

St. Pauli Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 944
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
historicstpauli.org

September 2022 Newsletter



A new month, full of possibilities...

September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 <i>HOLY COMMUNION</i> 10:30 Worship Services	5 <i>Labor Day</i>	6	7	8	9	10
11 10:30 Worship Services 11:30 <i>Special Congregational Meeting (very brief)</i>	12	13	14 Lydia Circle 7:00 pm at Ivette Garrett home Wahna Smith, hostess	15 Church Council 7:00 pm	16	17
18 <i>RALLY SUNDAY</i> 9:15 Sunday School <i>HOLY COMMUNION</i> 10:30 Worship Services <i>POTLUCK following services (Mary Group)</i> <i>Freewill offering for Violence Intervention Project</i>	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Services	26	27 Quilting 1:00 – 9:00 pm 6:00 pm Light Supper Wade Benson	28 Quilting 10:00 am – 4:00 pm Lunch, Sue Kotz WELCA Meeting 4:00 pm	29	30	

St. Pauli News in Detail



Greeting and Ushering

September 4	Ken Cedergren
September 11	Gary Iverson
September 18	Bryan Grove
September 25	Jerod Haugen

Altar Preparation: Katy Haugen

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Quilting

Wednesday, September 27
1:00 – 9:00 pm

Thursday, September 27
10:00 am – 4:00 pm

WELCA ladies will again spend two days quilting for Lutheran World Relief. This time, we decided to schedule the first two-day session for a warmer month than January or February!

A light supper furnished by Wade Benson will be served at 6:00 pm on Wednesday. Sue Kotz will serve lunch on Thursday at noon.

Anyone is welcome to join in—or to stop by for a cup of coffee mid-afternoon on Wednesday.

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Phase 1 of Sound System is In!

Keith Wander of Schmitt Music and Bruce Elseth of Newfolden spent the greater part of one day installing the new sound board and putting the speakers temporarily on stands in the front of the church. It will take the next several weeks to fine tune the organ and mic sounds.

The next phase will be the video system installation by Aaron Fagerstrom, and it will be a while before we get to the third phase—streaming online—but hopefully we'll have it all in place by Christmas!

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, September 11
11:30 am

When the St. Pauli Council met in August, one of the agenda items discussed was replacement of the front entrance doors. The vinyl skin has peeled off the lower portion of one door and cannot be repaired.

The quotes received exceed the \$1,000 limit the Council is authorized to spend. Therefore, a special congregational meeting has been scheduled to seek your approval for this expense.

This brief meeting will be held immediately following the 10:30 am worship service on Sunday, September 11.

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September Milestones



Birthdays

Sept. 1	Deb Ernst
Sept. 12	Nancy Jensen
Sept. 13	Racheal Rondorf
Sept. 15	Cindy Cedergren
Sept. 16	Sally Torkelson
Sept. 17	Bruce Mathson
Sept. 19	Wally Torkelson
Sept. 26	Marisa Benson

Anniversaries

None that we know of.



In Memoriam

Edna Rondorf



Edna was a lifetime member of St. Pauli Church. She was baptized on May 1, 1927 with Mr. and Mrs. Tobias Stene, Joseph Torstveit, and Berthe Stene as sponsors. She was confirmed by Rev. Dahle on November 22, 1939 along with Shirley Johnson, Goldie Finstad, Clayton Mathson, Cleo Alberg, LaVerne Lian, Alton Bremseth, Carol Bremseth, Fern Bremseth, Edward Finstad, and Margaret Robertson.

Edna Lila Rondorf of Thief River Falls, MN, died on Wednesday, August 10, 2022, at the age of 95.

Edna Lila Iverson was born on February 27, 1927, in Thief River Falls, MN, the daughter of Iver and Anna (Berg) Iverson. She was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith in St. Pauli Lutheran Church, rural Thief River Falls. She attended elementary school at

Cheerville School in Rocksbury Township. She went to St. Hilaire High School for three years, and when that school closed, she graduated from Lincoln High School in Thief River Falls. In 1945, she attended a teacher's training class in Thief River Falls and taught for five years in the rural schools of Pennington County.

In 1949, Edna was united in marriage to her lifelong friend Eugene Rondorf. They farmed in Rocksbury Township in Pennington County all their married life. To this union, five children were born: Dennis, Neil, LouAnn, Wallace, and Jim. In 1971, Edna received her B.S. degree from Bemidji State University and taught in Franklin Middle School in Thief River Falls until retirement in 1988. She then worked at the public library as a volunteer for eight years.

Edna was a member of St. Pauli Lutheran Church and served on various church offices and taught Sunday School. She also served on the board of the Public Library and the Heritage Center. Edna's favorite thing was being with Eugene and their children. She loved her roses, bluebirds, playing cards, doing puzzles, reading, and going out to lunch with friends.

Survivors include five children: Dennis Rondorf, Husum, WA; Neil (Cheryl) Rondorf, Virginia Beach, VA; Louann (Michael) Klym, Wilsonville, OR; Wallace (Sherry) Rondorf, Thief River Falls, MN; and James (Roxane) Rondorf, Thief River Falls, MN; 10 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren; one sister, Gail (Gary) Fitch, Brainard, MN; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousin, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Eugene, her parents, two sisters: Clara (Val) Wagner and Adeline (Bob) Farmes, one brother, Harley Iverson, and an infant grandson, Michael Rondorf.

The funeral service was held on Friday, August 19, 2022, at 11:00 am in Redeemer Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, MN. Visitation was held at Johnson Funeral Chapel, Thief River Falls, on Thursday, August 18, 2022, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, with a prayer service at 7:00 pm. Burial followed the service at Greenwood Cemetery, Thief River Falls, MN.

St. Pauli Notes: For years, Edna embroidered our baptism cloths. When we began our church newsletter, she would send a \$100 bill every few months to pay for postage, believing the newsletter is good outreach for our church that is mailed to present and former members all over the U.S. Here is one of Edna's poems.

The Bluebird, My Friend

Last summer we were greatly blessed
When a bluebird decided to make his nest
In a house up close 'neath the window pane,
Safely sheltered from wind and rain.

To his perch on the sill the bluebird would come,
Soft feathers shining in the bright morning sun.
I'd see that bright and curious eye
As if he were maybe wondering why
We lived inside of boards and glass
And not in his world of trees and grass.
Why we walked on legs like wooden things
Instead of using swooping wings

To move through life with job and speed
With the Lord providing all we'd need.

My heart reached out...I longed to be
As lovely as he, as wild and as free,
But I was tied to earth by kind and form
For we all must live as we are born.
I accepted my life; I stifled my whims;
Only in dreams could I soar like him.
I'd enjoy his presence until summer's end
And thank God for the gift, the bluebird, my friend

~Edna

In Memoriam

Milan Iverson



Milan was a gentle man. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Pauli, and his grandparents, Iver and Louise Iverson, parents, Harley and Marie Iverson, and siblings Gary, Eileen, Vinse and Dave have all been a huge part of St. Pauli's history.

Milan Iverson, 64, of Thief River Falls, MN passed away on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at his residence with his loving wife by his side.

Milan Wyatt Iverson was born November 28, 1957 in Thief River Falls, the son of Harley and Marie (Benston) Iverson. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Pauli Lutheran Church, rural Thief River Falls. Milan attended Washington Elementary School in Thief River Falls and graduated from Lincoln High School.

Following high school, Milan worked on the Iverson Family Farm and as a welder at Hydra Mac in Thief River Falls for many years.

In 1997, Milan moved to the state of Vermont where he worked as a carpenter and home builder.

On November 18, 2000, Milan was united in marriage to Carol McCarty in Highgate, Vermont. He returned to live in the Thief River Falls area in 2010 where he continued to work in carpentry; he was also a welder at Steiger Manufacturing. In 2011, Milan was very proud to build their current home in Smiley Township.

Milan was a jack of all trades. He could do anything including carpentry, plumbing, electrical, body work, mechanics, etc. Milan was a hard worker!

He enjoyed reading and watching Westerns—and loved to maintain and repair things! Milan took great pride in mowing his yard and tinkering in his garage.

Survivors include his wife, Carol; children, Kari Ann Iverson and Kelly Allen Iverson all of Thief River Falls and Kasey Michelle (Wayne) Thoreson of Climax, MN; step-daughters, Heidi Marie Lovely and Stacy Ann (John) Plankey of Vermont; grandchildren, Lainey, Shea, Eidon, Ariana, Emmett, Killian, Matthew and Hunter; siblings, Gary Iverson, Eileen (John) Kotaska, Vinse Iverson all of Thief River Falls and Dale (Katie) Iverson of Vermont; and many other relatives and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Harley and Marie; brother, Virgil Iverson in infancy; son, Bobby Michael Iverson in infancy; father and mother-in-law, Lloyd (Doris) McCarty and his grandparents.

The funeral service to celebrate Milan's life was held at 11:00 AM with visitation one hour prior on Saturday, August 20, 2022 at St. Pauli Lutheran Church rural Thief River Falls with Rev. Carl Hansen officiating. Burial followed at St. Pauli Cemetery.

Confirmation Class of 1972-73

Back row: Troy Torkelson, Timothy Rude, Rev. Swanson, Bruce Mathson, Bryan Grove.

Front row: Kurt Nelson, Mark Folkedahl, Julie Vettleson, Jodie Torkelson, Wallace Rondorf, Milan Iverson.





In Memoriam

Ed Van de Streek

Barb Nelson's brother Ed Van de Streek passed away on Saturday, July 2nd at the Thief River Care Center. He was 92 years old.

Edward Van de Streek was born November 4, 1929 near Lismore, MN in Nobles County on the family farm, the fourth of nine children born to Egbert and Effie (Stavenger) Van de Streek.

At nine years of age, Edward moved with his family to a farm in Black River Township, near St. Hilaire, MN. He was confirmed in 1943 as a member of Tarna Lutheran Church, St. Hilaire.

After leaving St. Hilaire High School, Ed worked for various farmers near St. Hilaire, Red Lake County, and Mavie, MN areas and on July 31, 1951 he entered into service with the United States Air Force. He did his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base and then attended Parks College of Aeronautical Technology of St. Louis University in East Saint Louis, IL, where Ed completed the course of instructions in airplane and engine mechanics.

Throughout his military service, Ed worked primarily on aircraft instruments. From November of 1952 until November of 1953 he was stationed in Japan. In 1954, Ed married Darlene Ellefson at Ekelund Lutheran Church near Highland, MN. To this union three children were born, Alan, Lana and Sheryl. This marriage ended in 1964.

Ed continued to serve in active duty at Geiger Field in Spokane, WA where he was Honorably Discharged, July 30, 1955 and was transferred to the Air Force Reserve where he served for eight more years.

Following his Honorable Discharge, Ed worked a short time mining in Eveleth, MN, before returning to the Thief River Falls area where he worked for area farmers for five years, then moved to Bagley, MN where he worked for a turkey and chicken farmer for five years, then in 1969 returned to Thief River Falls where he went to work for Hartz Wholesale Warehouse.

On May 26, 1972 Ed married Myrtle (Johnson) Eggerud in Sisseton, SD. This union brought Myrtle's four children Millie, Orville, Jean and Eunice and their families. The couple continued to live in Thief River Falls until 1979, when they moved to Astoria, OR, where Ed went to work at a fish processing plant. The couple returned to Thief River Falls in 1985 and Ed went to work for Les's Sanitation for a short time and a year later moved to Bagley, where he went to work for a wood pallet plant. In the spring of 1988 they returned to Thief River Falls and he went to work for Hydra-Mac, retiring in the fall of 1994. Ed had lived and worked at Pioneer Court since 2002.

Ed enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing cards, woodworking, and putting together jigsaw puzzles. He was a member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and a life member of both American Legion and VFW Posts, Thief River Falls.

Survivors include three children, Alan Van de Streek, Jasper, NY, Lana (Tim) Bulger, Rosewood, MN and Sheryl (Tim) Danielson, Shevlin, MN; grandchildren: Jessica, Becky, Jared, Justin, Tammi, Nichole, John, Chelsie and Chloe; great grandchildren: Brady, Olivia, Parker, Zack, Logan, Cora, McKenzie, Ava, Dusty, Connor, Jaxon, Wyatt, Hannah, Emily, Layla, Aubree, and Braelyn; sisters: Dorothy Morehouse, Thief River Falls, MN, Ruth Roos, Grand Forks, ND, June Jorgenson, Arlington, WA, Barb Nelson, Thief River Falls, MN, Muriel Wavra, Gaylord, MN; sister-in-law Markita Van de Streek, Thief River Falls, MN; stepdaughter, Eunice (Wesley) Rud; stepdaughter-in-law Diane Eggerud, stepson-in-law John Thorstad, stepgrandchildren: Diane, Mark, Susie, Paula, Austin, Larissa, Richard, Lisa, Chad, Chris, Scott, Kaylia, David, Tom, and Kathy; and many stepgreat grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his parents; wife, Myrtle; sisters Evelyn Swanson, Mildred Robinson; brother Harold Van de Streek; brothers-in-law Durlyn Robinson, Walt Morehouse, Lester Swanson, Palmer Roos, Kenny Jorgenson, Dennis Nelson, and Duane Wavra; granddaughter Kimberly Hintz, step-grandsons Danny Thorstad and Ryan Eggerud; step-granddaughter, Kjya; step-great-grandsons Axel and Jaecob, stepsons, Orville and Jean, stepdaughter Millie Thorstad; and other extended family.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 am on Thursday, July 7, 2022 at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, MN with Reverend Alex Amiot officiating. Burial was held at Greenwood Cemetery in Thief River Falls.

Visitation were held one hour prior to the service at the church on Thursday.

May God Bless the Memories of Edna Iverson, Milan Iverson, and Edward Van de Streek.

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL

June 16, 2022

The St. Pauli Church Council held its monthly meeting on Thursday, June 16, 2022 at 7 p.m. at St. Pauli Church. Members present: Jim Strandlie, Pastor Carl Hansen, Cindy Cedergren, Marisa Benson, Tammy Haugen, and Myles Alberg.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Strandlie. Pastor Hansen opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Agenda: Additions were made to the agenda and approved.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the May 19, 2022 meeting were approved as presented. M/S/C (Benson/Hansen)

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was approved. M/S/C (Alberg/Hansen)

Checking Account Balance End of Apr 2022	\$15,272.41
May 2022 Revenue:	\$3,567.00
May 2022 Expenses:	(\$4,848.23)
Checking Account Balance End of May 2022:	\$13,991.18

Other Account Balances End of May 2022:	
Education Fund	\$1,401.76
Edward Jones	\$74,799.75
Memorial Fund	\$16,291.10
Mission Grant	\$5,439.48
Savings	\$36,637.97
Total St. Pauli Balances End of May 2022:	\$148,561.24

Cemetery Association Funds End of May 2022: \$62,596.94

Pastor's Report: Pastor Hansen reported no change in his Riverside Ave. home and the riverbank's erosion issue.

Reports of Members in sickness or distress: Pastor Hansen included Marv Torkelson in his opening prayer, regarding a successful recovery following surgery.

New Members or Interest in Membership: A couple of prospective members' names were shared.

Other Reports:

1) WELCA: Thanks to the six members who came to clean

on cleaning night in May. There are still tasks needing to be done.

2) Board of Education: No report.

Old Business:

- 1) AV/Sound System Project: Nothing new to report.
- 2) Front Entrance Door: Marisa will obtain quotes for replacing the doors and share her findings via email. A decision should be made at the August meeting.
- 3) Carpet Cleaning: Done on June 6. Thank you goes to Ron and Virginia Anderson for handling the arrangements and preparations necessary.

New Business:

- 1) Speakers for church services: Kevin Reich will preach on June 26. Jim will contact Kari Torkelson to see which Sundays she would be interested in leading worship in the upcoming months, when Pastor Hansen is not scheduled to preach.
- 2) Servant of Christ Award: On Sunday, October 16, the award will be presented and a representative from Lutheran Social Services will provide the sermon for that service, followed by a potluck lunch. It was noted that this falls on a typical Communion Sunday.
- 3) Churchyard mowing: A motion was made to contract with Justin Folkedahl to mow this summer, at a rate of \$60 per mowing. M/S/C (Benson, Haugen).
- 4) Communion Distribution: Per a member's request, it was decided to return to using the traditional wine & wafers, instead of the pre-packaged containers.
- 5) July Meeting: It was decided that a meeting in July was not needed.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Next regular meeting date: Thursday, August 18, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Cedergren, St. Pauli Church Council Secretary

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PASTOR CARL'S SERMON – Luke 10:25-37

July 10, 2022

Who is my neighbor?

The people of the United States need to hear the parable of the Prodigal Son.

How did you get your name? Were you named after a member of your family? Or a famous person? Or a biblical character? Or after someone or something else?

I was named after my father, Carl, and after my maternal grandfather, whose middle name was Gilbert. My dad was never known as Carl, which was his uncle's first name. Rather, Dad was known by his middle name, Woodrow,

although everyone called him Woody. Dad's favorite line was that if you knew his name, you could tell his age and his father's politics. Woody was born in the pandemic of 1918 during the presidency of Woodrow Wilson, who was a Democrat. My Grandpa Hansen was a Democrat and my dad, Woody, a lifelong Republican.

Do you like your name? Does it fit with you as a person or do you wish that your parents would have chosen another name?

One of my pastoral colleagues was given a perfect name by her parents: **Joy**. Pastor Joy Grainger is one of the most

loving, caring, inviting Christian human beings that I have ever known.

At the Crookston Bible study, Joy shared a story of what she had just experienced in a grocery store parking lot. There was a three-year-old girl and her mother getting out of their car at the same time Joy was exiting her vehicle. Mother and daughter were each wearing a hijab. The little girl spotted Joy, ran over to her, and gave Joy a great big hug. Joy returned that hug, and there was the little girl's Mom just beaming with happiness.

What prompted the little girl to go and embrace Joy? I do not know. But I have a hunch that Joy's warmth and smile had a whole lot to do with that.

So who is my neighbor? Who is your neighbor?

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells a familiar story with a familiar name – the parable of the Good Samaritan. The name "Good Samaritan" may bring up thoughts of a well-intentioned, but naïve person who may have been engaging in risky behavior, not knowing what they might be getting into.

The Samaritans were held in contempt by the Jews. In Luke 10, a Jewish scholar of the law asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus responds by asking him what he reads in the Jewish law. He replies, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your strength and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And Jesus says to him, "You have given the right answer; do this and you will live."

But wanting to justify himself, he asks Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus answers by telling the parable of the Good Samaritan.

"A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho." That was literally true, for over the 18 miles from Jerusalem to Jericho the road drops 3,200 feet to below sea level. It was a road full of thieves and robbers.

Jesus continues: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and left him half dead. Now, by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So, likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side."

"But a Samaritan (That's one of the bad guys according to the Jews.) while traveling came near him; and when he saw him he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put the Samaritan on his own animal, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay whatever more you spend.' Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

So the supposed villain, with the wrong theology, ministers to the victim and takes care of the victim's needs and expenses. The devout believers pass by on the other side.

Jesus asks you and me – Who is Your Neighbor? Who is My Neighbor?

The one who has need of you!

The one who has need of me!

Amen.

* * * * *

"Mining Spiritual Treasure"

By Cara Strickland, *Gather* magazine, June 2020

When I was a little girl, I loved nothing better than reading. I often thought that the best job (one I didn't think existed) would be one where I was actually paid to read books. Now a large part of my work is reading books in order to review them, reflect on them, or interview book authors. My younger self, I'm sure, would be delighted.

What I knew about books as a child remains true now: These written works have power. They offer another perspective. They invite my empathy. They usher me into experiences I might never have otherwise. As a kid, I dove headfirst into novels, loving that feeling of losing yourself in a story.

As an adult, I read a lot more nonfiction, which has a power all its own.

With reading as part of my daily work, I'm offered a great gift—the chance to do something good for me, that I love, with time set aside to do it. But there's been another, unexpected benefit: I'll be reading, dutifully looking for the right questions to ask an author, when I come across something that feels written for me. Once, in the middle of a chapter of a book on community and reconciliation, I stopped and reached out to someone to repair our relationship. A book on spiritual practices moved me to tears as I walked through an exercise.

When I read something new about how God sees and loves [people], I find my perspective changing, unlocking a door unto how I view Scripture or the world.

Being a writer is about being a witness. It's my job to be curious. Yet that is my work as a reader too. When I read, I ask for and receive insight beyond my own. I behold someone else's perspective. Even though I'm often reading in order to deliver something useful to my readers, I frequently find myself receiving something I need to hear.

Perhaps reading isn't strictly part of your working life. It may seem like a luxury; something you're too busy to do. I can understand that. Still, the spiritual practice of interacting with someone else's thoughts and dreams is one I can't recommend enough. When I don't have a reading project, I notice a difference. My mind doesn't as easily make the connections I want it to make. My attention span is shorter. I'm less myself.

Reading opens up faithful conversations by making it possible to connect with words from all over the world. When a book really grabs me, like Debbie Blue's *Consider the Women*, or Amy Peterson's *Where Goodness Still Grows*, I'm inspired to talk about it with the people in my life. Reading gets me

beyond the surface with people, into discussing things that matter. Sometimes it's easier to hold these things loosely, making conversations freer, because the ideas aren't mine—even if I choose to adopt them.

Sometimes I'm still drawn to fiction. Here, too, I find the Holy Spirit, just as I did as a child. Whether reading about the daily life of a retired priest (in Jan Karon's *Mitford* series) or walking

alongside several women on a spiritual direction journey (such as Sharon Garlough Brown's *Sensible Shoes* series), I'm continually caught unaware by the power of a few words strung together and shared. When I'm looking, I almost always find spiritual treasure.

(Cara Strickland writes about food, faith and life from her home in the Pacific Northwest.)



The WELCA ladies and some of their husbands went to the Thief River Falls Fire Hall for their June meeting program. Marty Semanko, co-chief, gave an excellent tour of the facilities and talked about the varied lifesaving and community services they provide. Pictured left to right: Wahna Smith, Rick Beier, co-chief, Cindy Cedergren and granddaughter Emma, Kathy Alberg, Faye Auchenpaugh, Sue Kotz, Virginia Anderson, Sharon Bugge, Sofia Marquis, Sally Torkelson, Jan Strandlie, Myles Alberg, Ron Anderson, Jim Strandlie, Marty Semanko, and Jim Kotz.

A young couple moved into a new house. The next morning while they were eating breakfast, the young woman saw her neighbor hanging the wash outside. "That laundry is not very clean; she doesn't know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better soap powder." Her husband looked on, remaining silent.

Every time her neighbor hung her washing out to dry, the young woman made the same comments.

A month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband, "Look, she's finally learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this?" The husband replied, "I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows."

And so it is with life... What we see when watching others depends on the clarity of the window through which we look. So don't be too quick to judge others, especially if your perspective of life is clouded by anger, jealousy, negativity or unfulfilled desires.

"Judging a person does not define who they are. It defines who you are."

A Message for Labor Day 2022 from Bishop Bill

⁸ The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and each will receive wages according to their own labor.
1 Corinthians 3:8

Dear Beloved in Christ of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod,

This Labor Day message comes with a twinge of regret because it means that our wonderful Northern Minnesota summer is already nearing its end! I pray that this summer afforded you opportunities to connect with family and friends and to be refreshed in God's good creation.

As a military veteran, it's common for me to hear folks say, "Thank you for your service!" when they learn of my veteran status, or I present my military ID. I have decided to make it a practice of returning the favor by thanking folks for *their* service as shop keepers, farmers, teachers, hotel clerks, waiters, baristas, factory workers, pastors, deacons and SAMs, moms and dads, etc. All useful work is good in God's eyes because through our work our neighbor is loved and served. As we say, "God's Work, Our Hands." Or, as Luther stated, "God himself will milk the cows through him/her whose vocation that is."

Yet, in our broken and fallen world, work can also become soul crushing – a place not of fulfilling service but of unjust exploitation. Therefore, our ELCA, along with nearly every major Christian denomination and every major faith group in the world, recognizes and supports the right of laborers to receive fair wages and decent working conditions, along with their right to organize and join unions in order to secure those rights. So, this Labor Day weekend, I invite you to add to the list of those whom you thank for their service union members and labor organizers. Thank them for serving their neighbor by striving to ensure the rights of workers.

I pray that you have a safe and delightful Labor Day weekend. As you do so, please join me in gratitude for the gift of good work and a commitment to justice for all.

I have provided a few resources for your use on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, you can find them below. I will have a sermon available on our website by August 31st.

In Christ our Brother,



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

Here are some resources you might consider using for meditation on Labor Day weekend:

Scriptures:

- Deuteronomy 24:14–15—Don't withhold wages of poor and needy laborers, including those of "aliens."
- Isaiah 32:17—Justice will bring peace.
- 1 Corinthians 3:8—Each will receive wages according to the labor of each.
- James 5:4—The wages of laborers kept back by fraud cry out.
- Timothy 2:6—The farmer that labors must receive the first rewards.

Prayer:

God, our creator, you have ordered seedtime and harvest, sunshine and rain. Give to all who work the land fair compensation for the work of their hands. Grant that the people of this and every nation may give thanks to you for food, drink, and all that sustains life; may use with care the land and water from which these good things come; and may honor the laborers who produce them; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Summer's Last Hurrah



The very first Popsicle® ice pop was created way back in 1905 by an 11-year-old named Frank Epperson.

After a long day of play Frank went inside, but left his cup of soda with the stirring stick still in it out on the porch. The night got very cold, and when Frank went outside the next morning he found his drink frozen like an icicle. Whoa!

Frank called his invention the “Epsicle.” It was a hit with the kids at school, and later with his own kids who called it “Pop’s ‘sicle.” The name was catchy and the treat was delicious, so Frank patented it in 1923 to share his Popsicle® ice pops with the world!

Did You Know?

- The first Popsicles sold for five cents and came in seven flavors.
- The Double Pop was invented during the Great Depression so two children could share an ice pop for just a nickel.
- During WWII, the Eighth Air Force Unit chose the Popsicle® ice pop as a symbol of American life.
- Fudgsicle was introduced in 1946 and is still one of the top sellers.
- The most popular flavor is Cherry. Two billion Popsicles® are sold every year.

History of the Hardtop Convertible

Let's go back about a century. Automobiles originally were all open top. Some had the primitive version of a canvas top convertible—a simple top for very basic weather protection. Others were more rigid but cumbersome. A permanent hardtop was the next step and soon the open top standard was replaced.

As soon as fully closed bodies replaced open top as the standard, around 1915-1918, the first “convertible” cars rolled off the lots. These came with frames for the windows that either folded or were completely removable and stored elsewhere, often under the seats.

98 years ago, back when everyone went by their full name including middle initial, a man by the name of Ben P. Ellerbeck designed the first retractable hardtop. It was to be manually operated in a Hudson coupe but it never saw production. Sixteen later Peugeot took another stab at the technology in their 402 Eclipse Decapotable. The very first were powered retractable tops but were subsequently replaced with a manually operated model from 1936 until World War II.



In 1941 a Chrysler concept car, the Thunderbolt, included a retractable hardtop. As a concept, it didn't see mass production but it was clear that the idea was sticking around. Over the next couple of decades Ford would spend millions on concepts and prototype retractable hardtop convertibles.

In 1957, Ford saw their first success with the Fairlane 500 Skyliner. Just under 50,000 units were made and while they cost double the price tag of a standard Ford sedan, the electronics and functionality were reliable and people loved them.

Over the past fifty years, retractable hard tops have advanced. In the last 15 years, the functionality of the retractable hardtop is seen to be completely replacing fabric tops as they tech required to implement them becomes cheaper, smaller, and more reliable in all scenarios.

Whether it is a (not so) new-fangled retractable hardtop, or an older hot-rod classic, there are no two ways about it. Hardtop convertibles are some of the coolest autos around.

**Gardening is a popular summer hobby that requires patience, dedication, and more than a little luck to pay off.
And there's more than just seeds growing beneath the ground –
there are more microorganisms in one teaspoon of soil than there are people on earth.**

The Back Page



A grand way to meet the school bus.
Photo taken in Texas.



Great way to serve watermelon



It's not the Charcuterie anymore.
It's the Snacklebox!

PEACH JAM

- 7 cups sugar
- 4 cups finely chopped peeled ripe peaches (about 3 pounds)*
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1/2 of a 6-ounce package (1 foil pouch) liquid fruit pectin
- 3/4 teaspoon freshly ground cardamom

In a 6-8-quart heavy pot, combine sugar, peaches, and lemon juice. Bring to boiling over medium heat, stirring to dissolve sugar. Quickly stir in pectin. Bring to a full rolling boil, stirring constantly. Boil hard for 1 minute, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and quickly skim off foam with a metal spoon. Stir in ground cardamom.



Ladle hot jam into hot sterilized half-pint canning jars, leaving a 1/4-inch headspace. Wipe jar rims; adjust lids and screw bands.

Process filled jars in a boiling-water canner for 5 minutes (start timing when water returns to boiling).

Remove jars from canner; cool on wire racks, turning and tilting jars after 20 minutes to distribute fruit evenly throughout the jam. Repeat as necessary. Makes 7 half-pints.

*Tip: If desired, place small batches of peeled and cut-up peaches in a food processor. Cover and process with on/off pulses until peaches are finely chopped.

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Mix together any 12-ounce can of soda pop with a standard box of cake mix and follow the box's baking instructions. The end result is a light and fluffy cake.

HAS ANYONE TRIED THIS? DOES IT REALLY WORK?