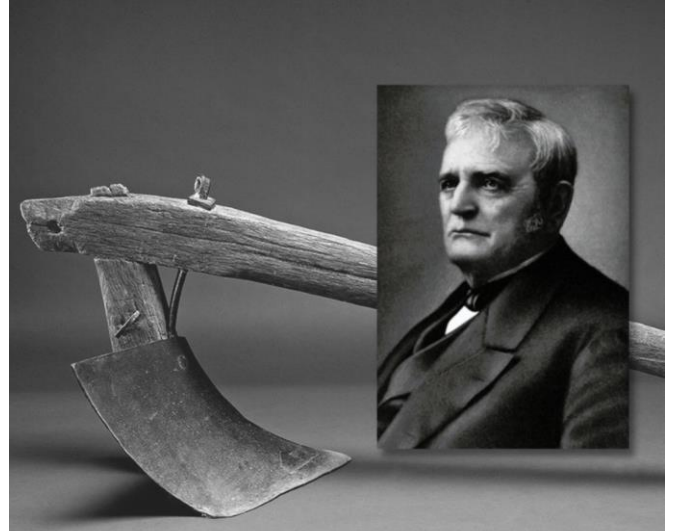
John Deere, American blacksmith and manufacturer of “the plow that broke the Plains,” was born in Rutland, Vermont on February 7, 1804. He subsequently moved to Grand Detour, IL to escape bankruptcy in Vermont.

Already an established blacksmith, Deere opened a 1,378-square-foot shop in Grand Detour in 1837, which allowed him to serve as a general repairman in the village, as well as a manufacturer of tools such as pitchforks and shovels.

Tools were just a start. The item that set him apart was the self-scouring steel plow, which was pioneered in 1837 when John Deere fashioned a Scottish steel saw blade into a plow. Prior to Deere's steel plow, most farmers used iron or wooden plows that struggled to break through the tangle of roots of the native prairie grasses. Additionally, the rich Midwestern soil stuck to the wooden or cast iron blades, so they had to be cleaned frequently. His smooth-sided, self-scouring steel plow solved this problem and it worked so well that word quickly spread, and demand grew, greatly aiding migration into the American Great Plains in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Deere was an innovator in business as well. The traditional way of doing business had been to make the product as and when it was ordered. This style was very slow. As Deere realized that this was not going to be a viable business model, he increased the rate of production by manufacturing plows before putting them up for sale. This allowed customers to not only see what they were buying beforehand but also allowed his customers to purchase his products straight away.

In 1848, he relocated his business to Moline, IL because the city was a transportation hub on the Mississippi River. By 1857, the company was producing 1,120 farm implements a month including wagons, corn planters, and cultivators.



This plow is believed to be one of the first three plows that John Deere personally forged. It is part of the Smithsonian collection.

John Deere insisted on excellence stating, “I will not put my name on a product that does not have in it the best that is in me.” His company also cared about the farmers they served. It is said that they never repossessed any equipment from American farmers during the Great Depression.

Farmers in the free states were quicker to adopt technological innovations in farming than their southern counterparts. By 1860, they had nearly twice the value of farm machinery per acre and per farm worker as did the slave states. As a result, in 1860, Northern states produced half of the nation's corn, four-fifths of its wheat, and seven-eighths of its oats.

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A Norwegian student found a boat launched by New Hampshire middle-schoolers in 2020



The Rye Riptides on board before launching in October 2020. Eighteen months later, the boat was retrieved from an uninhabited Norwegian island with its messages and gifts intact.

The remains of a miniboat launched by New Hampshire middle schoolers have been discovered by a sixth-grade student in Norway, 462 days and more than 8,300 miles later.

It was an eventful journey for the 5.5-foot boat, which was built by two consecutive middle school science classes in partnership with the nonprofit organization Educational Passages and first set sail (uncrewed) from Massachusetts in October 2020. The boat's GPS reported intermittently over the years until the end of January, when a family recovered it from an uninhabited Norwegian island, thanks to a social media connection.

"Our miniboat made it to the local school in Norway! Their 6th grade class opened the hatch to find our package of materials all dry inside! Amazing, considering the condition it was in!" Rye Junior High School posted on Facebook over the weekend.

Rye Junior High and the nonprofit Educational Passages — which says it aims to connect students around the world to the ocean and one another — started working together on the project in 2018. The organization provided students with an

assembly kit in 2020, though the construction and launch were complicated by the coronavirus pandemic.

Science teacher Sheila Adams said her students had built the boat and were just getting ready to decorate it when COVID-19 forced classes online. Undeterred, they figured out a way to finish the project remotely: Students each submitted pieces of artwork, which were then scanned, printed and assembled into a collage on the boat's deck. It was ready to set sail by summer vacation.

"Over the summer, we worked together to try and find a deployer for the vessel that could take the boat out to sea beyond the Gulf of Maine, but found it challenging with all of the restrictions in place," said Cassie Stymiest, the director of Educational Passages. "So we waited until fall and introduced the new 5th grade class to the project virtually."

In order to connect the new class to the boat they had not built, the project leaders solicited student input on which color to paint the bottom, what messages to fill it with and where the vessel might end up. Some students hoped it would drift to Europe, while others were more skeptical, as *The Portsmouth Herald* reported.

"Honestly, I thought it would sink," Solstice Reed, then a sixth-grader, told the newspaper.

The Sea Education Association in Woods Hole, Mass., volunteered to launch the *Rye Riptides* alongside another miniboat, called *Sojourner's Truth*, from JFK Middle School in Northampton, Mass.

The students delivered their boat to the Sea Education Association crew, docked in Massachusetts, on Oct. 9, 2020. They took it aboard the *SSV Corwith Cramer*, which then traveled to Florida and launched the miniboats into the Gulf Stream on Oct. 25.

"When *Rye Riptides* and *Sojourner's Truth* hit the water there was a raucous cheer from the crew as both miniboats caught the wind immediately and certainly appeared to be sailing faster than we were onboard the *Corwith Cramer*," SEA Chief Scientist Dr. Jeffrey Schell recalled.

After radio silence, the GPS pinged from an uninhabited island

Adams and her students kept track of the boat's course on a map whenever its GPS pinged.

The *Herald* reports that Adams left a note on the map asking it to be saved for students when she retired unexpectedly at the end of last school year and found out that custodians had been updating it during summer vacation.

But after about 10 months at sea, the GPS began reporting only intermittently during hurricane season of 2021. It sent one ping on Aug. 18 and another on Sept. 30. Students kept checking for status reports, even while they were learning online.

Then, on Jan. 30, the GPS reported once again — this time from a small uninhabited island in Smøla, near Dyrnes, Norway.

"It didn't look like an island that would be walked, so we needed to try and make contact with someone in the area to possibly assist in recovering the boat," reads an update on the Educational Passages website.

The organization posted a notice on its website explaining the educational purpose of the project and asking for help safely recovering the boat if possible. The message also made its way into local news and onto the Facebook page of a nearby Norwegian community.



That's where the family of a local sixth-grader, Karel Nuncic, heard about the crashed boat. One early February afternoon after school, Nuncic, his parents and their puppy boated out to the island — which is visible from their home — and found what was left of the *Rye Riptides*.

"The boat had been dismantled, and the hull and keel were no longer attached," Educational Passages said. "The majority of the deck, with the cargo hold embedded, was intact and sealed. After cleaning off barnacles that had grown on the boat during its voyage, the family brought the boat home."



Nuncic brought the boat to his school the next day, where students opened the cargo hatch to find the messages and gifts that the middle schoolers had deposited nearly two years before.

The grand opening was filmed by a national television crew and shared across social media, including by the U.S. Embassy in Oslo. <https://tv.nrk.no/serie/distriktsnyheter-moere-og-romsdal/202202/DKMR98020222#t=657s>

"It means a lot to have this story shared so widely, and to see so many people congratulating the students!" Stymiest told NPR over email. "That is what it is all about."

The boat's viral voyage is also personal for those involved. "After 462 days and 13,412 km of traveling across the Atlantic Ocean, the deck and cargo hold were the only remaining pieces of the boat, but the messages inside have sparked a new friendship between schools," the organization said.

The Norwegian students said they would be writing a letter to their new American friends, and the classrooms have a virtual meeting planned for Thursday.

The Great CyborGoat Invasion



Combining the age-old livelihood of farming with the newest in satellite technology, armies of “CyborGoats” have been unleashed across the nation of Norway.

No need to hide under a bridge. There are no robotic rams shooting laser beams at grouchy old trolls. “CyborGoats” are simply goats equipped with state-of-the-art GPS collars, utilizing cellular and blue tooth technologies. The human in charge of the goats uses an app on their cell phone to track each creature, and most importantly to set digital boundaries for their herds. If a goat strays outside the prescribed longitude and latitude, their collar will start to beep. If the animal ignores the warning and remains outside the boundaries too long, the beeping continues and they receive a small electric shock. Goats are very smart. They have adapted to the new collars quickly, though many enjoy the challenge of grazing just outside the digital lines, leaping back to safety at the very last moment.

Over 2,400 farmers in Norway have taken advantage of this new technology, which has revolutionized their profession. If an area is in danger of being overgrazed, new virtual boundaries can be set with the app, which is especially helpful in the most mountainous regions. Based on their movements, a caretaker can tell if an animal is stuck or is being chased by a predator. Wayward goats can be located easily for a quick and effective rescue.

With digital fencing in place, CyborGoats are being rented to municipalities and individuals to chomp on unwanted brush and weeds. Goats can safely graze next to roadways or power lines, both clearing and fertilizing the land simultaneously. It's estimated that over 27,000 creatures in Norway are now sporting GPS collars.

Unfortunately, cows and sheep have not responded as well as these clever kids.

HEAVENS TO MERGATROYD!

Mergatroyd? Do you remember that word?

Would you believe that spell-check does not recognize the word, “Mergatroyd?” Heavens to Mergatroyd!

The other day a not so elderly (I'd say 75) lady said something to her son about driving a Jalopy; and he looked at her quizzically and said, “What the heck is a Jalopy?” He had never heard of the word jalopy! She knew she was old ...But not that old.

Well, I hope you are Hunky Dory when you read this and chuckle. About a month ago, I illuminated some old expressions that have become obsolete because of the inexorable march of technology.

These phrases included: Don't touch that dial; Carbon copy; You sound like a broken record; and Hung out to dry.

Back in the olden days we had a lot of moxie. We'd put on our best bib and tucker, to straighten up and fly right.

Heavens to Betsy! Gee whillikers! Jumping Jehoshaphat! Holy Moley!

We were in like Flynn and living the life of Riley; and even a regular guy couldn't accuse us of being a knucklehead, a nincompoop or a pill. Not for all the tea in China!

Back in the olden days, life used to be swell, but when is the last time anything was swell? Swell has gone the way of beehives, pageboys and the ducktail; of spats, knickers, fedoras, poodle skirts, saddle shoes, and pedal pushers.

Oh, my aching back! Kilroy was here, but he isn't anymore.

We wake up from what surely has been just a short nap, and before we can say, “Well, I'll be a monkey's uncle!” or, “This is a fine kettle of fish!” we discover that the words we grew up with, the words that seemed omnipresent, as oxygen, have vanished with scarcely a notice from our tongues and our pens and our keyboards.

Poof, go the words of our youth, the words we've left behind. We blink, and they're gone. Where have all those great phrases gone?

It turns out there are more of these lost words and expressions than Carter has liver pills. This can be disturbing stuff! (Carter's Little Liver Pills are gone too!)

Long gone: Pshaw, The milkman did it. Hey! It's your nickel. Don't forget to pull the chain. Knee high to a grasshopper.

Well, Fiddlesticks! Going like sixty. I'll see you in the funny papers. Don't take any wooden nickels. Wake up and smell the roses.

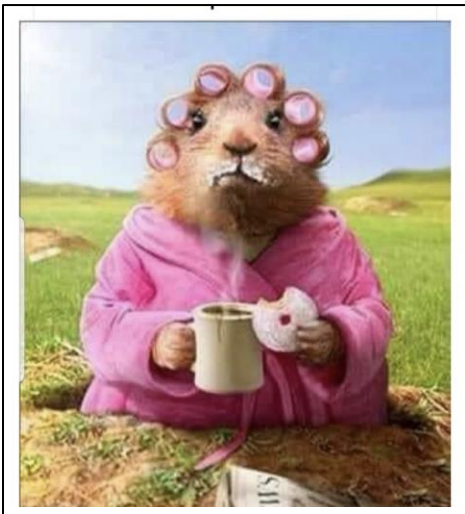
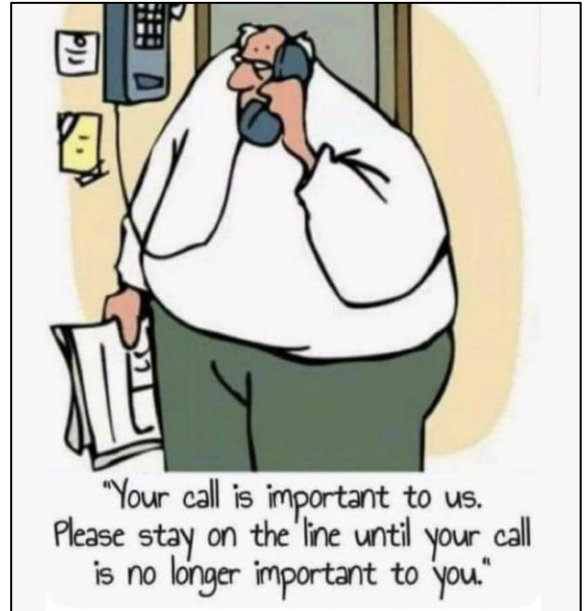
Leaves us to wonder where Superman will find a phone booth.

See ya later, alligator! Okidoki.

The Back Page

Wife: "The car is not starting. The dashboard shows the sign of a person sitting on the toilet."

Husband: "What?? Send me a picture."



This is Punxsutawney Phil's ex-wife, Phyllis, who now lives in Florida and says that Phil is a compulsive liar.

