

St. Pauli News in Detail



Greeting and Ushering

September 29	Ron Anderson
October 6	Faye Auchenpaugh
October 13	Wade Benson
October 20	Corey Berg
October 27	Neil Bugge
November 3	Ken Cedergren

Altar Preparation: Katy Haugen

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FALL EVENT “The Overtones”

**Sunday, October 29
3:00 pm**

Light Supper 4:00 pm

The Overtones are a men's gospel quartet from Roseau who have been together for over 30 years!

This is the time of year when we ask all of our members to donate generously, because it takes the place of our fall supper. All of the net proceeds are given to charities, local, regional and global.

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SOUP MAKING

Friday, October 27 – Time TBD

Calling all hands! We will be making tons of chicken dumpling soup to serve at our Fall Event.

We need both men and women! Peeling and chopping vegetables, mixing the ingredients, stirring the pots...

I'll bet you'll even get a bowl of soup for lunch!

We also need workers to serve the supper that Sunday. Contact Jan Strandlie or Kathy Alberg.

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Communion Services

10:30 am

Last Sunday of each month

Pr. Marilyn Grafstrom has resigned from the Grygla parish but will continue to serve us the last Sunday of each month. Effective September 29, the service time will revert back to 10:30 am.

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Thrivent Cards

All Thrivent Financial members are entitled to two \$250 “Thrivent Cards” each year that can be used to fund special projects that benefit the community. At St. Pauli, we use them to help with our Stewardship and Fall Event speaker/entertainer costs.

If you are a Thrivent member, would you please let Jan Strandlie or Kathy Alberg know? They will help you apply for these cards. More than one card can be used for each project.

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September/October Milestones

Birthdays

Sept. 1	Deb Ernst	Oct. 6	Pr. Carl Hansen
Sept. 12	Nancy Jensen	Oct. 14	Kyland Rondorf
Sept. 13	Racheal Rondorf	Oct. 15	Eileen Kotaska
Sept. 15	Cindy Cedergren	Oct. 16	Jim Rondorf
Sept. 16	Sally Torkelson	Oct. 20	Jim Nelson
Sept. 17	Bruce Mathson	Oct. 21	Ryan Haugen
Sept. 19	Wally Torkelson	Oct. 23	Chris Carter
Sept. 26	Marisa Benson	Oct. 29	Joan Nelson
		Oct. 31	Jim Kotz

Anniversaries

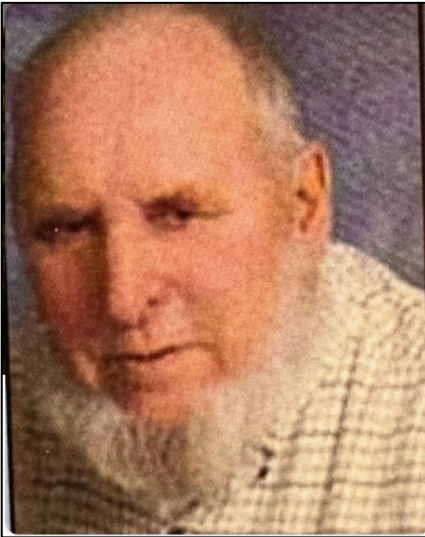
Sept. 10	Jim and Roxane Rondorf
Oct. 25	Jim and Joan Nelson
Oct. 26	Myles and Kathy Alberg



In Memoriam

Roger Belange

April 4, 1940 – June 27, 2024



The Belanges, were a St. Pauli family for many years. Doris, Ila and Roger were all confirmed at St. Pauli before the family moved to the Iron Range.

Roger A. Belange, 84, of Aurora passed away on Thursday June 27, 2024 in Carefree Living, Aurora. He was born in Goodridge, MN on April 4, 1940 to Joseph and Myrtle Belange.

When Roger was 3 years old, the family moved to Thief River Falls where they resided until Roger was 15 and the family moved to the Iron Range. He was very involved with 4-H in his youth. Roger had worked for the Railroad prior to entering the U.S. Army where he was stationed in Germany.

Roger married Judith Forst in June of 1968. The couple lived in Minneapolis for several years before returning to Aurora. He retired from Inland Steel as a truck driver. Roger was an excellent carpenter and wood worker. He was very community minded and active with the Loon Lake Community Center. Roger was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Palo. He enjoyed breakfast with his fellow retirees. Roger will be missed by his children and siblings.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Judith, brother-in-law Charles Fodness, and sister-in-law Yoshiko Belange.

He is survived by his children Allen (Shannon) Belange, Charolette (Brian) Rich, and John Belange; grandchildren Tyler Belange, Alyssa (Danny) Niemi, Kayla (Mark) Stevens, Kari (Bobby) Nesvold, Wesley Rich, Dale Rich, and Brian Rich; several great-grandchildren; siblings Doris (Orlen) Helgersen, Ila Fodness, Norma Jean Aho, Donald (Pam) Belange, Glen Belange, Susan (Karl) Canfield, and Richard Belange; many nieces and nephews; and his friend, Dolly.

Visitation was held on July 9, 2024 at 10:00 am. A Memorial Service was held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. 4096 Hwy 100, Aurora, MN. Interment was in the Rauha Cemetery, Palo.

Roger's family wishes to thank all the compassionate workers at Waterview Pines and Carefree Living in Aurora for the excellent Roger received. A special thanks to his hospice workers for their support.

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The Belange family lived on the farm where Wally Torkelson now lives, so they were next-door neighbors to Melvin and Helen Torkelson and family. Doris (Belange) Helgersen recently send a sympathy card and memorial gift to the Cemetery Fund in memory of Wahna. She included a note that partially read, "We will always remember our childhood playmate. We send our sympathy in your loss of Wahna. We are so glad we got to visit with her and you and some of the other church members when we were there last year. The Belange family Doris, Ila, Roger and Norma Jean. (The later half) Don, Glen, Susan and Richard)"

We all have those same feelings about our childhoods and the Belanges were terribly missed when they moved to the Iron Range. We have thought of them often throughout the years and were so happy to see a few of them in church last summer.



1954 Confirmation Class

Back Row: Roger Belange, Gary Rolandson, Corine Torkelson, Elinor Gustafson, Roger Hanson. Lyle Bjorge

Front Row: Carol Rude, Rev. Person, Carmen Lokken

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL

May 16, 2024

The St. Pauli Church council held its regular meeting Thursday May 16, 2024 at St. Pauli Church.
Members present: Marisa Benson, Wade Benson, Jim Rondorf and Barb Nelson.

Council president Wade called the meeting to order and read the opening prayer supplied by Kevin Reich in his absence.

Approval of Agenda: Approved as previously sent.

Secretary's report: Minutes of 04/11/2024 were approved by Marisa, seconded by Jim. Carried.

Treasurer's report: Approved by Barb, seconded by Marisa. Carried.

Checking account balance end of March 2024.	\$25,448.95
April 2024 revenue	4,408.01
April 2024 expenses	<u>5,520.88</u>
Checking account balance end of April 2024.	\$25,336.08
Other account Balances end of April 2024	
Education fund	\$ 1,443.67
Edward Jones	77,325.50
Memorial fund	8,551.19
Mission grant	5,602.10
Savings	<u>38,055.07</u>
Total account balances end of April 2024	\$155,313.61
Cemetery Association funds end of April 2024	\$ 74,107.95
Total funds end of April 2024.	\$229,421.56

Reports of members in sickness or distress: None known

New members or those interested in membership: We have several that are interested at this time.

Other reports:

1. WELCA: No report
2. Board of Education: No report
3. Kevin's report: Kevin attended a synod workshop titled. "Theology in Wellness. " It was directed for more full-time pastors, but still enlightening. At present, he believes he will be leading worship every Sunday in May, June, and July except for the last Sunday of each month.

Old Business:

1. Marisa made a motion we schedule a special congregational meeting to discuss \$2000.00 for the new basement lights. Scheduling the meeting for June 2, 2024. Seconded by Barb. Carried
2. Directional signs: Kevin has arranged to have 4 directional signs for the county intersections to be placed by the county highway department.

New Business:

1. CPR instructor recommended items to purchase to go along with our AED and placed near the AED. They include razor for shaving chest before AED is placed; scissors for cutting clothing; alcohol wipes; first aid kit in same area as AED. Purchase pediatric patches for use on children. Also have AED signage near the door. Motion by Marisa to purchase these items, seconded by Barb. Carried.

2. The Gideons have requested a Sunday to come. Wade will discuss with Kevin.
3. The stained-glass window will be dedicated Memorial Day weekend.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Barb Nelson, Church Council secretary

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Summer 2024

The St. Pauli Church council met via e-mail for the summer months.

Members included in e-mails: Marisa Benson, Wade Benson, Jim Rondorf, Sue Kotz, Barb Nelson.

Treasurer's report: for June. Approved by Barb, seconded by Jim.

Checking account balance end of April	\$ 24,336.08
May 2024 revenue	3,795.00
May 2024 expenses	<u>(2,589.65)</u>
Checking account balance end of May	\$ 25,541.43

Other account balances end of May 2024

Education	\$ 545.98
Edward Jones	78,453.81
Memorial fund	8,567.53
Mission grant fund	5,612.81
Savings	<u>38,150.42</u>
Total account balances end of May 2024	\$156,871.42

Cemetery Association funds end of May 2024 \$ 74,100.28

Marisa reported she had received a letter informing us of a change for our Church Mutual Insurance. The changes to policy 0067677-25-69006 are as follows:

- The deductible for property coverage has increased to \$2,500.00.
- Deductible for water damage has increased to \$10,000.00.
- Deductible for windstorm or hail has increased to \$5,000.00.
- Limitation on coverage for roof surfacing endorsement has been applied to the policy and roof surfacing will be valued at the actual cash value for the church building.

We received a notice from Kevin Reich that there will be three Sundays he won't be able to be here: September 8; October 6 and 13. Wade will be contacting pulpit supply for those days.

Treasurer's Report for July. Approved by Barb, seconded by Sue.

Checking account balance end of June 2024	\$ 25,441.43
June income	1,950.00
June expenses	<u>(1,327.20)</u>
Checking account balances end of June 2024	\$ 26,164.23

Other balances end of June 2024	
Education fund	\$ 546.99
Edward Jones	79,263.67
Memorial fund	8,583.77
Mission grant	5,623.39
Savings	<u>38,242.92</u>
Total account balances as of June 2024	\$158,424.77

Cemetery association funds as of June 2024	\$75,065.99
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Total funds as of June 2024	\$233,490.36
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Discussed via e-mail there are several opportunities to attend Conference meetings and also donate to a Harvest Blessings box. Marisa made the motion to donate \$50.00 to the Harvest Blessings Box. Seconded by Barb. Carried.

Marisa received the quote from Northwest Electric for the new lights etc. in the basement. Their quote is \$1,730.00 which includes running a separate circuit for the water pump so we can turn off the lights and still have plumbing. This had been a problem on movie nights. The quote also includes twenty 4-foot LED lights and two 2-foot LED lights. We can check with Red Lake Electric for a rebate on the LED lights. Barb made the motion via e-mail to accept the above quote. Seconded by Jim. Carried.

Treasurer's report July 2024. Approved by Jim, seconded by Barb. Carried.

Checking account balance end of June 2024	\$ 26,164.23
July Revenue	3,231.00
July expenses	<u>(1,420.34)</u>
Checking account balance end of July 2024	\$ 27,974.89

Other account balances as of end of July 2024	
Education fund	\$ 548.09
Edward Jones	81,027.47
Memorial fund	8,599.77
Mission grant fund	5,633.99
Savings account	<u>38,338.74</u>
Total church balances end of July 2024	\$162,122.85

Cemetery Association funds end of July 2024	\$ 75,714.12
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Total funds end of July 2024	\$237,836.97
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Pastoral Services: Notice was received from Pastor Marilyn Grafstrom that she is resigning from Grygla Church but will continue to serve us the last Sunday of the month. She said she will change the time to 10:30 instead of 11:30. She will be good for October, November, and December. We appreciate her service.

In house council meetings will be held again starting in September.

Barb Nelson, St. Pauli church council secretary

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Minutes of the Women of the ELCA

May 22, 2024

The St. Pauli Women of the ELCA met on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 7:00 pm with six members present.

President Jan Strandlie opened the meeting with devotions titled "Solitude's Inspiration" based on Isaiah 26:7-10.

Secretary's Report: Approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: For the period April 18 through May 22. Checking Account: Income \$313.00, Expenses \$531.36. Balance \$1,429.97. Savings balance as of April 30: \$590.92. CD balance remains at \$6,323.29. We received a \$100 donation from Val Torstveit for using the church facilities for a graduation open house. M/S/C (Kathy/Virginia)

Stewardship Report: Sharon and her granddaughter Mackenzie helped Kathy box up all of the quilts. Barb Nelson donated two quilts in addition to those made by the WELCA ladies this year. Kathy took the shipment to Jeff Olson's construction parking lot. We decided to keep 2 fire quilts on hand. One quilt was given this winter to Jeff and Carol Burkland, who lost their home to fire.

Council Report: A special congregational meeting is scheduled for the first Sunday in June following worship services to discuss replacing the basement fluorescent lights.

Communications: Thank you from National Safety Council for our \$75 donation. Letter from Hugo's for their "Direct Your

Labels" program using Our Family labels. Process is you cut out UPC codes and for each bundle of 500 we submit, we will

earn \$25. Faye will put in the newsletter, and we'll see if we get enough donations to make it worthwhile.

The SWO sent a letter about the "Give a Gift of Love in 2024" to encourage and show support to women in the ELCA seminary to use as they wish. MSC (Kathy/Virginia) to donate \$100 toward this project.

Annual Synodical Women's Organization Convention: September 20-21 at Christ the King Lutheran in Moorhead. Early registration is due by August 15th. Cost is \$100 for both days, not including lodging.

Old Business: We will wait until after our June 2nd congregational meeting to see when Tammy Swick should clean. Cindy ran through cleaning list from last year and the ladies approved it.

Spring Gathering: Kathy and Virginia attended. Theme was "Growing with God" with spring in mind. Jennifer Knott, intern for Pennington County Master Gardeners, based her talk on growing flowers, lilies in particular, Lilies in the Bible are mentioned over 250 times, and she went briefly over the various kinds of lilies. Songs were geared around growing and spring. It was a good morning, but it was not well attended because there were so many other things going on.

Heritage Center wall hanging: We will go to see how this wall hanging is presented in the Angus Presbyterian Church on June 5th. We will meet at the church at 10:15 am and carpool.

Thank you to Cindy for arranging the CPR classes. We had 14 graduates. Several of us have seen Kyle Cedergren's video on Cindy's Facebook page and how CPR saved him.

Graduation quilts were presented to our 2024 graduates: Lainey Dicken and Rylan Torstveit.

New Business:

The watering schedule sheet was passed around. Jan gave information on the SWO scholarship for a second semester of attendance at an ELCA college.

Thank you to the Sunday School children for giving flowers to every mother in church on Mother's Day.

Prayer Partners were exchanged and offering taken. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Faye Auchenpauagh, Secretary

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June 26, 2024

The St. Pauli Women of the ELCA met on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 7:00 pm with six members present.

President Jan Strandlie opened the meeting with devotions titled "Losing Control to Find Peace" based on Isaiah 55:12.

Secretary's Report: Approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: For the period May 23 through June 26. Checking Account: Income \$151.00, Expenses \$100.00. Balance \$1,481.47. Savings balance as of May 30: \$592.05. CD balance remains at \$6,323.29. We received a \$100 donation from Val Torstveit for using the church facilities for a graduation open house. M/S/C (Faye/Virginia)

Stewardship Report: Sharon purchased more quilt material (all new) at a garage sale.

Council Report: The congregation approved replacing the basement fluorescent lights, but there is no date set for the actual work. The council will meet online during the summer months.

Communications: Thank you from Rylan Torstveit for the graduation quilt. Thank you from Lincoln High School for our donation to the Prowler Pantry.

Annual Synodical Women's Organization Convention: Jan reminded the ladies of this upcoming convention on September 20-21 at Christ the King Lutheran in Moorhead.

Old Business: Heritage Center wall hanging – Four ladies went to the Angus church to look at their wall hanging. It was beautifully done and had been mounted and framed at Forks Frame Up in Grand Forks. Virginia talked with another person who had a similar wall hanging that was also framed there. A few of the ladies will bring the piece to Forks Frame Up to see how much it will cost to have it mounted and framed with plexiglass. We are planning to use Thrivent cards to help pay for it. Barb Natvick at the Heritage Center suggested doing a meal as a fundraiser to help pay for it. We will discuss that further after we know the actual cost.

New Business:

We received information on the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, and a special project called "Generation Zero Hunger" that the youth will engage in to raise funds to match \$250,000 already given by generous donors. M/S/C Faye/Sue to donate \$100.

We still need people to water on Thursdays in August. Jan prepared a jar for the Hugo's UPC collection and will place it on the table in the narthex. There is no meeting in July. We should think about program ideas for our Fall Event that will be discussed at our August 28th meeting.

Thank you to Sue for serving. Prayer Partners were exchanged and offering taken. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Faye Auchenpauagh, Secretary

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August 28, 2024

The St. Pauli Women of the ELCA met on Wed, August 28, 2024, at 7 pm with four members present.

Vice President Virginia Anderson opened the meeting with devotions entitled "Back to a Peaceful State" and prayer. No secretary's report was available. The Treasurer's report was approved as read.

Expenses for the period of June 27-August 28: \$100.00; Income \$105.00; Balances as of 8/28/24: Checkbook \$1,486.47; Savings \$594.28; CD \$6,323.29 (matures on 8/25/24). It was noted that Larry Hurst gave a donation of \$50 in memory of JoAnn Hurst, and a thank you note has been given.

Stewardship Report: Kathy Alberg reported that seven school kits are done, with eight more ready to sew, and 24 diapers will be sewn tonight. She needs to purchase additional pens, pencils, sharpeners, and notebooks to fill the school kits.

Council Report: No report was available, but Virginia Anderson asked if there was an update on the lighting project in the basement. Cindy Cedergren relayed information she had received from Wade and Marisa Benson recently, stating that an electrician had been selected for the project, but no date for work to be done was established yet. Cindy asked the Council President to try to arrange for the job to be completed by the fall event date, October 6th, if possible. Cleaning will need to take place prior to the event.

Correspondence: A thank you letter was received from Lutheran Social Services for the donation of \$245.00 from the April 21st potluck offering.

Old Business:

Wall hanging for Heritage Center: No progress has been made on checking into framing the wall hanging.

Watering Flowers: There is no person designated to water in September. Kathy Alberg will continue to water the flowers by the church sign as needed.

New Business:

Fall Event: Virginia Anderson stated that The Overtones, a men's quartet from Roseau, is being considered as entertainment. All in attendance agreed with that. Virginia will ask Jan Strandlie to contact the group. They may not be available on Oct. 6th, so an alternative date of Oct. 13 was discussed, based on their availability. Thrivent funds will be needed to cover the cost of hiring this group. It was suggested that we sell pies as we've done in previous years. Further planning will need to be done at the Sept. Circle and WELCA meetings, or via email prior to those meetings.

Lydia Circle will meet at Faye Auchenpaugh's home on Wed, Sept. 11 at 7 p.m.

Next WELCA Meeting: September 18 at Skylight Apts. Community Room, with Jan Strandlie as hostess.

Rally Sunday: A potluck lunch will be held for Rally Sunday on Sept. 15. The Mary Group is in charge of serving. Freewill offering is designated for Violence Intervention Project.

The Northwest Minnesota Synodical Convention is scheduled for Sept. 20-21 in Moorhead. No further information about registration cost and schedule was available at the meeting. Virginia will check with Jan on more details.

The meeting concluded with prayer partners, offering, the Lord's Prayer, and Table Grace. Virginia Anderson served as

hostess. Following the business meeting, the group worked on sewing and organizing projects for Lutheran World Relief kits.

Cindy Cedergren, Acting WELCA Secretary

Editor's Apology for the Missing September Newsletter

A serious injury to my right middle finger made typing almost impossible at the time the newsletter needed to be prepared, so I had to bow out. I am almost completely healed now and ready to go again!

FALL EVENT

Sunday, October 29

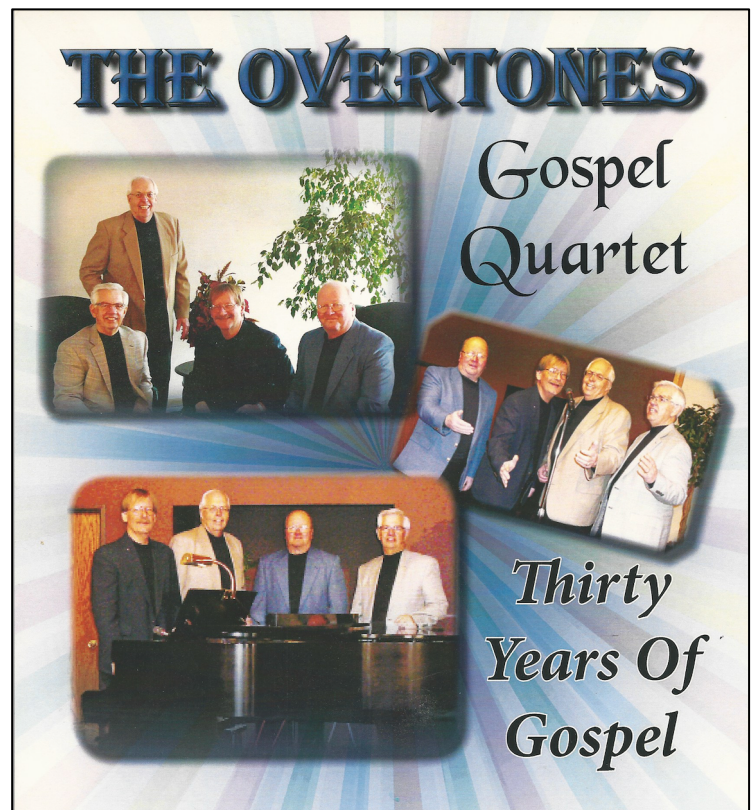
3:00 pm

Light supper to follow



Kyland and Ella Rondorf

went to Pathfinder's Bible Camp and reported to the congregation on their experiences.



AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

AS ALWAYS, SUMMER 2024 WAS A BUSY TIME!



Elsa Haugen won a grand championship for performing arts. She sang "Isn't It Romantic?" and accompanied herself on the piano. Aksel Haugen won a grand championship for video/filmmaking. Marisa Benson won a grand championship for her cross-stitch project.



Kathy Alberg was inducted into the Pennington County 4-H Hall of Fame!



Several St. Pauli ladies helped to serve lunch at "Norwegian Day at the Fair."

**And we are so grateful for co-workers and emergency responders.
Kyle is the son of Kenny and Cindy Cedergren.**



SANFORD AMBULANCE VITAL SIGNS

Summer 2024

Compassion, Excellence and Community

Citizens Lifesaving Award

On Thursday, April 18, 2024, Kyle Cedergren was working at Border States in Fargo. Kyle usually spent most of his time on the road, but that day he happened to be in the office when his heart stopped beating.

Kyle's friend and co-worker Duane Jannson found Kyle slumped against the wall and immediately called for help on the radio. Dustin Fabre heard the call for help and quickly stopped what he was doing to go help. Dustin had just taken his first CPR course three weeks prior to this event and had no idea he'd need to use the skills he learned so soon. When Dustin arrived at Kyle's side, he realized that he wasn't breathing and his heart wasn't beating. Dustin immediately started chest compressions.

Co-workers had alerted Jon Becker and Tyler Pich that someone needed help, so Jon immediately called 911 and Tyler grabbed a CPR mask and ran to Kyle's side. Tyler started breathing for Kyle and counting Dustin's compressions. Shortly after, a police officer arrived and took over CPR while Tyler hooked up the automated external defibrillator to Kyle's chest. Working together, the men used the AED to shock Kyle's heart. Soon after the shock, Kyle started breathing on his own, and his heart began beating again. Firefighters and ambulance personnel arrived and continued caring for Kyle.

This group of men went to work that day, having no idea that they would all work together to save Kyle's life. Nationally, only about 10% of people who experience sudden cardiac arrest survive. On May 15, Jon Becker, Duane Jannson, Dustin Fabre and Tyler Pich were awarded the Sanford Ambulance Citizen Lifesaver Award for their actions that saved Kyle's life.

Without this group of men providing CPR and using the AED, Kyle most likely would not have survived. Sudden cardiac arrest isn't just a job for emergency responders; it's a community issue that requires community response. CPR is easy to learn - it only takes a few minutes - and you never know when you might need to use it to save someone's life. To learn hands-only CPR, go to handsonlycpr.org. To register for a CPR certification course, go to shemse.org and click on "CPR & First Aid".





Faye Auchenpaugh's granddaughter, Madison Underwood, was married to Wade Simon at her farm on August 17, 2024.

As a nod to Madison's Norwegian heritage on her mother's side – Damita (Johnson) – the bride and her father, Michael, were led in to the Norwegian Bridal March played on a Hardanger fiddle by Aubrey Connett, daughter of Keith and Dana (Torkelson) Connett.

Aubrey wore an authentic Norwegian bunad for the occasion. Bunads are Norway's national costume and the style varies by region. This bunad is from Nordfjord in the Sogn og Fjordane county of western Norway.

The Hardanger fiddle is Norway's national instrument. Beloved as much for the way it sounds as the way it looks, the Hardanger is a stunning piece of folk art, reflective of a rural homeland in Norway that is known for brightly colored embroidery and home arts that celebrate nature and country living.



On the Hardanger, that love of design translates into delicate hand-drawn black ink motifs on the body, back or sides called rosings; intricate mother-of-pearl inlays; and the crowning feature, the hand carved figurehead that replaces the volute. Traditionally, it's a lion's head honoring Norway's coat-of-arms, but variations are acceptable and depend on the creativity of the maker. Fingerboards and tailpieces are also made of ebony, and tailpieces can include details such as inlaid mother-of-pearl, bone, and metal.



Hardanger fiddles generally have four bowed strings and an additional four sympathetic strings beneath the bridge. The latter are not played directly but are excited into vibration by the bowed strings above, adding a subtle richness to the sound. This also means that tuning the eight strings is more complicated than the ordinary violin or fiddle. Experts advise that there are at least 29 ways to tune the top and bottom strings *based on the tune to be played*. A common tuning for the top strings is A D A E, with the understrings tuned B D E F# A (lowest to highest). The D and higher A strings would be the same pitch for the top and bottom strings, with the E understring an octave below the E top string.

The Hardanger fiddle had a starring musical role in several movies including *Fargo* and *The Rohan Fanfare* and it was the signature theme of the second episode in the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy, *The Two Towers*.

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The new school year means that many young people will be opening an instrument case for the first time in their life, which means their life will never be the same again. Put a musical instrument in the hands of a young person and their life changes forever, and for the better.

Music isn't just a subject. It's a place of belonging, it's a means of expression, it's a builder of friendships, it's a maker of memories, it's an awakener of confidence, it's an inspirer of success, and it's a provider of comfort.

Music helps people shine their brightest. Music is many things – and they're all important.

~Vaughn Fleischfresser

Johnny Appleseed

Johnny Appleseed became an American legend while still alive, due to his kind, generous ways, his leadership in conservation, and the importance he attributed to apples.

On a family farm in Nova, Ohio, grows a very special apple tree. By some claims, the 175-year-old tree is the last physical evidence of John Chapman, a prolific nurseryman who, throughout the early 1800s, planted acres upon acres of apple orchards along America's western frontier, which at the time was anything on the other side of Pennsylvania.

Today, Chapman and his story has been imbued with the tint of a fairytale. If we think of Johnny Appleseed as a barefoot wanderer whose apples were uniform, crimson orbs, it's thanks in large part to the popularity a segment of the 1948 Disney feature, *Melody Time*, which depicts Johnny in Cinderella fashion, surrounded by blue songbirds and a jolly guardian angel. But this contemporary notion is flawed, tainted by our modern perception of the apple as a sweet, edible fruit. The apples that Chapman brought to the frontier were completely distinct from the apples available at a modern grocery store or farmers' market, and they weren't primarily used for eating—they were used to make America's beverage-of-choice at the time, hard apple cider.

"Up until Prohibition, an apple grown in America was far less likely to be eaten than to wind up in a barrel of cider," writes Michael Pollan in *The Botany of Desire*. "In rural areas cider took the place of not only wine and beer but of coffee and tea, juice, and even water."

It was into this apple-laden world that John Chapman was born, on September 26, 1774, in Leominster, Massachusetts. Much of his early years have been lost to history, but in the early 1800s, Chapman reappears, this time on the western edge of Pennsylvania, near the country's rapidly expanding Western frontier. At the turn of the 19th century, speculators and private companies were buying up huge swaths of land in the Northwest Territory, waiting for settlers to arrive. Starting in 1792, the Ohio Company of Associates made a deal with potential settlers: anyone willing to form a permanent homestead on the wilderness beyond Ohio's first permanent settlement would be granted 100 acres of land. To prove their homesteads, settlers were required to plant 50 apple trees and 20 peach trees in three years.

Ever the savvy businessman, Chapman realized that if he could do the difficult work of planting these orchards, he could turn them around for profit to incoming frontiersmen. Wandering from Pennsylvania to Illinois, Chapman would advance just ahead of settlers, cultivating orchards that he would sell to them when they arrived, and then head to more undeveloped land. Like the caricature that has survived to



modern day, Chapman really did tote a bag full of apple seeds. As a member of the Swedenborgian Church, whose belief system explicitly forbade grafting (which they believed caused plants to suffer), Chapman planted all of his orchards from seed, meaning his apples were, for the most part, unfit for eating.

It wasn't that Chapman—or the frontier settlers—didn't have the knowledge necessary for grafting, but like New Englanders, they found that their effort was better spent planting apples for drinking, not for eating. Apple cider provided those on the frontier with a safe, stable source of drink, and in a time and place where water could be full of dangerous bacteria, cider could be imbibed without worry.

Cider was a huge part of frontier life, which Howard Means, author of *Johnny Appleseed: The Man, the Myth, the American Story*, describes as being lived "through an alcoholic haze."

Transplanted New Englanders on the frontier drank a reported 10.52 ounces of hard cider per day. "Hard cider," Means writes, "was as much a part of the dining table as meat or bread."

John Chapman died in 1845, and many of his orchards and apple varieties didn't survive much longer. During Prohibition, apple trees that produced sour, bitter apples used for cider were often chopped down by FBI agents, effectively erasing cider, along with Chapman's true history, from American life. "Apple growers were forced to celebrate the fruit not for its intoxicating values, but for its nutritional benefits," Means writes, "its ability, taken once a day, to keep the doctor away..." In a way, this aphorism—so benign by modern standards—was nothing less than an attack on a typically American libation. Today, America's cider market is seeing a modest—but marked—resurgence as the fastest growing alcoholic beverage in America. Chapman, however, remains frozen in the realm of Disney, destined to wander in America's collective memory with a sack full of perfectly edible, gleaming apples.

But not all of the apples that came from Chapman's orchards were destined to be forgotten. Wandering the modern supermarket, we have Chapman to thank for varieties like the Delicious, the Golden Delicious, and more. His penchant toward propagation by seed, Pollan argues, lent itself to creating the great—and perhaps more importantly—hardy American apple.

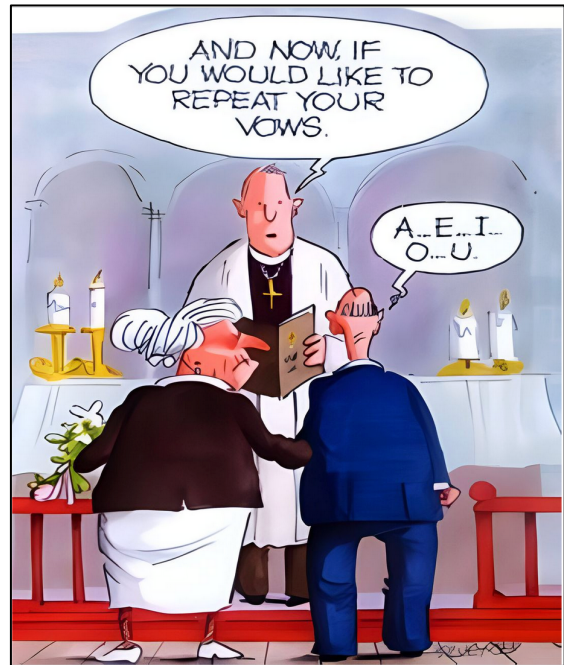
Had Chapman and the settlers opted for grafting, the uniformity of the apple product would have lent to a staid and relatively boring harvest. "It was the seeds, and the cider, that gave the apple the opportunity to discover by trial and error the precise combination of traits required to prosper in the New World," he writes. "From Chapman's vast planting of nameless cider apple seeds came some of the great American cultivars of the 19th century."

The Back Page

How Children Perceive their Grandparents

- I was in the bathroom, putting on my makeup, under the watchful eyes of my young granddaughter, as I'd done many times before. After I applied my lipstick and started to leave, the little one said, "But Grandma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper good-bye!"
- My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 68. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"
- After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"
- A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like. "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"
- A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's laptop. She told him she was writing a story. "What's it about?" he asked. "I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."
- I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colors yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what color it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last, she headed for the door, saying, "Grandma, I really think you should try to figure out some of these colors yourself!"
- When my grandson Billy and I entered our vacation cabin, we kept the lights off until we were inside to keep from attracting pesky insects. Still, a few fireflies followed us in. Noticing them before I did, Billy whispered, "It's no use Grandpa. Now the mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights."
- When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised "Mine says I'm 4 to 6." (WOW! I really like this one -- it says I'm only '38'!)
- A second grader came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today." The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting," she said. "How do you make babies?" "It's simple," replied the girl. "You just change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'."
- "Give me a sentence about a public servant," said a teacher. The small boy wrote: "The fireman came down the ladder pregnant." The teacher took the lad aside to correct him. "Don't you know what pregnant means?" she asked. "Sure," said the young boy confidently. "It means carrying a child."

- A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and whenever we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."
- A grandfather was delivering his grandchildren to their home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog. The children started discussing the dog's duties. "They use him to keep crowds back," said one child. "No," said another. "He's just for good luck." A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrants."



How lunch was done on a road trip before all the fast food joints...

