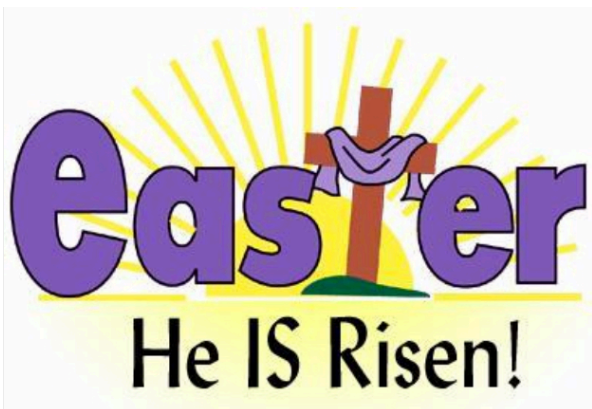


St. Pauli Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 944
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
historicstpauli.org

April 2023 Newsletter



Easter Services
8:00 am

April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 PALM SUNDAY 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Services	3	4 Confirmation Class 4:45 pm	5	6	7	8
9 EASTER SUNDAY 8:00 Worship Services 9:00 Light Breakfast Servers: Mary Group	10	11 Confirmation Class 4:45 pm	12	13	14	15 Lydia Circle 9:30 am Skylite Apartments Hostesses: Kathy Alberg Inez Mathson
16 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Services	17	18 Confirmation Class 4:45 pm	19	20 Church Council 7:00 pm SPCA 8:00 pm	21	22
23 HOLY COMMUNION 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Services	24	25 Confirmation Class 4:45 pm	26 WELCA 7:00 pm Finish LWR projects Hostess: Faye Auchenpaugh	27	28	29
30 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Services						

St. Pauli News in Detail



Greeting and Ushering

April 2 Craig Folkedah
 April 9 Bryan Grove
 April 16 Jerod Haugen
 April 23 Marc Haugen
 April 30 Gary Iverson

Altar Preparation: Cindy Cedergren

* * * * *

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem. As he rode into the city on a donkey, his followers spread palm branches at his feet and called him "Hosanna" or "savior." Palm branches were considered symbols of victory and triumph at the time.

Palm Sunday is often celebrated with processions and distribution of blessed palm leaves. This year, our Sunday School children will lead the procession,

In some churches, the palms are saved and the fronds folded into crosses for parishioners to keep in their homes.

* * * * *

April Milestones

Birthdays

It is wrenching to look at the listing of April birthdays and find that the only two we had have now passed away: Eunice Grove and Shirley Johnson.



Anniversaries

No April anniversaries either.

Communion and Children's Sermon

Sunday, April 23

Pastor Joy Grainger from East Grand Forks will be conducting services on Sunday, April 23 – which means we will have communion served.

She loves to do children's sermons as well, so this is our opportunity to bring our young people to church services.

Some of our youth will be taking part in the service by reading the lessons and the psalm.

* * * * *

The church council and WELCA did not meet in March, so there are no minutes to include in the newsletter. We are also fortunate that there are no obituaries to include.

Please continue to pray for everyone who is suffering from illness or distress.

* * * * *

When the dollar store imitation Peeps have had a rough trip over from China.



The Day Jesus Turned Palms into Nails

Mark 11: 1-11

I wish I had been a field reporter outside Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday so long ago. It would have been interesting to interview some of the participants to ask them why they were there and what they were hoping to accomplish. Since I can't ask those questions of the participants, I have to rely on the information we have.

Mark is not much help. He gives us the bare facts, without any commentary. Matthew contributes the children to the story, and John contributes the palm branches. All the Evangelists say that the parade went into the city of Jerusalem, except Mark. Mark writes that the parade went to the city gates, and Jesus went into the city alone to walk through the temple, not to occupy it, not to cleanse it, but to survey it and to leave it and the city, and go back to Bethany, a short distance from Jerusalem. Mark's account is not only brief, it is restrained and without the claims about Jesus found in the other three Gospels.

Mark's account is anything but uninteresting, however. The parade was anything but unimpressive. There is the mysterious locating and commandeering of an unbroken colt, the silence of Jesus except for instruction about the colt, the large and loud crowd, the garments and branches to pave his way, and the bursts of praise and blessing. Mark's account is subdued compared to Matthew, which pictures all of Jerusalem in turmoil because of the celebration.

The description of the day as a "triumphal entry" better fits Matthew than Mark, and neither account justifies the church's celebration of Palm Sunday as an Easter before Easter. Craddock states that it is just as easy to celebrate a "false Easter" on Palm Sunday as it is to celebrate a "false spring"—the first hint of warmth before spring actually emerges.

Whatever may have been going on, there is more going on here than a parade honoring Jesus. Still, what was it? On the one hand, one cannot ignore the celebration. It was a joyous event. It was like a ticker tape welcome for a national hero. A tidal wave of affection welled up from all sides and swept everything before it. It was the greatest show of affection that Jesus ever received on earth. The foundations of Jerusalem and even the mountains around her seemed to tremble for joy on that first Palm Sunday.

Some have suggested the reason for the joyous exaltation was the fact Jesus was recognized as the Messiah. Books without number have been written about the concept of "Son of God," "Son of Man," "Messiah," and "Suffering Servant." Samuel Miller suggests another concept that is often ignored: "The Bridegroom." In fact, the Bridegroom motif gives a clearer image of what was happening on this day outside Jerusalem.

Realize that the common people of Jesus' day, like the common people of any day, were not used to the attention Jesus has paid them. More often than not, the common people were ignored by the "power people." Like the psalmist spoke, "I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind." They were expected to serve and support the powerful.

During the summers in my teaching days, I worked for Southern Temps. I did everything from being a secretary one day at TVA to shoveling gravel at John Thomson's new house in North Chattanooga. One day in particular, I was working for a furniture store in Chattanooga helping the owner move furniture onto the showroom floor. All morning I tried to strike up a conversation with the young man, and there was no response. He wouldn't even tell me where the sofa was going, he just walked until it was time to set it down. Before I went to lunch, he told me to meet him back in the showroom to move more furniture. So I went to lunch, and when I came back I dutifully sat down to meet him. His sister saw me sitting around and came and scolded me saying, "We don't pay you to sit around. Go to the patio section." I was humiliated. I went through the patio section and straight to my car. That is how the common folk felt in Jesus' day – used. If some interest was taken in them, it was in order to manipulate or extract something from them.

This is why Jesus' ministry was so astonishing. He was a person of obvious power who did not look straight through the powerless people as if they were not there or abuse them as something to be used. Apparently, Jesus took the Bridegroom image seriously to describe his relationship to the world. He came among human beings as a Bridegroom, a Lover, a Wooer of the world. It was "the great unwashed," the unloved, the forgotten, the ignored who burst into praise and affection for Jesus. Here were people who loved Jesus because he had first loved them.

Along with celebration, there is another component to what was happening here. During the Iraq war, we saw an example of this other component. The people of Baghdad and other cities in Iraq were obviously celebrating their liberation. Even palm branches were being waved along with white flags and Iraqi flags. While it was obvious that they were celebrating, there was also a tone of protest in the air. Statues and other images of Saddam Hussein were being torn down and desecrated as a way of saying they recognized the oppression he represented.

It was not by accident that Jesus drew a crowd that day. If the owner of the colt knew of Jesus' plan, it could be implied that others knew of the protest march that was being planned. At the end of the march, Jesus went into the temple, looked around and left. This image does not simply suggest a nostalgic last look at a building that had meant so much to him.

In the larger context, Jesus had always been at odds with the Pharisees and scribes over the interpretation of Scripture and tradition. In addition to the running debate over table fellowship, sharp differences arose over fasting and Sabbath observance. Jesus protested the subordination of human need and welfare to the rigid and unfeeling application of law. As early as Mark 3 there are reports that Jesus' positions on key issues brought threats against his life. And, of course, once Jesus was in Jerusalem, protest followed protest, beginning with Jesus' protest with temple practices.

Protest has received a bad name in our day. Protestors are commonplace in our world, especially in a free society like ours. But protest is a valued way to deal with evil in our world, especially the kind of evil which reduces people to nothingness and defeat. In fact, I think Jesus calls us to protest in our world the oppression that comes from any group, religious or otherwise, which reduces and distorts the otherwise good news of the opportunity of having a relationship with a loving God who exercises his power on behalf and for the benefit of his creation, not as a powerful God who is to be placated and appeased in order to win his favor.

We are called to protest when anyone is led to believe that suffering means sin and the presence of suffering means God has removed his hand from them. We should protest when one is led to believe one must earn God's love as if it something we can deserve in the first place. We should protest when the powerless of our world are used by the powerful for their greed ends. We should protest when we see religious establishments, churches included, replacing a loving God who first loved us, with a Powerful God who is out for retribution and revenge.

If protest is not a part of our Christian walk, then we simply are not paying attention to the world around us. Jesus is outraged anytime anyone is not wooed, loved and drawn into this Kingdom that he lives in. Jesus was not just willing to die for this kind of Kingdom, He was willing not to kill for it, but to be killed for it. Even though the palms were important to Jesus, it was the nails that made the difference.

That's protest. That's the kind of protest that brings change, and yes, even resurrection!

David R. Tullock is Pastor of First Cumberland Presbyterian Pulpit in Cleveland, TN.

* * * * *

10 Words that are their own Opposites: Contronyms

Contronyms are a combination of homonyms (words with similar spelling or pronunciation) and antonyms (words with opposite meaning).

1. Transparent

a) Transparent: Obvious

Ex. His lies were so transparent.

b) Transparent: Invisible

Ex. She brought a transparent water bottle to school every day.

2. Put out

a) Put out: Extinguish

Ex. The tutorial taught 5 new ways to put out fire.

b) Put out: Generate

Ex. Arthur Miller put out many books.

3. Left

a) Left: Departed

Ex. He left her sobbing at the airport.

b) Left: What remains

Ex. There is still a lot of food left in the kitchen.

4. To dust

a) To dust: To sprinkle with

Ex. I watched him dust my B'day cake in a thick layer of white sugar.

b) To dust: To remove particles of dust

Ex. The doctor informed her about the dust allergy.

5. To buckle

a) To buckle: To bend

Ex. The grandmother felt her knee buckle while climbing the stairs.

b) To buckle: To secure with a buckle

Ex. The air hostess requested the passengers to buckle their seat belts.

6. To screen

a) To screen: To protect

Ex. She used a sun screen to avoid blemishes.

b) To screen: To show

Ex. The screening for Anurag Basu's film, held on December 3, was attended by many celebrities.

7. To cleave

a) To cleave: To join or to cling

Ex. The bear cleaved to his mother's body.

b) To cleave: To split

Ex. The hunter used a knife to cleave the meat from the bone.

8. To execute

a) To execute: To start or begin

Ex. The need of the hour is to execute the plan.

b) To execute: To bring to an end

Ex. The juvenile is expected to be executed next month.

9. To clip

a) To clip: To fasten

Ex. John Nelson clipped on to the rope to perform a stunt.

b) To clip: To detach

Ex. The hairdresser clipped her hair.

10. Out

a) Out: Visible

Ex. The moon was hidden behind the clouds, it took a long time to come out.

b) Out: Invisible

Ex. In order to create complete darkness, he decided to put out the candles too.

**The average human walks
900 miles per year and
drinks 22 gallons of coffee.
This means that the
average human gets
41 miles per gallon.**

Following the “Wartime Farm” series we watched over the past few weeks, I thought I would research how American farms fared during both of the World Wars. All photos are courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.

For Minnesota farmers, the Roaring Twenties were anything but

By Linda A. Cameron, Jan. 8, 2018

Minnesota farmers enjoyed a period of prosperity in the 1910s that continued through World War I. Encouraged by the U.S. government to increase production, farmers took out loans to buy more land and invest in new equipment. As war-torn countries recovered, the demand for U.S. exports fell, and land values and prices for commodities dropped. Farmers found it hard to repay their loans — a situation worsened by the Great Depression and drought years that followed.

The onset of World War I in 1914 sparked an economic boom for farmers in the United States. Demand for agricultural products soared as the war-ravaged countries of Europe could no longer produce needed supplies. This created a shortage that drove up prices for farm commodities.

In Minnesota, the season-average price per bushel of corn rose from fifty-nine cents in 1914 to \$1.30 in 1919. Wheat prices jumped from \$1.05 per bushel to \$2.34. The average price of hogs increased from \$7.40 to \$16.70 per hundred pounds, and the price of milk rose from \$1.50 to \$2.95 per hundred pounds.

To meet the demand, the U.S. government encouraged farmers to produce more. In 1916, Congress passed the Federal Farm Loan Act, creating twelve federal land banks to provide long-term loans for farm expansion. Believing that the boom would continue, many farmers took advantage of this and other loan opportunities to invest in land, tractors, and other new labor-saving equipment at interest rates ranging from 5 to 7 percent. By 1920, 52.4 percent of the 132,744 Minnesota farms reporting to the Agricultural Census carried mortgage debt, totaling more than \$254 million.

After the U.S. entered the war in 1917 and continuing into the post-war years, 40 million acres of uncultivated land in the U.S. went under the plow, including 30 million acres in the wheat- and corn-producing states of the Midwest. In Kittson County alone, wheat acreage increased from 93,000 acres prewar to 146,000 acres. Minnesota farmers had nearly 18.5 million acres under cultivation by 1929. The demand for land inflated the price of farm real estate, regardless of quality. The average price of Minnesota farmland more than doubled between 1910 and 1920, from \$46 to \$109 per acre.

After the end of the war, relief efforts kept the demand for U.S. agricultural products high. Gross exports of all grains in 1918–1919 totaled over 525 million bushels. During that period, the U.S. shipped more than 2.9 billion pounds of pork, 1.1 billion pounds of beef, and nearly 8.8 million pounds of dairy products to allied countries, various relief programs, and American Expeditionary Forces overseas.

Farmers continued to produce more, expecting demand and prices to remain stable. As Europe began to recover from the war, however, the U.S. farm economy began a long downward trend that reached a crisis during the Great Depression. Minnesota farmers' gross cash income fell from \$438 million in 1918 to \$229 million in 1922. In 1932, it fell to \$155 million.

With heavy debts to pay and improved farming practices and equipment making it easier to work more land, farmers found it hard to reduce production. The resulting large

surpluses caused farm prices to plummet. From 1919 to 1920, corn tumbled from \$1.30 per bushel to forty-seven cents, a drop of more than 63 percent. Wheat prices fell to \$1.65 per bushel. The price of hogs dropped to \$12.90 per hundred pounds (cwt).

As surpluses mounted, the federal government promoted lowering production. It also created programs designed to help stabilize prices. The goal was to achieve parity — to bring prices back to prewar levels and equalize the prices farmers received with the prices they paid for goods.

The passage of the Capper-Volstead Act on February 18, 1922 legalized the sale of farm commodities through farmer-owned cooperatives. Co-ops cut out the middlemen who often underpaid farmers for their products. Congress passed the Agricultural Appropriations Act later that year, creating the U.S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics for economic research.

Foreign trade restrictions, such as the Fordney–McCumber Tariff (1922) and the Hawley-Smoot Tariff (1930), imposed high taxes on imports in an attempt to protect U.S. farms and industry. International trading partners reacted by increasing import fees on American goods. U.S. export of farm products declined, surpluses grew, and prices continued to drop. In 1932, Minnesota corn prices fell to twenty-eight cents per bushel, wheat dropped to forty-four cents per bushel, and the price of hogs fell 75 percent to \$3.20 per cwt.

With less demand for land, real estate values plunged to an average of \$35 per acre by the late 1930s. Farmers struggled to repay loans for land that had lost its value. Rising property taxes, freight rates, and labor costs added to the financial hardships facing many farmers. In Minnesota, the average tax per acre increased from forty-six cents in 1913 to \$1.45 in 1930.

The west-central counties of Minnesota suffered from the severe drought conditions of 1933–1934, with a combination of poor farming methods and drought causing extensive soil erosion. A grasshopper infestation compounded crop losses in many western counties.

Farmers across the country began to default on their loans. An estimated sixty of every 1,000 farmers in the U.S. either lost their farms or filed for bankruptcy. From 1926 to 1932, 1,442 farms totaling 258,587 acres were lost to foreclosure in Minnesota. **Marshall County had the highest number of foreclosures during this period with 191. It was followed by Kittson County with 127 and Pennington County with 123.** From 1922 to 1932, 2,866 Minnesota farmers declared bankruptcy.

In spite of the hardships, Minnesota's rural population increased during the 1930s. Many who lost farms to foreclosure remained on the property as tenants. Others moved from urban areas to the country.

On July 29, 1932, farmers met in St. Cloud to organize the Minnesota Farmers Holiday Association. Members staged a thirty-day strike to call a moratorium on foreclosures. The following April the state legislature passed a bill declaring a state of emergency for Minnesota farmers and approving a mortgage moratorium.

Congress passed several farm relief measures in 1933. The first Agricultural Adjustment Act established the Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA) and gave it the power to pay subsidies to farmers who voluntarily reduced production. The Federal Emergency Relief Act, the forerunner of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), provided relief for both urban and rural residents through work projects.



Federal Emergency Relief Administration farm to market road construction project near Alexandria, MN, 1936.

The Resettlement Administration (RA), begun in 1935, moved 300 families from poor quality land in northeast Minnesota to better farms through programs like the Beltrami Island Project. [This is not the same project as the resettlement farms we know in our neighborhood. The Beltrami Island Project moved the buildings to the new farms; they didn't construct identical, new buildings at the new farms.] The RA was replaced by the Farm Security Administration in 1937.

The Supreme Court ruled in 1936 that the AAA was unconstitutional and suspended farm subsidies. Congress, in turn, responded with the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act. In 1938, a second AAA bill passed that controlled crop production through acreage allotment and soil conservation.



Starving farm family that appealed for aid during the agricultural depression, Hollandale, Freeborn County, 1929.

By December 1934, 18 percent of Minnesota's total population was on some form of relief and had received over \$67 million in benefits. From 1933 to 1936, rural and urban residents in 77 Minnesota counties received federal aid payments.

[July 1936 remains the warmest month in Minnesota history. Some 900 state residents died from heat-related causes that summer.

The wave was part of a nationwide erratic weather pattern. In the Great Plains, record-setting low levels of rainfall were coupled with several hot summers, helping to create the Dust Bowl.

The all-time high for the state of Minnesota occurred on July 14, 1936, when the mercury hit a searing 114 in Moorhead, which was part of a brutal stretch when temperatures were over 90 for fourteen straight days, with eight at 100 or greater. A sweltering 121 degrees at Steele, ND on July 13, 1936, is the highest temperature ever recorded in the state. It was only a day after South Dakota set its all-time mark, a searing 120 degrees in Gann Valley, a record that has since been tied.

While warm winters sometimes lead to warm summers, that was not the case in 1936. The Upper Midwest actually was in a deep freeze for much of the previous winter, which remains the coldest winter on record in Minnesota, Iowa, the Dakotas and elsewhere.

Similarly, February 1936 remains the coldest February on record both in Minnesota and nationally. In parts of the state, the mercury never reached zero for thirty-six consecutive days. Both North Dakota and South Dakota endured their all-time lowest temperatures that same February. The worst was at Parshall, ND, where the mercury plunged to a mind-numbing minus-60 on February 15.

Incredibly, Parshall is only 110 miles from Steele, where the all-time high would be set five months later.]

The Ingenuity of American Farmers During World War II

By Stephanie Mercier, *Farm Journal*, April 7, 2021

Unlike the farm policies that were implemented in the first farm bills during the 1930's, which encouraged farmers to reduce their production levels in a number of ways in order to reduce the supply glut, that approach was turned on its head when the United States formally entered the war after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. Actually, the reversal in policy had begun somewhat quietly the previous year, as the USDA opted to not impose planting restrictions on "basic commodities" that it was empowered to impose on farmers under its farm bill authority in 1940, and in the spring of 1941, the Department began to actively encourage farmers to grow more food.

Even before U.S. forces formally entered the global conflict, the U.S. government was implicitly aiding the allied governments under its "Lend-Lease" program, enacted by Congress in March of 1941. Under this legislation, the U.S. was allowed to "sell, transfer title to, exchange, lease, lend, or otherwise dispose of, to any such government [whose defense the President deems vital to the defense of the United States] any defense article."

This authority was initially deployed to provide assistance to Allied governments in Europe, and then later to China. Over its lifetime, Lend Lease enabled the U.S. government to provide about \$50 billion in material aid to these countries (equivalent to \$575 billion in current dollars), with the bulk going to the United Kingdom and other countries in the British

Empire, the Soviet Union, France, and China, with lesser amounts to other allied countries.

A large share of the initial shipments under this Act was food, as the U.S. industrial sector had not yet re-gearred itself to produce large amounts of military equipment and material prior to the formal declaration of war against the Axis powers of Germany, Italy, and Japan. By the end of the war, food shipments are estimated to have accounted for about 13 percent of the total.

President Franklin Roosevelt established the War Production Board within weeks after the Pearl Harbor attack by Executive Order with authority to regulate the wartime economy. This was soon replaced with the Congressionally-authorized Office of Price Administration (OPA) with authority to regulate prices and ration the supply of certain strategic goods. Those 'strategic goods' included certain staple foods, such as meat, coffee, dairy products, sugar, dried fruit, jams and jellies, and lard and liquid vegetable oil. On the non-food side, the list included automobiles, tires, gasoline, fuel oil, coal, firewood, nylon, silk, and shoes.

The rationing of tires and gasoline affected farmers adversely, as did the shortage of tractors, as many of the companies making such implements shifted over to making military goods. With authority delegated by the OPA, Agriculture Secretary Claude Wickard imposed a rationing requirement on all types of farm equipment in September 1942, which remained in place for more than two years. This constraint probably slowed the adoption of tractors by farmers, which nonetheless increased from 25 percent in 1940 to more than 40 percent in 1945.

The other major obstacle to farmers increasing their output in response to wartime demand was the shortage of farmworkers. It is estimated that about 16 million Americans served in the armed forces during the course of World War II, including hundreds of thousands who had previously worked as either farmers or farmworkers. Farmers were forced to draw on additional pools of labor in order to fill the gap. These groups included Mexican immigrants under the so-called Bracero program, women hired as farmworkers, and most unusually, prisoners of war from Axis countries held in camps around the United States.

In 1942, the Roosevelt administration negotiated an arrangement with the government of Mexico to allow Mexican citizens to be brought into the country to work in agriculture and ag-related industries. This program, known as the Bracero program (from the Spanish phrase for "one who works with his arms") was launched in August 1942 and continued in various forms until 1964. About 50,000 Mexicans entered annually under this program during the war.

American women joined the farm workforce in greater numbers during the war, as was the case in manufacturing workers represented by the iconic "Rosie the Riveter" image promoted by the federal government to encourage women to take such positions. Although the Women's Land Army operated as a non-profit organization without government funds during World War I, the U.S. Department of Agriculture did formally organize such a group starting in 1943, recruiting as many as 600,000 women across the country, although farmers in some Midwest states rejected the notion of having such workers in their operations.

Early in the war, the U.S. government agreed to take custody of a large number of German prisoners captured by

British forces during their campaign in North Africa, because the British government was having difficulty feeding and housing them properly. Ultimately, about 425,000 prisoners from Axis countries, primarily Germany, were re-located to the continental United States, housed in about 500 camps spread across the country.

The Italian and German POWs sent to Minnesota were used to solve the serious labor problem. There was a lack of farm and timber workers because of the wartime conditions created by so many young Americans being in the military services or employed in defense-related industries. As a result, the POWs were used to help with the harvesting and processing of crops such as sweet corn, peas, potatoes and sugar beets. Some POWs were sent to the northern part of the state to work in the timber cutting and pulpwood operations. By 1945, the former German and Italian troops had worked in 24 of the state's counties.

The first group of POWs to arrive in Minnesota consisted of 100 Italians and 40 U.S. Army guards. They came from a camp in Missouri during the fall of 1943 and were sent to Princeton to harvest potatoes. A short time later, another 100 Italian POWs went to Olivia to harvest seed corn. When these two assignments were completed, the Italians went back to the camp in Missouri.

At the end of 1943 a large POW camp was established at Algona, Iowa. This became the command center for the German POWs in Minnesota for the rest of World War II. Some support functions, such as medical services and supplies, came from Fort Snelling.

Algona had 15 branch camps in Minnesota during 1944 and 1945, all temporary operations. Some were located in former Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) barracks, several used fairgrounds buildings or migrant housing, and others were based in tents behind barbed wire fences. During those two years, the POWs were shifted from camp to camp as needed to solve labor shortages.

The 15 branch camps were located in or near Moorhead, Fairmont, Remer, Bena, Owatonna, Deer River, New Ulm, Montgomery, Faribault, St. Charles, Ortonville, Howard Lake, Bird Island, Hollandale and Wells.

Ada, Crookston, and Warren served as temporary sites for POWs who were sent to the Red River Valley to help with the fall harvests in 1945.

In some states, farmers made deals with the local camp commanders to hire prisoners to work on their farms. Under the terms of the Geneva Convention, prisoners could not be forced to work outside their camps, and were paid for their labor. Part of their pay went to cover the costs of operating the camps, but they were also given scrip to purchase items in camp stores.

When they were repatriated to Europe after war's end, many took hundreds of dollars from their camp accounts with them, helping to bolster the German economy. About 5,000 former German POW's chose to emigrate to the U.S.

Despite the obstacles they faced, American farmers were able to expand their crop acreage during the war. The value of agricultural exports also climbed sharply, starting with a 30 percent increase from \$517 million in 1940 to \$669 million in 1941, then leaping to nearly \$3.2 billion by 1946, a year after the war ended but before the food exports associated with the Marshall Plan kicked in starting in 1948.

‘Uff da!’ and Other Global Expressions

By Anniken Krutnes, Norwegian Ambassador to the U.S., *Viking* magazine, Mar/Apr 2023

One of my favorite things about the English language is how many creative and colorful ways there are to describe every possible facet of life.

Between older expressions that have fallen out of use to terms Generation Z cooked up just yesterday, there is always more to learn. From “water under the bridge” to “the icing on the cake,” I’m always marveling at the idioms and turns of phrase I hear around me.

Norwegian, too, has expressions like these, and some of them are even the same! Both Norwegians and Americans “paint themselves into corners,” “let the cat out of the bag,” “take something with a pinch of salt” and say of certain people that “the lights are on, but nobody’s home.” However, the Norwegian language has plenty of unique expressions as well – perhaps even a few that might communicate something harder to say in English.

Before I go any further, though, I’ll address the “elephant in the room” – the short and punchy phrase “uff da,” which literally translates to something like “oh, then.” While not an idiom, it’s undoubtedly the most commonly known Norwegian phrase in the U.S., especially in Minnesota and the Upper Midwest.

In my time visiting the area, I’ve noticed that it’s a point of pride among many Norwegian Americans, and it’s been fun to observe their love for the expression. But you may be surprised to learn that its meaning often differs between modern-day Norway and the United States. I want to be sure to stress that neither meaning is right or wrong – the differences simply show the ways language can evolve across generations.

In the U.S., “uff da” users generally use the phrase as a way of expressing frustration, dismay, annoyance, or concern. It’s versatile, like a mild curse word, and contains a hefty dose of regional pride. In Norway, on the other hand, “uff da” has similar connotations to the English “there, there.” You’re most likely to hear it said by parents to their young children – if a child falls and skins their knee, for instance – although it is also used by some in the same sense as Minnesotans.

Some theorize that perhaps second-generation immigrants remembered being calmed by a gentle “uff da” by their Norwegian-speaking parents. Even if they didn’t grow up knowing Norwegian otherwise, these formative memories may have led them to use “uff da” in their own lives. I like this theory, because it’s such a beautiful example of how language might be passed down and repurposed.

Of course, we also have a number of expressions that most Americans haven’t heard of! A person who has “stepped in the salad” is someone who has made a gaffe. Instead of promising a loved one “the moon and stars,” we promise them “gold and green forests.” An individual who doesn’t know what they’re talking about might be “on a berry-picking trip,” while “owls in the moss” implies something sinister is going on. And rather than “beating around the bush,” people avoiding conversations are “walking around the porridge.”

There are many more, and if you’re interested in Norwegian expressions and idioms, I encourage you to learn more about them and where they came from. Ultimately, language is also growing and changing – and as I continue to discover, it’s a true pleasure to bear witness to that process!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: *Anniken Krutnes is Norway’s Ambassador to the United States. An expert in security policy, the law of the sea and Arctic issues, she has previously served as Deputy Director General of the Department of Security Policy, as Norway’s Ambassador for Arctic and Antarctic Affairs, and as Norway’s Ambassador to the Netherlands and Luxembourg.*



On March 15, 2023, Glen Hill of Forman, ND, wrote:

"I recently received my copy of the ND travel guide for 2023. I noticed, however, that all the pictures and propaganda covered the period from mid-June to late August, what we call summer. There was absolutely no coverage of the other nine months we up here call winter. I find this disingenuous. In the interest of honesty, I recommend the following supplement to the travel guide."



Come during our extended winter months, beat the crowds of summer tourists, and be rewarded with sweeping vistas of crystal white virgin snow whispering over the plains, unfettered by trees or other flora except for our state tree, which we call Poles in honor of the many Eastern Europeans who have settled here.



Enhance your driving skills on our challenging North Dakota roads. No worry of crashing in a ditch; they disappear in October or November and reappear in May. Experience the unstoppable brute force of a ND blizzard.



Be dazzled by the diamond-like sparkle of ice on the rare planted trees in shelter belts and orchards.



If you happen to arrive a day late for one blizzard, wait a day or two, and we will have another one.

Experience the unstoppable brute force of a ND blizzard. [If you look closely, you can see a tree in the distance through the window.]



After the exhilaration of a ND blizzard, enjoy one-of-a-kind, wind-carved sculptures created by the world's greatest artist - Mother Nature!



Bryce and Glen Canyons have nothing on us. Their wind carvings remain the same year after year - boring!



Both fascinating and terrifying at the same time!



Our cliffs and canyons change after every storm, a bi-weekly event.



Be entertained by the futile efforts of natives who try to maintain a path from home to shop.



Much like lava flows, our storm events swallow everything in their paths.

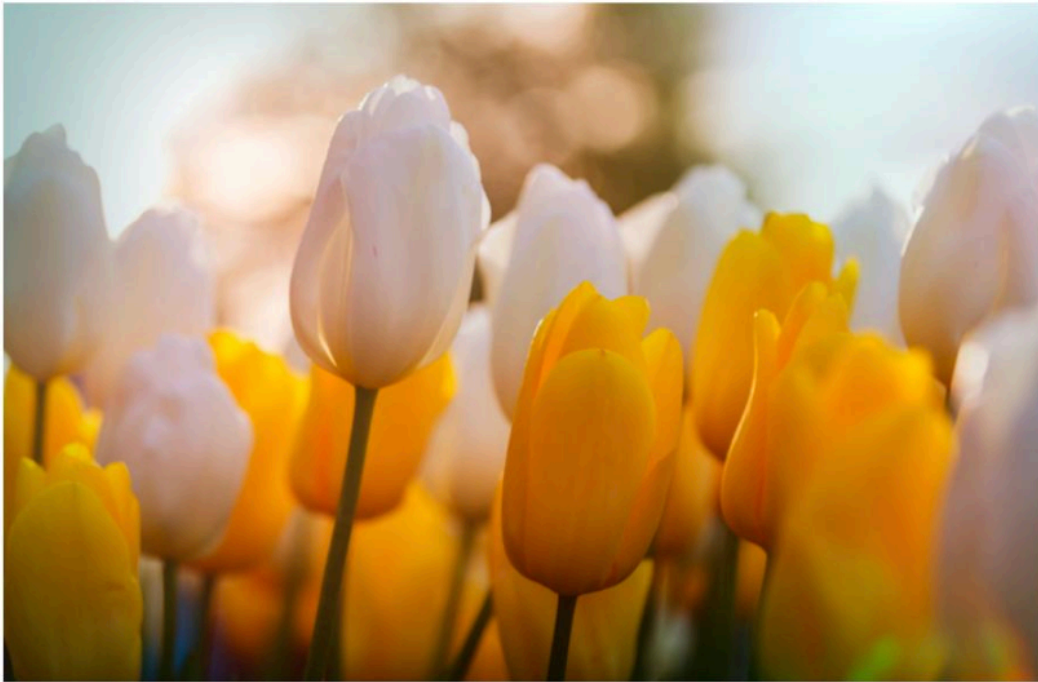


So come to North Dakota where the streets are not paved with gold, but ice from November to May. They say that Englishmen drive on the left side of the road. In spring, North Dakotans drive on what's left of the road.

The Back Page

I GIVE MY POEM TO SPRINGTIME

– Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson



Jeg giver mit digt til våren,
Skjøndt endnu den ej er båren,
Jeg giver mit digt til våren,
Som længler til længsler lagt.
Så slutter de to en pagt:
At lokken på sol med liste,
Så vinteren nød må friste,
At slippe et kor af bække,
Så sangen ham må forskrække,
At jage ham ut af luften
Med idelig blomsterduften,
Jeg giver mit digt til våren!

I give my poem to springtime,
Though it hasn't yet been born,
I give my poem to springtime,
As longing is laid upon longing.
So, the two make a pact:
To summon the sun with enticement,
So, the winter needs to be coaxed
To unleash a chorus of brooks,
So, the song may startle him,
To chase him out of the air
With the incessant scent of flowers,
I give my poem to springtime!

The poem "Jeg giver mit Digt til Vaaren" was written by Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson as part of Fiskerjenten, commonly referred to as the first artist's novel in the Norwegian language, published in 1868. About four years later, the poem was set to music by Edvard Grieg.