

# St. Pauli News in Detail



## Greeting and Ushering

Oct. 5 Wade Benson  
Oct. 12 Corey Berg  
Oct. 19 Neil Bugge  
Oct. 26 Ken Cedergren

**Altar Preparation:** Shelley Mathson

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### October 12 Holy Communion

We have a retired ordained pastor to conduct communion services on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Darrel Cory lives in Thief River Falls and served Redeemer Church as their interim pastor following the retirement of Pastor Mark Helgeland.

We also have another pastor who is interested in serving communion for us each month. We will form a Call Committee to handle this matter. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please indicate so to one of the council members.

AND, Bishop Bill Tesch will preside at worship services on Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026!

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## 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### First Organized Emigration from Norway to America

2025 marks this important anniversary in the story of Norwegian emigration to America.

Snorre Lodge in Thief River Falls has a full week of activities in October to commemorate this historic event. For details, see the poster inside this newsletter.

## FALL EVENT

Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>  
3:00 pm

**Steve Larson**  
"7<sup>th</sup> INNING STRETCH"

Our 2025 Fall Event promises to be a very entertaining program. Steve Larson, 1968 graduate of Lincoln High School, will be our program. He has been an avid trading card collector since he was a young boy and presents various aspects related to trading cards over a period of seven innings. It's difficult to explain how entertaining this program is. You simply "gotta see it to believe it!"

We will serve traditional baseball park food: hot dogs, peanuts and Cracker Jacks.

There is a flyer in this newsletter you can use to spread the word.

Please remember that this is the annual occasion that replaces our fall supper, when we would have around \$2,500 in net profits that would be given to local, national and global charities. So please give generously.

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## October Milestones

### Birthdays

Oct. 6	Pastor Carl Hansen
Oct. 14	Kyland Rondorf
Oct. 15	Eileen Kotaska
Oct. 16	Jim Rondorf
Oct. 20	Jim Nelson
Oct. 21	Ryan Haugen
Oct. 23	Chris Carter
Oct. 29	Joan Nelson
Oct. 31	Jim Kotz

### Anniversaries

Oct. 25	Jim and Joan Nelson
Oct. 26	Myles and Kathy Alberg



# In Memoriam

## Kyle Kisch

**December 31, 1968 – August 12, 2025**

*Kyle was Arlo Rude's nephew and son of Betty (Rude) Kisch.*

Kyle Andrew Kisch, age 56, of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, passed away unexpectedly on August 12, 2025.

Kyle was born on December 31, 1968 in St. Paul, Minnesota to Culver Dean Kisch and Betty Ann Kisch (née Rude). He grew up with his parents and younger brother, Brandon Kisch, in Thief River Falls, Minnesota. He attended Lincoln High School and graduated in 1987. Later, he attended Minnesota State University-Mankato, and graduated with his Bachelor's in Psychology in 1993. At the time of his passing, Kyle was employed by Boston Scientific as a Medical Device Specialist.

Kyle was a passionate fan of the Minnesota Vikings, North Dakota Fighting Sioux, and Minnesota Wild. He found joy in the worlds of Star Wars, the Marvel Universe, and The Lord of the Rings. In his younger years, he enjoyed hunting and fishing, and he carried that love for nature throughout his life. His interests were a reflection of his imaginative spirit and deep appreciation for storytelling and adventure.

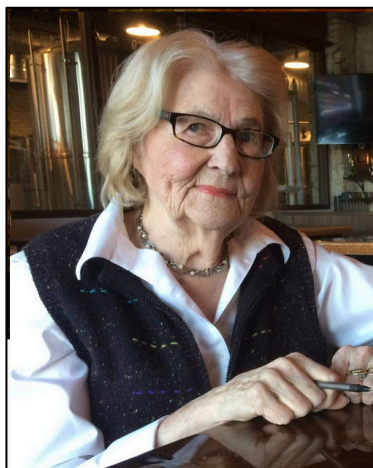
Kyle is survived by his beloved daughter, Josie Kisch (Alec Letourneau); his brother, Brandon Kisch (Kristy); nieces Bailey Kisch (Patrick Jones, fiancé) and Madison Kisch; and many cousins, aunts, uncles and close personal friends who will miss his warmth and wit.

Kyle was preceded in death by his parents, Culver Dean Kisch and Betty Ann Kisch (née Rude); paternal grandparents Andrew and Hannah Kisch (née Peterson); and maternal grandparents Herman Oliver and Beatrice Alvida Rude (née Lokken).

A Celebration of Life for Kyle will be held at noon on November 15, 2025 at Black River Lutheran Church, rural Thief River Falls, MN with Reverend Sheila Micheals officiating. Visitation will be held one hour prior. Burial will follow at Black River Lutheran Cemetery at a later date.

Kyle's legacy lives on in the hearts of those who knew him. May he rest in peace, surrounded by the galaxies and heroes he loved so dearly.

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# In Memoriam

## Marilyn G. Hagerty

**May 30, 1926 – September 16, 2025**

*Marilyn was our Fall Event guest speaker in 2016.*

Marilyn Hagerty, a newspaper columnist in Grand Forks who suddenly achieved national fame and won a book contract after writing a positive review of an Olive Garden restaurant in her mid-80s, died of complications from a stroke on September 16, 2025. She was 99 years old.

Marilyn was known to her many fans in North Dakota and Minnesota as a writer of touching and often humorous stories about ordinary people. A typical Marilyn Hagerty gem was her 1974 profile of a bachelor farmer, Magnus Skytland. He lived without electricity, read by the

light of a kerosene lamp and sometimes serenaded himself on his violin. He introduced Marilyn to his favorite horse, Sally, named after a former girlfriend. "I've had three horses named Sally," he said.

In early March 2012, she turned in her review of what was then a new branch of the restaurant chain in Grand Forks. As was her custom, she did not write a critique but rather described her experience. She reported that the "chicken Alfredo (\$10.95) was warm and comforting on a cold day" and that portions were generous.

Internet wits stumbled upon the story and began mocking her for writing an earnest review of a chain restaurant that big city reviewers would acknowledge with contempt, if at all. Within hours, newspaper reporters in Minneapolis, New York and

even Fargo began calling her to ask what she made of all the snarky comments about her article.

She explained that she wasn't worried about it and didn't have time to scroll through thousands of social media comments. "I'm working on my Sunday column and I'm going to play bridge this afternoon," she told one reporter, "so I don't have time to read all this crap."

This feisty response from a supposedly defenseless North Dakota grandmother endeared her to people around the world. She soon was flying to New York to appear on national TV



programs including "Today," Anderson Cooper's talk show and "Top Chef." Too busy with interview commitments in New York, she had to decline an invitation to appear on "The Tonight Show." During a CBS TV appearance, she remarked, "Some people like to complain about food. It's got to be pretty bad if I don't like it."

Newspapers across the country wrote about her. On March 13, 2012, *The Wall Street Journal* published a Page 1 story by her son, James R. Hagerty, entitled "When Mom Goes Viral." Anthony Bourdain, a New York food writer and television personality, arranged to meet her and persuaded Ecco/HarperCollins to publish a collection of her restaurant reviews, "Grand Forks: A History of American Dining in 100 Reviews," published in 2013. The *New York Times* wrote about her at length in December 2020, describing how she was doing her work during the Covid pandemic and publishing pictures of her at home.

Marilyn Gail Hansen was born May 30, 1926, in Pierre, S.D. Her father, Mads Hansen, who was born in Denmark and grew up on a farm, worked as a shipping clerk at a wholesale grocery company. Her mother, the former Thyra Linnet, was the daughter of Danish immigrants who lived in Tyler, MN.

Marilyn was the fourth of five children, coming after Harley, Helen and Walter, and before the youngest, Shirley, familiar much later to readers of Marilyn Hagerty columns written in the form of letters to her sister Shirley in Tucson, Ariz. Though the family lived in town, they raised chickens and kept a cow or two for milk. When Marilyn was 9 years old, her mother died of breast cancer.

There were few books in the house -- only a Bible and a few Zane Gray westerns. But Mads Hansen made clear his admiration for educated people and told Marilyn that Bob Hipple, the editor of the *Pierre Capital Journal*, was the smartest man in town.

Marilyn worked on her high school newspaper and was editor of the yearbook. "I was good at typing and although I was terribly shy, I found I could step up and ask questions of people for the paper," she said later. Her first job in journalism was as an assistant to the editor of an advertising sheet called the *Pierre Daily Reminder*. When there were blank spaces on the pages, Marilyn wrote short items to fill them and signed them as Reminder Rat. The editor of the *Capital Journal*, Mr. Hipple, gave her a summer job. Her duties included gathering snippets of local news. She proved resourceful in her reporting. One of her friends worked as a checkout girl at a grocery store. Marilyn persuaded her friend to quiz women who were buying larger-than-usual amounts of food. Were they expecting guests? That could be news for the *Capital Journal*.

When she was a sophomore in high school, in 1942, she found her father lying in his bed, dead from a heart attack at the age of 56. Her older brothers served in World War II, leaving the three Hansen sisters to fend for themselves. Marilyn worked as a dish washer and later a waitress at the St. Charles Hotel in Pierre. Though money was tight, she enrolled at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion in 1944 and majored in journalism. Because most men were away during World War II, women had more chances to take leadership roles on campus. Miss Hansen became editor of the USD student newspaper, the *Volante* in 1947. When Allen Neuharth

returned from infantry service in the Army and enrolled at USD, she hired him as a sportswriter. He later became chief executive of Gannett Co. and founder of *USA Today*.

In 1947, when she had a summer job at the *Capital Journal* in Pierre, she met Jack Hagerty, who worked for the United Press news service, and they began dating. She had a job offer from a newspaper in Salt Lake City but turned it down because that would have meant saying goodbye to Hagerty. They married June 19, 1949, and had a honeymoon in Galveston, Texas. He was 30. She was 23.

The Hagertys settled in Bismarck, where he was bureau manager for United Press, a rival to the Associated Press. Marilyn worked as a secretary at the state health department and helped produce a publication for listeners of KFYZ, a radio station. In 1953, the Hagertys moved to Minneapolis when Jack was promoted to manager of the UP bureau. While caring for her children, Marilyn wrote occasionally on a free-lance basis for the UP and became a judge of high school newspapers for the National Scholastic Press Association.

The *Grand Forks Herald* hired Jack Hagerty as news editor in 1957, and the family moved to Grand Forks, where he eventually became editor of the newspaper. In the late 1960s, Marilyn became editor of what had been the "society" or "family" pages. That section began to feature many topics beyond the usual weddings and engagements, with an emphasis on food, health and travel.

When Jack Hagerty retired in 1983, she reduced her work schedule to 30 hours a week. She continued to write her column and review restaurants. Some of her columns and features from past decades were collected in a book, "Echoes," published by the *Herald* in 1995. She donated profits from the book to fund scholarships for women at UND.

After Jack Hagerty died in 1997, Marilyn continued to write for the *Herald*, play bridge, support the basketball team and travel. She was a member of the advisory committee for the University of Minnesota at Crookston.

In her column, she joked that she would like to have something named after her--nothing grand like a building or bridge but perhaps something more modest, such as a sewage-pumping station. On Sept. 6, 2002, Mayor Mike Brown officially dedicated the Marilyn Hagerty sewage station, complete with a plaque honoring her, at the corner of 15th Avenue South and Belmont Road. In October 2012, she won the Al Neuharth Award for Excellence in the Media. Past winners included Tim Russert, Garrison Keillor and Katie Couric. The University of North Dakota in August 2021 awarded her an honorary Doctor of Letters degree. UND called her "the voice of Grand Forks for more than half a century" and a "tireless supporter" of the university. In response, she gave a two-minute speech saying that she was getting more credit than she deserved and that she had only been trying to make a living as a reporter. She thanked her supporters for their friendship.

She is survived by her son along with a daughter, Gail Hagerty, a Lutheran minister and retired judge in Bismarck; daughter-in-law Lorraine Li Hagerty; sons-in-law Dale Sandstrom and Curt Werner, and eight grandchildren: Jack Golden, Carrie Sarokin, Anne Sandstrom, Curtis Werner, Annaliese Holst, Mariah Werner, James Lee Hagerty and Carmen Hagerty. Another daughter, Carol Hagerty Werner, died in 2011.

# St. Pauli Church Council Minutes

March 20, 2025

The St. Pauli Church Council held its monthly meeting on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 7 p.m. at St. Pauli Church. Members present: Faye Auchenpaugh, Wade Benson, Sue Kotz, Jim Rondorf and Jana Johnson. Others: Kevin Reich.

Council President Faye Auchenpaugh called the meeting to order at 6:58 pm. Kevin Reich opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed and approved. M/S/C (Rondorf/Benson)

Secretary's Report: M/S/C (Kotz/Rondorf) to approve the secretary's report for February.

Treasurer's Report: M/S/C (Johnson/Kotz) to approve the Treasurer's report for February

Checking Account Balance End of Jan 2025	\$32,436.20
February 2025 Revenue:	4,835.00
February 2025 Expenses:	(3,877.27)
Checking Account Balance End of Feb 2025:	\$33,393.93

Other Account Balances End of February 2025:

Education Fund	\$ 555.26
Edward Jones	85,727.90
Memorial Fund	8,768.02
Mission Grant	5,708.00
Savings	39,000.49

Total Account Balances End of February 2025: \$173,153.60

Cemetery Association Funds End of Feb 2025: \$ 78,137.36

## Kevin Reich's Report:

Kevin participated in a conference get-together to discuss the future of lay-led, clergy-supported churches. The group will invite Bishop Tesch to the area to see first-hand the work of lay-led congregations.

Kevin will be attending the NW MN Conference May 30 – June 1 at Concordia College. There will be a bishop election.

A request has been made to Bishop Tesch to ask if Kevin can serve communion on an ongoing basis.

Kevin will be attending a Joint Theological day on April 3 in Hillsboro, ND.

## Other Reports:

WELCA:

- 1) The group made 28 quilts over 5 days in January, February and March. They will display the quilts in the

sanctuary the last Sunday of April. Quilts will be sent to Lutheran World Relief and a few kept on hand to donate to local families in need.

- 2) WELCA is gathering donated items during Lent for Personal Care Kits to be donated to Lutheran World Relief.
- 3) The fall event has been booked with Steve Larson, former Thief River Falls resident, trading card collector and entertainer. He will perform his show titled "7<sup>th</sup> Inning Stretch."
- 4) The wall hanging project for the Heritage Center is complete and hung!

Board of Education: No report this month.

## Old Business:

- 1) Arlo Rude replaced brushes on both vacuums.
- 2) Generator Bids: Jim Rondorf received a second bid for a 13W generator from Red Lake Electric. The price will increase by 7% the first of April. A special congregation meeting will happen on Sunday, March 30, to review the two bids and vote.

## New Business:

- 1) Kevin Reich membership transfer was received. M/S/C (Benson/Kotz) to approve the new membership.
- 2) M/S/C (Auchenpaugh/Benson) to approve Pathways Bible Camp tuition for Ella and Kyland Rondorf at \$560 and \$340 respectively.
- 3) Pastor Marilyn Grafstrom will be attending the First Call Retreat in Crookston April 27-29. M/S/C (Kotz/Rondorf) to approve covering lodging and meals, a cost of \$275.
- 4) NW MN Synod Assembly is May 30 – June 1. Kevin Reich will attend, and Wade Benson also expressed interest in attending.
- 5) Field trip to Waukon Dairy near Gary, MN will be Monday, April 7 followed by lunch at Erickson's Smokehouse in Fertile. Cost will be \$10 per person and will go toward a portion of the cost of the bus. M/S/C (Benson/Rondorf) for the church to pay for any remaining bus balance.

Next Meeting: Council agreed to skip meeting in person because of Holy Week in April and will handle any necessary business over email.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Jana Johnson  
St. Pauli Church Council Secretary

# Special Congregational Meeting Minutes

March 30, 2025

Called to order at 11:31 am.

A special meeting of the St. Pauli Lutheran Church congregation was called to order by President Faye Auchenpaugh immediately following the regular church service.

Faye explained the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possible purchase of a generator, due to the increase of our insurance property loss deductible of \$10,000.

Jim Rondorf secured quotes from Clearbrook and Red Lake Electric. He and Kevin Reich compared quotes and explained the systems and warranties.

After questions and discussion, Gary Iverson made a motion to allow the council to move forward with the purchase of the system from Red Lake Electric and propane tank work from

Red Lake County Cooperative for \$10,957.15. The motion was seconded by Arlo Rude and carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

Jana Johnson  
St. Pauli Church Council Secretary

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## Minutes of the Women of the ELCA

June 25, 2023

The St. Pauli Women of the ELCA met on June 25, 2023 at 7:00 pm with 5 members present.

President Jan led us in devotions titled Devotions: "Love in Every Step" based on Psalm 34:14

Secretary's report: Minutes of the May 28<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer's report: Cindy reported for the period May 28 through June 25: Expenses: \$80. Income: \$70. Checking account balance: \$1,363.17. Savings account balance as of May 31: \$605.49. CD \$6,681.64. M/S/C Virginia/Sharon to accept both secretary and treasurer reports.

Stewardship: No report. Cindy will take a basket of donations to Northland Mission in Grand Forks.

Council report: No meeting in June.

Communications: Letter from HIA saying that effective June 9, 2023 Hospice of the Red River Valley will become Hearts in Action (HIA). This new name aligns with the care they provide and embodies the dedication they bring to every patient and family they serve. Since serving their first patient in Fargo in 1981, they have expanded their reach to 63,000 square miles in North Dakota and Minnesota. They are deeply thankful for our support and for being a central part of their journey.

David Stroh is in hospice care now and, since he's a veteran, Hospice suggested the family hold a pinning ceremony which his brothers and sisters and other family members attended. Cindy suggested we ask someone from Hospice come and speak to us.

Old Business: Faye submitted the Valentine meal article and Fall Event information to the SNOW newsletter.

The Dondelinger Foundation meets this coming week, so we should hear soon regarding our grant application.

Watering schedule: Kathy and Sharon are scheduled for June, Virginia and Cindy in July.

New Business: We have three bins of choir robes we haven't used. Cindy will research where they can be donated. Virginia suggested we use some of them as material for Christmas program costumes. About 165 anniversary cookbooks remain. Various options were discussed. We will use some in

our convention baskets and donate five to the Heritage Center.

Faye will order Cracker Jacks for our fall event.

Pr. Genelle Netland from the Synod office will attend worship services on Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. We will have a potluck meal following. On behalf of WELCA, Faye will buy and bake a ham. We need more divided plates, which Faye will pick up at Costco.

Fall cleaning: Tammy Swick will clean again.

The Lord's Prayer was prayed and prayer partners exchanged. Potluck lunch followed.

Faye Auchenpaugh, Secretary

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**ELLA and KYLAND RONDORF reported on their experiences at Bible Camp this summer.**

# **St. Pauli Lutheran Church Fall Event**

presents



A fun-filled event featuring Steve Larson, TRF native and LHS graduate. Steve shows and talks about the history of his extensive baseball card collection, the Seventh Inning Stretch, and why we sing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." His collection of trading cards includes movie stars, celebrities, historical events, etc.

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025**

**3:00 pm**

**Hot dogs, peanuts, and crackerjacks  
will be served!!**



**Wear your favorite baseball gear!!**



**Freewill donations with proceeds going  
toward various charities**



**St. Pauli Lutheran Church: 11015 170<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.E., T.R. Falls  
From TRF: 3.5 mi. SE on Hwy. 59, 3 miles So. on Co. Road 20**



# The Memorial Pavilion is Up!



We began on a cool and overcast day in July with Chad Torstveit, Myles Alberg, Ronnie Anderson, Maury Smith and Faye Auchenpaugh. Maury drove up from the Cities to participate in erecting this building because the majority of it was paid for by memorials given in honor of his mom, Wahna Smith.



By midafternoon, Gary Iverson stopped by to see how things were going and ended up being part of the construction crew! It took the better part of two days to complete and almost immediately became a favored stop for Sami, Jana Prickett's dog, on her daily walk.

In early September, the benches and display stands were installed.



**Chad Torstveit is our unsung hero.**

Chad stored the deliveries on a trailer in his machine shed, brought them to the cemetery with boxes all marked as to which pieces were inside, brought the proper tools, led the construction team, and even made custom fasteners for the display stands.

**Thank you, Chad!**





# Around the Neighborhood

## Kari Torkelson wins gold medal at National Senior Games

Shawn Smith, UMC Sports Information Director, August 13, 2025

When the Elks National Hoop Shoot rolled into Thief River Falls when Kari was eight years old, basketball wasn't even on her radar. After winning a free throw competition at her elementary school, and for the city of Thief River Falls, her father knew it was time to install a basketball hoop at their [farm], and now into her 50s Torkelson still doesn't want to put down a basketball.

She went on to compete for the University of Minnesota Crookston in basketball and volleyball from 1989-91, and she is a member of the Hall of Fame as part of the 1989-90 women's basketball team.

Torkelson went on to earn her Doctor of Optometry from the University of Indiana and serves the Grand Forks metro area as an optometrist at Lifetime Vision.

Though she is decades removed from playing basketball competitively, she has continued to shoot consistently, and the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris inspired her to try to compete at the highest level she could.

"Last summer when I was watching the Paris Olympics, I thought about something I could still do and compete at a high level," Torkelson stated. "I knew I could still shoot free throws, so I did a Google search for competitions for Seniors who can shoot free throws, and I found the National Senior Games. I saw they were taking place in Des Moines, Iowa in 2025, so I went on the internet and filled out a form, paid my entry fee and decided to go."

Torkelson put in the work to practice and get herself mentally prepared to compete at the National Senior Games. She would typically go at least once a week to the YMCA in Grand Forks and shoot 100 free throws. Torkelson knew she had the mechanics down, since she had never stopped shooting free throws since she was eight years old, but she wanted to get the repetition and mental aspects rehearsed.

"I tried to simulate the competition by having someone rebound for me," Torkelson stated.

The competition occurred August 2 at Prairie Trail Sports Complex in Ankeny, Iowa. Torkelson had the opportunity to compete against women ages 50-54 from across the country and from a lot of different backgrounds, including former WNBA player Deborah Carter, who competed for the Utah Starzz, and Washington Mystics.

"I felt pretty good that day," Torkelson remarked. "We were going to be shooting at 6 p.m. That morning, I thought hard about how I was going to fill my time. So, I went to the YMCA in Des Moines and shot around. There was a guy shooting three-pointers and I asked if I could shoot free throws. He said I had a nice shot, and I told him that I was competing in the National Senior Games. I started shooting and I shot 24/25 that morning, and he said 'that will get you a medal of some type.' I had lunch and went for a walk to clear my head



because I was waiting all day to shoot. I tried to just stay hydrated and get prepared for the competition."

"I got there, and they had a sheet to sign in with your name and number 1-25 on it," Torkelson said. "You handed it to a volunteer standing with a clipboard. You had three shots to warm up. If you made the first one, you had the option to start your 25 shots at that point. Or you could finish the three warm-up shots. I missed the first one, but then I made the second one and was ready to start. There were other people at the baskets, and it wasn't quiet; there was talking and people were watching. All of a sudden it started to get

quiet because they were seeing that I was making my shots. I could hear people talking behind me and I got super nervous, and my legs were shaking. I had someone rebounding for me and then I missed shot 14. I stepped back and reorganized myself, and I got to shot 20. I just thought to myself, 'Just finish these last five and call it good.'"

Torkelson wrapped up her round and was told by a few people that she had accomplished a really good number. One lady who had volunteered all week at the National Senior Games told her she had only seen one other person hit 24-of-25 and it was a man in the 80-plus category. It started to sink in that she might just achieve her goal, and the Grand Forks resident did just that. She had been trying to keep her competing a little bit on the down-low, so while her family knew, nobody was present at the competition. She wished in that moment of celebration that she would have had her family there, so she knew the one call she had to make.

"Afterwards, of course, the first person I called was my Dad. And I told him I won and was a Gold medalist, and you could hear him getting emotional and I thought, 'This is pretty awesome'. I wished I would have had family there, but at the same time I am glad I didn't because it kept me from being as nervous as I probably would have been."

Torkelson has been on cloud nine since Saturday evening, relishing the opportunity to compete, and reaching her goal of not only winning a medal, but taking home the Gold. Torkelson was one of just 26 athletes from North Dakota competing in the National Senior Games. She had a wonderful time meeting so many great people and can't wait to make a return trip to the National Senior Games in 2027.

"I can't wipe the smile off my face," Torkelson remarked. "I couldn't sleep that night. I would just sit up and laugh at myself and be like 'I have a gold medal!' Now that I have done it, I was so inspired by the other people that were there, I just want to keep doing it as long as I can."

Torkelson is proof you can continue chasing your dreams and doing what you love at any age. So while she will continue to be a great fan of all things Golden Eagles, we can turn the tables and be a fan of Torkelson for the amazing accomplishment she has achieved: Gold Medalist.



The Wisconsin Area Music Industry (WAMI) is a volunteer organization whose purpose is to support, educate and recognize the achievements and accomplishments of individuals in the Wisconsin music industry.

After both preliminary and final voting rounds, Paige Kleber came out on top and was named their **2025 Rising Star winner**—a music award for younger, under-21, best-new-artist or band in Wisconsin. She was up against some truly amazing bands and artists.

The family was told that, to their knowledge, Paige is the youngest person at age 12 to win this award in their 45-year history. Paige was also surprised to be awarded a WAMI Seed Scholarship to continue developing and pursuing music endeavors.

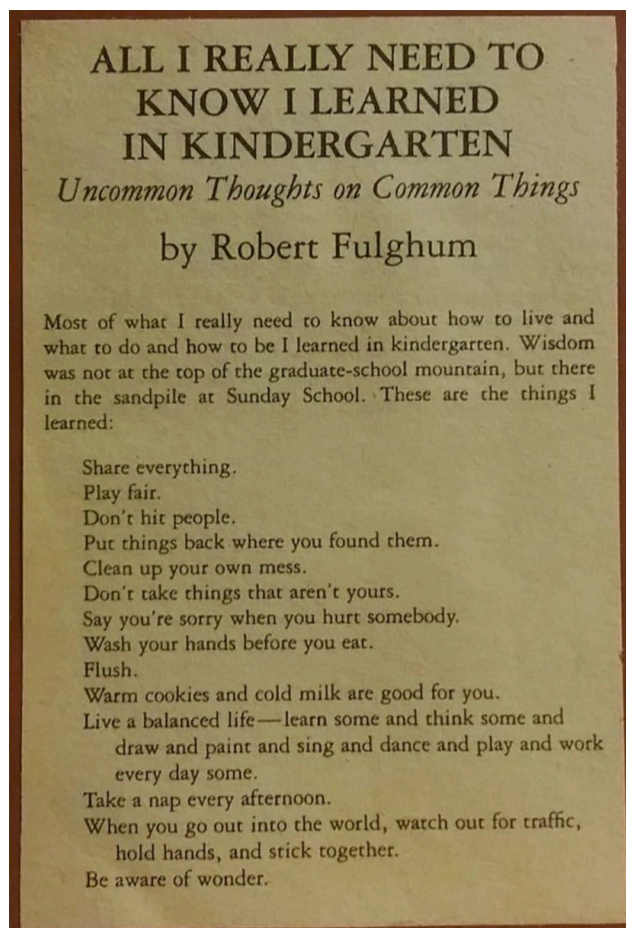
Later in the summer, the Madison Area Music Association awarded her Best New Artist and Country Song of the Year.

Paige is the daughter of Rachel (Mathson) and Matt Kleber, granddaughter of Shelley and Bruce Mathson, and great-granddaughter of Wally and Dodie Torkelson.

Wade Benson's son Sean (center, flanked by his daughters Colleen and Cora) was recently promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 4.

The ceremony was held at a memorial site at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, that includes a cauldron forged from remains of the New York World Trade Center.

Sean has completed 20 years of service in the Army and anticipates another decade or so. Family, current and former colleagues and superiors attended the ceremony and remained afterward for the picnic and celebration.



Thank you, Jim and Jordan Rondorf!





Painting of the "Restauration" by Norwegian artist Geir Borghum-Argento

## 200<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the Sloop "Restauration"

October 13-18, 2025

Sponsored by  
Sons of Norway Snorre Lodge 1-070  
Thief River Falls, Minnesota

*This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Northwest Minnesota Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.*



**October 13-18, 2025**

Thief River Falls Public Library, 102 1<sup>st</sup> St E, Thief River Falls, MN

### ***"New Land, New Life"***

Exhibit on Norwegian Immigration to Minnesota, 1825 to 1925. Farm settlements and homesteading, churches and congregations, urban life, folk arts, fine arts, and more.

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**Monday, October 13, 2025, 7:00 p.m.**

Northland College Auditorium, 1101 Hwy 1 East, Thief River Falls, MN

### ***"Historic Nordic Wooden Instruments"***

Carol Thompson from Maddock, ND has made a number of historic wooden Nordic instruments, including a Psalmodicon, Langeleik, Finnish Kantele, Lur, Kuhorn, Mountain Dulcimer, Swedish Nyckelharpa, and Bowed Psaltery, which is not Scandinavian but a more recent type of psaltery or zither that is played with a bow in contrast to being plucked. Thompson will give a presentation on these instruments, their history, the thought process behind the construction, and each instrument's sounds and songs. Robert "Bud" Larsen, Hardanger fiddle maker from Brainerd, MN, will explain the history and concept of the Hardanger fiddle and the process of making or repairing one. Aubrey Connett, recent graduate of St. Olaf who studied the Hardanger fiddle, will not only play several tunes but will explain the many differences in how this fiddle is played compared to a traditional violin. She will demonstrate on both the Hardanger and violin so the audience can see and hear these differences. **FREEWILL DONATION.**

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**Wednesday, October 15, 2025, 7:00 p.m.**

Thief River Falls Public Library, 102 1<sup>st</sup> St E, Thief River Falls, MN

### ***"Sloopers, Cleng Peerson and Immigration prior to Civil War"***

Faye Auchenpaugh, local historian, will speak on Cleng Peerson's extensive travels in America and his impact on Norwegian immigration, how Quakers ended up in Norway with its Lutheran national religion, why the Sloopers decided to emigrate, and their voyage and settlement in America. She will also talk of Ole Rynning's *"True Account of America"* in which he used a helpful question-and-answer dialog to address the fears of the prospective emigrant and will include patterns of settlement and a brief account of the beginnings of the various Norwegian Lutheran synods. *Copies of Rynning's work will be for sale. FREEWILL DONATION.*

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**Saturday, October 18, 2025, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.**

Elks Park, south side of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Bridge, Thief River Falls, MN

### ***"Imagine Life on Board the Restauration"***

The *Restauration* measured 54' long x 16' wide and held 52 passengers for the voyage to America. The ship will be outlined in the grass and, beginning at 2:00 p.m., everyone will be encouraged to be part of groups of 52 persons standing inside this outline (including children) to attempt to understand what life would have been like on this ship for the three-month voyage. Photos will be taken beginning at 2:00 p.m. Hot dogs and ice cream, traditionally eaten in Norway on Syttende Mai, will be served. Shuttles provided from parking lot at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Horace Streets. **FREEWILL DONATION.**

For additional information on any of the above, contact: [auchenpaugh@gmail.com](mailto:auchenpaugh@gmail.com)



The days are still long —  
but already, I find myself waiting.

For the hush of snow underfoot.  
For golden light slipping just above the horizon.  
For skies that never turn fully dark,  
yet glow in ways that feel otherworldly.

Up north, winter doesn't just come.  
It returns.  
With softness, silence, and light  
that warms you in the coldest season.

~Ronald Soethje, Bodø, Norway  
(Bodø is 60 miles north of the Arctic Circle)

It's a sprawling, sunlit, late summer afternoon and the world is a parade of flourishing life, some of it buzzing near the screen door, some of it soaring through happy blue skies, some scurrying across shady lawns, some posing and posturing in garden beds. The singing trees form a canopy over the neighborhood streets as shy, giggling children sell lemonade in plastic cups, calling out to those drifting past, walking their dogs, delivering newspapers, jogging, or strolling arm in arm.



There's a ballgame on the radio, and a stooped, wiry, gray-haired man washes his car with a garden hose as he listens. A motorcycle engine revs in the distance, and an ice cream truck speaker counters with high notes that resemble wind chimes.

Winter is absent from the minds of all who are found here. It rests in a distant galaxy. The very idea of it couldn't seem more foreign. It's not possible to fathom in this world of radiant abundance, held softly in a cradle of warm, humid air.

The weather makes many feel lazy. On porches, people can be seen sitting alone or in pairs. Some read, some quietly stare, some talk to children in their yards. As much as possible the town has moved outdoors. The languid afternoon calls everyone within range to step into the July air and bask in this sun-soaked showcase. Those stuck indoors feel a familiar anxiety as an idyllic day slips past while they tackle obligations and responsibilities they're yearning to discard, feeling a restless child inside longing to race across an open field, barefoot, or barrel down a cedar dock out into the weightless air, over a lake as blue as the heavens.

The thrill of playing hooky is born of days like this, be it skipping school, a job, or jut failing to show up to help a

relative move, sensing that summer is too short to give up these precious hours hauling boxes.

Months from now, on a frigid, snowy January day, some of those here will close their eyes and allow this scene to reappear in their mind's eye. It won't stay long; it will flash as some image on a postcard, then fade. But the strange sensation of the contrast it presents will linger, and the question might be asked, is this really the same neighborhood? Is this even the same planet?

"Winter's Song: A Hymn to the North" by TD Mischke is a book about that other world, winter. It addresses the intimate relationship between the season and those people in the U.S. who confront it, or embrace it, struggle with it, or waltz with it. Where there is true winter, in the northern states, far from the two coasts, there are countless numbers of people who have been molded by those cold months, shaped by them, taught, tamed, and trained by them.

Mischke has been all over the hard winter region of the lower 48 states in America. Whether he's in northern Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, the Dakota, or Eastern Montana, there is a shared winter language and winter culture. There can be variations in the season's intensity, but there is far more similarity in the way these people have come to understand and interact with this otherworldly presence, a force that does its best to claim to the largest chunk of the calendar.

In this book, Mischke treats these areas as one location, one state onto itself, winter's hometown. And the people [he introduces] are presented as citizens of a single territory. Which city they reside in is unimportant. They are Northerners, and in terms of winter they speak the same language, know the same touchstones, and share much of the same nuanced understanding.

In the North, winter will not be ignored. If you've made your home where winter rules, you've been forced to develop some type of relationship with this phenomenon. But this book is about more than the season and its relationship to people. It's a hymn to the connection between winter and the ineffable, mysterious experience of our very existence. It celebrates the ways the season weaves its way into every facet of what it is to be alive.

In this book, [Mischke] attempts to examine winter through his own experiences, the experiences of others, and sometimes through the viewpoints of people who exist only in his mind. It's his hope that you will come to appreciate the season from a new and fresh perspective. If you have never known a true Northern winter, he is honored to be the one to throw open the curtain. And if you already live it, season after season, take a walk with him through a familiar world, so that he might share these stories with a kindred spirit.

Do you dread the end of daylight saving time and grouch about the long, chilly season of gray skies and ice? Do you find yourself in a slump every January and February? Dr. Kari Leibowitz has lived in the Arctic (Tromsø, Norway) and traveled to places on Earth with some of the coldest, darkest, and longest winters, where she discovered the power of a positive "wintertime mindset" — viewing the season as full of opportunity and wonder.

Over the next several months, your editor will include chapters from Mischke's book that she hopes will move you to harness your mindset to thrive on cold, dark or difficult days.

# The Back Page

## What is a Grandmother?

A grandmother is a lady who has no little children of her own. She likes other people's. A grandfather is a man grandmother.

Grandmothers don't have to do anything except be there. They are old, so they shouldn't play hard or un. It is enough if they drive us to the store and have a lot of dimes ready.

When they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars. They never say, "Hurry up".

Usually grandmothers are fat, but not too fat to tie your shoes. They wear glasses and funny underwear. They can take their teeth out.

Grandmothers don't have to be smart, they only have to answer questions like, "Why isn't God married?" and "How come dogs chase cats?"

When they read to us, they don't skip lines or mind if we ask for the same story over again.

Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have a TV or computer, because they are the only grown-ups who have time.

*Written by a third grader.*



(We hope)

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"I asked an elderly woman once what it was like to be old and to know that the majority of her life was now behind her.

She told me that she has been the same age her entire life. She said the voice inside of her head had never aged. She has always just been the same girl. Her mother's daughter. She had always wondered when she would grow up and be an old woman.

She said she watched her body age and her faculties dull, but the person she is inside never got tired. She never aged. She never changed.

Remember, our spirits are eternal. Our souls are forever. The next time you encounter an elderly person, look at them and know they are still a child, just as you are still a child and children will always need love, attention and purpose."

~ Author Unknown

