

St. Pauli News in Detail



Greeting and Ushering

Oct. 7 Marc Haugen
Oct. 14 "Wing-It"
Oct. 21 Darin Hurst
Oct. 28 Larry Hurst

Altar Preparation: Shelley Mathson

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FALL EVENT

Sunday, October 14th
4:00 pm

POPPLE RIDGE PICKERS CONCERT

Sign-up sheets to help with this event are below your mailboxes. We need pie-bakers, set-up, serving and clean-up crews. Please help us publicize this event by sharing on Facebook, posting a flyer at your workplace, emailing or inviting your friends, etc. See Cindy for extra copies of the flyer. We'd love to fill the church!

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Group Cleaning

Monday, October 8
6:30 pm

We hope that EVERYONE, men and women, will come to pitch in on Monday the 8th. That way, we can get most of the work done without leaving it for the women to do all alone. We will top it off with a hot beverage and treat.



Happy 75th Birthday,
Pastor Carl!

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Confirmation

Sunday, October 28

Confirmands are Dawson Haugen, Mason Haugen, Josie Cervantes and Noah Haugen.

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WELCA Fall Gathering

Saturday, October 6

Redeemer Church, TRF

Registration 8:30 am. Program at 9 am, ending with lunch at 11:30 am. Program includes keynote speaker Briana Ingraham, presentation by LaVonne Forsberg on stained glass windows, and special music. Fee: \$10

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New Members

On Sunday, October 28th, Marisa and Wade Benson will become members of St. Pauli Church.

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October Milestones

Birthdays

Oct. 6	Pastor Carl Hansen
Oct. 15	Eileen Kotaska
Oct. 17	Larry Hurst
Oct. 20	Jim Nelson
Oct. 22	Bob Gunstad
Oct. 29	Joan Nelson
Oct. 31	Jim Kotz

Anniversaries

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

In Memoriam

Clair Mathson



Clair Mathson, 59, of Thief River Falls, MN passed away on Friday, September 14, 2018 on the family farm, as was his desire, under the care of Hospice of the Red River Valley and his family

Clair Dale Mathson was born May 11, 1959 to Clayton & Inez (Hagen) Mathson. Clair was baptized and confirmed at St. Pauli Lutheran Church in rural Thief River Falls. Clair attended Knox Elementary and graduated from Lincoln High School with the class of 1977.

Clair worked hard all his life starting out on the family farm and drove truck for various trucking firms in Thief River Falls. Clair was married to Debra Clevlen and to this marriage was born one son. Clair later moved to Las Vegas, NV and worked as an Auto Mechanic at Golden Auto and later used his creative talent as a cabinetmaker. Clair was married to Cari Abrao in Las Vegas and to this marriage was born a daughter.

After twenty years in Nevada, Clair returned to the family farm and was employed as a shift supervisor at 7 Clans Casino. Clair retired in August 2017 due to illness and spent the last year doing what he enjoyed most: growing beautiful flowers, wandering around the farm, and making stuff (including woodworking and baked goods). Clair loved to bake treats for his co-workers at the casino.

Clair is survived by his mother, Inez Mathson; siblings: Brenda (Jeff) Nielsen, Bruce (Shelley) Mathson, Chris (Bruce) Carter and Brian Mathson. Clair is also survived by two children, Travis Mathson and Kayla Mathson; stepson Bryan Clevlen; three aunts: Judy Mason, Shirley (Ron) Smith and Joyce (Darrel) Qualley; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

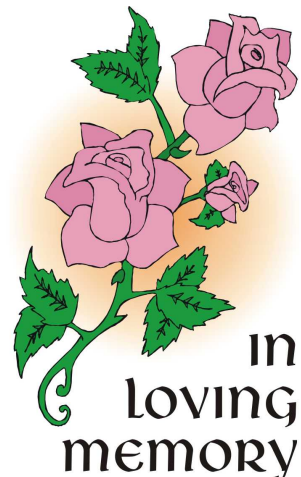
He is preceded in death by his father Clayton in 2013.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 am on Monday, September 17, 2018 at St. Pauli Lutheran Church with Pastor Carl Hansen officiating. Burial followed at St. Pauli Cemetery.

Visitation was held 5:00-8:00 pm with a 7:00 pm prayer service on Sunday, September 16, 2018 at Johnson Funeral Service in Thief River Falls. Visitation was also held one hour prior to the service on Monday at St. Pauli Lutheran Church.



Clair was confirmed in 1974 at St. Pauli by Pastor James Swanson along with Rick Bjorgaard and Jean Nelson.





In Memoriam

Roland K. Larson

*"Rol" was married to Beverly Rolandson,
a former member of St. Pauli Church.*

Roland K. Larson, age 80, of Bloomington, MN passed away on September 3, 2018, with his loving family at his side.

He is survived by his wife Beverly and children: Amy Jo (Jon) Coffey of Gainesville, Florida; Ann (Curt) Benson of Dassel, Minnesota; and Carl (Kelly) Larson of Medina, Minnesota, as well as four amazing grandchildren (Luke, Logan, Lauren, and Morgan).

Roland grew up in Slayton, MN, and applied his agricultural roots to many organization management and leadership roles including the 4-H and various chambers of commerce early in his career, before moving into a national executive directorship role for the Outdoor Amusement Business Association and, finally, real estate.

Retirement brought Rolly more time to explore and spend time with his passions including The Gideons International; Christ the King Lutheran Church; poetry and prose; the Wins, Gophers and Vikings; and being with his family.

Visitation was held Sunday, September 9, from 4:00-7:00 pm at the Washburn – McReavy Bloomington Chapel.

Funeral services were held Monday, September 10, at 11:00 am at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 8600 Fremont Ave, Bloomington, with visitation one hour prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to The Gideons International at gideons.org/donate, or Christ the King Foundation, 8600 Fremont Ave, Bloomington, MN 55420.



*When someone you love becomes a memory...
That memory becomes a treasure.*

St. Pauli Church Council Minutes

August 16, 2018

The St. Pauli Church Council met on Thursday, August 16, 2018 at 7:05 pm at St. Pauli Church. Board Members present: Pastor Carl Hansen, Faye Auchenpaugh, Ivette Garrett, Larry Hurst, Gary Iverson, and Arlo Rude.

Pastor Carl opened the meeting with prayer. Due to the president not feeling well, the meeting was chaired by Larry Hurst.

Approval of Agenda: The Agenda was approved as submitted.

Secretary's Report: **M/S/C** (Rude/Hurst) to approve the Secretary's report for the July 27, 2018 meeting.

Treasurer's Report: **M/S/C** (Iverson/Auchenpaugh) to accept the report as presented.

Balances as of 7/31/2018:

Checking Account as of 6/30/2018:	\$ 18,397.53
Income	\$ 4,701.00
Expenses	\$ (2,344.41)
Checking Account as of 7/31/2018:	\$ 20,754.12
Investor Savings	\$ 36,132.27
Edward D. Jones Investments	\$ 66,324.22
Memorial Fund Savings & CD	\$ 10,856.30
Education Fund Balance	\$ 515.59
Mission Grant Fund Balance	\$ 4,030.98
Total Church Funds as of 7/31/2018:	\$ 138,613.48

Pastor Carl's Report:

Pastor Carl says that because "my local daughter and I are traveling along the aging freeway, my September calendar is somewhat chaotic." His Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska families will be celebrating Heather's half-century birthday in Sioux City, Iowa on September 1-2. Pulpit supply will be needed.

He has been asked by Trinity Lutheran's church council to preach at their 125th anniversary worship on Sunday, September 23, at 10:30 am. He had originally thought it was scheduled for 2:00 pm, but now that it is in the morning he will not be able to conduct services at St. Pauli that day. In addition, his family has asked that he be available for out-of-town festivities on September 30 "marking his 75th year on this planet." Pulpit supply will be needed for both of these dates as well.

Pastor Bill Reck will be retiring after 31 years of service at St. Paul's Lutheran in Crookston. He has hosted a weekly pastor's Bible study for area pastors all of these 31 years. He is a kind and gracious pastor who will be missed by the congregation, community and colleagues that he has served so well.

Next June 7-9, the congregations of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod will be electing a new bishop who will begin serving a six-year term on September 1, 2019. Bishop Larry Wohlrabe will be retiring on August 31, 2019. Please keep the Synod and all of its congregations in

prayer as we seek God's guidance in electing a new bishop. Bishop Wohlrabe has provided gracious and enlightened service as our shepherd since 2007.

Pastor Carl received a letter saying Bishop Wohlrabe will install Linda Molitor as the new pastor for the Oklee Lutheran Parish (Zion and Salem churches) at morning worship services on August 19th. Pastor Carl will try to attend the lunch.

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

New members or interest in membership: Marisa and Wade Benson will be joining on a Sunday when they and Pastor Carl are both in attendance.

Reports.

- 1) WELCA: Desirae (Alberg) Rambeck gave an excellent talk on autism. The congregation is being asked to help provide items for baby care kits. The ladies are trying to secure the Popple Ridge Pickers for our Fall Event program.
- 2) Board of Education: They met last week and Rally Sunday is changed to September 16. They are getting new curriculum; it is felt that the current study does not provide enough education on important stories in the Bible. There are nine students, including confirmation. Teachers and substitutes are in hand, but someone is needed to lead opening exercises. Three dates for singing at worship services were set. The Christmas program is scheduled for December 16. No Sunday School on the following dates: MEA and Thanksgiving weekends, Christmas, and Easter (April 21).

Old Business: Garrett will confer with both the constitution review and 125th celebration committees to set meeting dates. Tree removal has been completed.

New Business:

- Paint on the St. Pauli sign: The plastic is peeling from the corners and the entire sign needs to be replaced. In the meanwhile, Iverson will spray paint it.
- Congregational workshops: A synod "Mission Interpretation Ministry" workshop is scheduled for August 28 from 6:30-8:00 pm at Zion Lutheran in Thief River Falls. Auchenpaugh and Pastor Hansen will attend.
- Rude stopped by the cemetery on Monday and picked up drug paraphernalia from the ground. Later, he observed a car with what appeared to be people on the lookout. He reported the incident and vehicle information to the deputy and asked that they patrol this area more often. The council asked him to give this report to the congregation during announcements this Sunday to engage their help in surveillance.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer. **M/S/C** (Iverson/Rude) to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

Faye Auchenpaugh, Secretary

St. Pauli Church Council Minutes

August 31, 2018

The St. Pauli Church Council met in emergency session at 10:00 am on August 31, 2018 at the church to discuss security.

Auchenpaugh had been informed by a member of Bethany Lutheran Church in Smiley Township that their church had been broken into. We have had past entrance attempts at both front and back doors. A year or so ago, the basement window on the west side was broken. Rude checked a month or two later and someone had tried to break the hasp off the storage building.

Rude reported there has been suspicious activity at the cemetery as well. He has spoken with a sheriff's deputy and they will keep closer surveillance.

Game cameras and security systems were discussed. Wildlife cameras need to be checked a couple of times a week. They can be set to take photos or videos.

Electronics Plus in Thief River Falls could provide security cameras with recorders, switches on doors and windows, and notification if any are opened. We will need a special congregational meeting to approve any purchases.

In the meantime, Hurst is loaning one camera and Rude three wildlife cameras to cover all four sides of the building. Auchenpaugh will order two security signs to be posted at the driveway and near the building.

M/S/C (Garrett/Hurst) for Rude to get an updated estimate on security systems and wildlife cameras in preparation for a special congregational meeting to be held September 23.

M/S/C (Rude/Hurst) to adjourn.

Faye Auchenpaugh, Secretary

St. Pauli Cemetery Association Minutes

March 8, 2018

The St. Pauli Cemetery Association met on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 8:05 p.m. at St. Pauli Church. Board Members present: Ivette Garrett, Faye Auchenpaugh, Larry Hurst, Gary Iverson, and Arlo Rude.

Approval of Agenda: The Agenda was approved as presented.

Secretary's Report: Auchenpaugh was unaware a meeting was being held on this date, so did not have the November 2017 minutes to present. She will bring to the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: **M/S/C** (Iverson/Hurst) approved the treasurer's report as presented.

Beginning balance as of January 1, 2018	\$ 40,529.03
Income	\$ 440.00
Balance as of January 31, 2018:	\$ 40,969.03

Old Business:

Review project list: The Finstad monument will be reset as soon as the weather and grounds permit.

Rude presented a Goals and Projects list for 2018.

Operation Policies and Fees: Board members will be given a copy of the current document after which they should come up with suggestions for plot fees for non-members and a one-time fee for perpetual maintenance.

Iverson is in the process of surveying the cemetery plots to ensure accurate measurements for winter burials.

New Business:

The Church Mutual representative said they insure graveyards. Rude will check on what could be covered and the cost for same.

It was decided that we will meet on the third Thursday every other month beginning with May. Special meetings will be called if necessary.

M/S/C (Hurst/Iverson) to adjourn.

Faye Auchenpaugh, Secretary

June 21, 2018

The St. Pauli Cemetery Association met on Tuesday, June 21, 2018 at 8:05 p.m. at St. Pauli Church. Board Members present: Ivette Garrett, Faye Auchenpaugh, Larry Hurst and Arlo Rude. Absent: Gary Iverson.

Approval of Agenda: The Agenda was approved as presented.

Secretary's Report: **M/S/C** (Rude/Hurst) to approve the secretary's report for March 8, 2018.

Treasurer's Report: No report.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Iverson has sprayed the sprouting lilacs with 2-4D. The water tank is down to 50 gallons and will be refilled. A few of the pine trees donated and planted by Hurst last year are dead, three for sure of the 42 planted. We will see how they all do this season before replacing any.

M/S/C (Hurst/Garrett) to adjourn.

Faye Auchenpaugh, Secretary

July 19, 2018

The St. Pauli Cemetery Association met on Tuesday, July 19, 2018 at 7:45 p.m. at St. Pauli Church. Board Members present: Ivette Garrett, Faye Auchenpaugh, Larry Hurst, and Gary Iverson. Absent: Arlo Rude.

Approval of Agenda: The Agenda was approved as presented.

Secretary's Report: **M/S/C** (Hurst/Garrett) to approve the secretary's reports for November 14, 2017 and June 21, 2018

Treasurer's Report: **M/S/C** (Garrett/Auchenpaugh) to approve report as presented. Checking account balance as of 6/30/2018: \$45,966.52.

Old Business:

- 1) Church Mutual insurance coverage tabled until the October meeting.
- 2) Tree survival: 6 out of 42 pine trees are dead. They need water and the water tank needs to be filled.

New Business:

Fence posts have been purchased and will be placed to mark the cemetery boundaries.

M/S/C (Iverson/Hurst) to adjourn.

Faye Auchenpaugh, Secretary

WELCA Minutes

August 3, 2018

The St. Pauli Women of the ELCA met on August 3, 2018 with five members and five guests present.

President Cindy led us in devotions from Coffee Break with God entitled "Hold On."

Secretary's report was read and approved. No treasurer's report. Due to difficulty with paperwork, our CD will stay at Northern State Bank.

Virginia reported from Stewardship that she and Evie had been down and organized supplies into the new back closet. We are in need of 5-6 totes. Sharon made a motion to purchase totes needed. Sue seconded. Carried.

Kathy has made 20 school bags and 18 need to be filled. Virginia has purchased supplies for \$82.79. She reported they have not heard any more on quilt location, but personal care kits have been sent to Ukraine.

Cindy read a thank you from the Dennis Nelson family for our memorial gift.

Cindy asked for a motion to pay our program speaker for tonight and honorarium of \$25.00. Virginia made the motion, Sharon seconded. Approved.

Cindy will water gardens on Fridays in August.

New Business: September 14-15 is the Synodical Women's Convention in Detroit Lakes at Trinity Lutheran.

There are two projects they will be donating to this year: Outdoor Ministry where they are asking for fleece to make blankets and Lutheran Campus where they are making welcome back bags. Sue made a motion to purchase \$25.00 in items to use for the welcome back bags. Virginia seconded. Motion approved.

The October fall event was discussed. Cindy will check with the Popple Ridge Pickers to see when they would possibly be available. If not available, she will check with Jerry Solem.

Lydia Circle has been changed to August 15 with Janet as hostess. Our next WELCA meeting is August 22.

Prayer partners were exchanged.

Program: Desirae Rambeck gave us an informative talk on her work with autism.

The Lord's Prayer was prayed and Table Grace said.

We all enjoyed a light potluck supper.

Kathy Alberg, Secretary

August 22, 2018

The St. Pauli Women of the ELCA met on August 22, 2018 with seven members present.

President Cindy led us in devotions from 2 Corinthians entitled "Hearting Aid."

The secretary's report was read with correction made to donation to Lutheran Campus' "Welcome Back" items. The \$25.00 will be used from the Lydia Circle stewardship fund.

Faye gave the treasurer's report as follows:

May 31, 2018 checkbook balance:	\$ 303.68
May income:	41.00
June income:	375.00
June expenses:	(486.83)
June 30, 2018 checkbook balance:	\$ 181.85
July expenses:	(21.83)
July 31, 2018 checkbook balance:	\$ 160.02
Savings account balance 7/31/2018:	\$ 1,366.20
CD balance 6/30/2018:	\$ 6,038.40

Virginia reported on stewardship. She has purchased 6 totes for \$41.00. The next Lutheran World Relief shipping date is November 3rd.

Old Business:

Cindy had purchased items to bring to the Synodical Women's Conference in Detroit Lakes September 14-15.

Anyone can bring items to add to the donation. They can be brought to church.

More items are needed for the display cabinet. The project is still being worked on.

Cindy read a thank you from the ELCA for our \$100.00 donation.

Fall Event is still being worked on with Popple Ridge Pickers. We will serve homemade pie and ice cream. Virginia may apply for a Thrivent Action Team card.

New Business:

Sunday School Rally Sunday will be September 16th with potluck to follow morning worship. The Mary Group is in charge of serving and the offering will go to V.I.P.

The Unit fall gathering will be held October 6 at Redeemer in Thief River Falls. The theme is "I Love to Tell the Story." Cost is \$10 per person. Guest speaker: Briana Ingraham.

Lydia Circle for September 12 has been changed to Faye as hostess.

Election of officers will be in September. Cindy and Kathy are on the nominating committee.

Thank you to our hostess Wahna, who fed our sweet tooth with a delicious cake.

Prayer partners were exchanged, offering taken and the Lord's Prayer prayed.

Kathy Alberg, Secretary

Historic Minutes of the St. Pauli Congregation

St. Pauli congregation held its annual meeting in the Church on November 17, 1932.

The meeting was opened by the chairman Pastor Dahle with reading from the Bible and hymn song. The report of the secretary was read and accepted as it was read. The report of the treasurer was read and accepted as it was read.

Pastor Dahle reported that he had, during the year, held 19 divine services, 2 Holy Communions, 2 funerals, and that he had taught a confirmation class. And that the religion school decided upon had been held. And that the Youths' Club had held a number of meetings. And the attendance at the divine services had been middling.

The following officials were elected:
Secretary O. J. Snetting, 1 year

Treasurer Tobias Stene, 1 year

Trustee Ole Pederson, 3 years

Assessment committee: John Kval, Ole Valsvig, Andrew Arne Organist Mrs. Carl Alberg

School committee: Mrs. Tobias Stene, Mrs. Ole Odegaard, Mr. O. J. Snetting
Sexton Nels Nelson

It was proposed and supported that the finances of the congregation should be discussed. Accepted.

Proposed and supported that the congregation should pay Pastor M. L. Dahle \$325 as annual salary. Accepted.

On proposal the meeting was ended.

O. J. Snetting, Secretary

Historic Minutes St. Pauli Lutheran Church Women (L.C.W.)

19 May 1966

The regular meeting of the LCW was held at the Church Thursday afternoon, May 19th. Hostesses Mrs. Manuel Hanson and Mrs. Sigurd Folkedahl.

Meeting opened with the hymn, "My God, How Wonderful Thou Art."

Scripture taken from II Peter 3:18 and prayer, Mrs. Theo Bjorge.

Secretary's report read and approved.

Thank You was read from Mrs. Sigurd Folkedahl for the pin she received from the A.L.C.W.

Next meeting will be held June 2nd with general serving. Business meeting adjourned.

Program opened with Mrs. Herman Rude in charge.

Hymn: "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"

Reading on Ascension: Mrs. Jesse Skaaren

Scripture: Mrs. Clayton Mathson

Hymn: "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

Pentecost Reading: Mrs. Herman Rude

Mrs. Verdeen Grove

Scripture Reading: Mrs. Clayton Mathson

Symbols of these Church Festivals and Scripture Reading:

Mrs. Herman Rude

Hymn: "O Holy Spirit, Enter In"

Worship meditation: Mrs. Sigurd Folkedahl

Lord's Prayer prayed and Table Blessing sung.

Mrs. Norman Nelson, Secretary

Historic Minutes of the St. Pauli Young People's Society and Luther League

13 July 1930

The St. Pauli Luther League held its last meeting at the Lian's Sunday afternoon, July 13, 1930.

A program was given by the Parochial School Children and a talk by Rev. Dahle.

Lunch was served by Mrs. Ole Lian and Mrs. Ed Hogenson. Proceeds were \$19.05

31 August 1930

The St. Pauli Luther League held its last meeting at the church Sunday evening, August 31, 1930. Lunch was served by Mrs. Ole Odegaard and Mrs. Martha Loken.

Proceeds were \$4.35.

28 June 1931

The St. Pauli Luther League held its last meeting at Carl Finstad's Sunday evening June 28, 1931.

The following program was rendered:

Song by Audience

Talk by Rev. Dahle

Song by Quartet

Lunch was served by Mrs. Carl Finstad and Mrs. Ole Odegaard. Proceeds were \$17.25

6 September 1931

The St. Pauli Luther League held its last meeting at the church Sunday, September 6, 1931.

Lunch was served by Mrs. Olaf Snetting and Mrs. Ole Valsvik. Proceeds were \$9.70.

Gust Gustafson, Secretary

25 September 1955

Luther League was held on September 25, 1955, Youth Sunday, at the church with Betty Rude, president, in charge. She opened the meeting with scripture and prayer.

Business included:

Minutes of the last meeting which were corrected and approved. There was no old business. In the new business category was Youth in Action, which our league hasn't paid. We decided to give half now and half later.

For our program we gave a skit titled "Come, Holy Spirit." Those who took part were Pastor Norris by Gary Rolandson and Jeff Grogan by Harlan Rude. Others were Carol Rude, Elinor Gustafson, Eugene Weckwerth, Beverly Rolandson, Lyle Bjorge, Wahna Torkelson, Lorrie Weckwerth, Corrine Torkelson and Betty Rude.

Also should be mentioned is the fact that Betty Rude and Lorrie Weckwerth read the Epistle and Gospel at the morning service on September 25, 1955.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and table blessing.

Servers: Mdmes. Ted Bjorge, Paul Gilbertson, Jesse Skaaren.

Proceeds: \$12.80

Lorrie Weckwerth, Secretary

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Marisa and Wade Benson New Members of St. Pauli

Marisa and Wade Benson will be moving back to our area in the next year or so and are joining St. Pauli Church on Sunday, October 28.

Marisa (Johnson) grew up in rural Thief River Falls, was baptized and confirmed at St. Pauli, and served as organist while in school. She continues to play piano for services whenever they are visiting. Wade grew up in Georgia and Florida and we are fortunate to periodically hear him sing solos for services.

Welcome, Marisa and Wade!





Kai Robert Celebrates Norway His Farewell Autumn Tour

**Snorre Lodge, Sons of Norway,
cordially invites you to celebrate Norway in music and song!
Wednesday, October 10, 7:30 p.m.
Northland Community & Technical College Auditorium
1101 Hwy. #1 East, Thief River Falls, Minnesota
For information, call (218) 681.2116—free to the public**

After 15 incredible Upper Midwest tours, Norwegian Trumpeter Kai Robert Johansen is performing his farewell autumn concert tour with an all new troupe. Once again he brings the musical artistry from his home area of Østfold County in southeastern Norway. Joining him are female vocalist Ellen Karine Lanne from Nesodden and Svingen Torador, an accordion orchestra founded in Rakkestad.

Prepare yourself for an awe-inspiring, jubilant and transformative concert that links Norway of yesterday with Norway today and, for a moment, transports you to the "Land of the Midnight Sun."

Ye Very Roote

From Chapter I of *Lost Men of American History* by Stewart H. Holbrook, The MacMillan Company, ninth printing, 1964

When stout old William Bradford sat down to compose his *Of Plimouth Plantation*, the first good history written in what is now the United States, he remarked, in his quaint manner, that he “must begin at ye very roote & rise of ye same.” What Bradford considered of basic importance were the actions of theologians and the liquidation of the Indians. Most writers on the period since Bradford’s day have merely continued the tradition, and thus our histories of colonial times are still filled with theological bickerings, with massacres of Indians, and the interminable warfare that resulted in the eventual exclusion of the French from American provinces.

There is no doubt but that these men and events were of considerable importance, yet they pale into insignificance when put alongside the arrival of the first company of Scandinavians, an incident that fails to rate so much as a line in most general history books. It was the first Swede in America who brought the first log cabin, and I believe *that* to have been the most important single event between Columbus and the beginning of the American Revolution, a period of two hundred and eighty years.

The early American settlements were composed almost wholly of people of English stock. ‘Tis a pity, too, for they would have had a much better time of it, during the early hard years—and many more of them would have lived beyond childhood—if their companies had numbered a Scandinavian or two, who knew how to build the only fit house for pioneer settlers in a new and wooded land. But not until the Swedes along the Delaware had fully demonstrated the surpassing utility of their kind of house did the log cabin, that most cherished of “American” institutions, appear widely in North America. And this is a good place to remark that it was not the English who first adopted the cabin from the Swedes. The English preferred to live pig-headedly in their sties of huts, drenched and frostbitten, until the swarming Scotch-Irish had distributed the Swedish cabin to all parts of the new colonies.

Neither Captain John Smith, that stocky, cocky, and competent pioneering genius, nor the courageous and able Governor Bradford of Plymouth ever lived in a log cabin, and probably neither of them ever saw one. The first settlers of all, those at Jamestown, lived in tents, in caves, or in what were called English wigwams. So did all other English settlers, during their early years, for a century to come. The English wigwams were patterned after two similar but slightly different abodes—the huts in which many miners in Wales made their homes, and the true wigwams of the American Indian. They were constructed of woodbine or grapevine, steamed and bent to form a skeleton shaped something like the frame top of a covered wagon. The skeleton was then covered with thatch made of reeds or heavy grasses as best came to hand. Heat for warmth and cooking came from an open fire inside, not a fireplace as we know it.

In such hovels did our forefathers live during their first year or two in the New World. Then, as soon as they could, they set about building the only kind of real houses they knew: frame houses made of timber, deals (boards), and clapboards, together with two chimneys in the houses of the Virginia settlements, one chimney in those of the New England towns.

Even when frame houses had been erected there were great troubles because of the thatched roofs catching fire, yet it was many years before the English would adopt shingles or shakes. One more reason for the many fires in the early times was the type of chimney used. It was made of wood, then smeared with clay, and the smear did not always stick. As early as 1631 this fire menace had become so great that in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Deputy Governor Thomas Dudley ordered that no man should build his chimney with aught but stone or brick, nor cover his house more with thatch. Although there appears to have been no public protest against this sensible order, many of the bull-headed settlers continued to use thatch for several years, or probably until they had been burned down once or twice.

Now, for the arrival of what has been for two hundred years the symbol of pioneer America—the log cabin, cherished as a symbol second only to that of the much newer Stars and Stripes.

The log cabin’s first appearance in North America was in 1638, when members of the Swedish West India Company set up a trading post and village on the shore of Delaware Bay. It was the kind of house the Swedes had known in their homeland, and it was exactly the thing needed to settle America. With no tool save an ax, a Swede could strike out into the forest and within a short time have a most serviceable abode. Never was the theory of adapting a house to the land better exemplified. Yet, the English settlers who lived almost side by side with the Swedes on Delaware Bay were slow to copy; as late as 1680 the Delaware English were still living in their English wigwams or frame houses. The English here and elsewhere in the American colonies often complained of illnesses which they laid to “wett lodging.” The Swedes never did, for their homes were tight and dry, almost mansions compared to the leaky hovels put up by all except the more well-to-do of the English.

The North Germans who arrived in 1710 also brought the log cabin as they had known it at home. By the beginning of the Revolution, but not much before, the log cabin typified all American frontier settlements. What spread its use was migration by land, inland from the coast. The new settlers had to pass through successive zones of earlier settlements, and these scenes helped to break the patterns of behavior brought from the Old Country, and to form new habits. The utility of the log cabin must have been obvious at once, on sight. Building it called for no saws, no hammers, no nails, no pegs, no plaster. A log cabin required no laborious sawing of boards, no long process of drying them. A log house could be constructed quickly by one man, and with incredible speed if a few neighbors helped.

It was the so-called Scotch-Irish, who began arriving in great numbers after 1718, who took the log house and spread it to all parts of the frontier. On their way from the shore to the Appalachians these people were exposed to all the different kinds of housing in the many settlements, and with unerring judgment they chose the one best suited to the time and place: the Scandinavian cabin. The log cabin also spread eastward into the new colonies of Vermont and Maine. By the

time of Lexington and Concord, the log cabin was the classic dwelling of the American frontier, well on its way to becoming a hallowed national institution.

It is usually a poet and an artist, a painter, who work in combination to give us Americans our classic heroes and revered institutions. In the case of the log cabin myth, the combination was of a historian and subsequent artists.

There is no evidence whatever to show that the American log cabin became a sacred symbol until 1840, or more than 200 years after its arrival on our shores. Significantly, 1840 is also the year in which the myth itself was conjured up by an honest and well-disposed historian who did not reflect on the fact that the meanings of so many words change with the centuries. The historian was Reverend Alexander Young, his book the *Chronicles of the Pilgrim Fathers*. The word whose meaning he misunderstood, with such lasting consequences, was “daub.”

In composing his book, Young consulted all of the old books and letters and journals written or kept by the men of Plymouth, among them the journal of Pilgrim Fathers Bradford and Winslow in which a February 1621 storm is reported to have “caused much daubing of our houses to fall downe.” Young believed the daubing to indicate use of log cabins, bringing to mind the chinking of the space between the logs with moss, and daubing the moss with clay to keep it in place, which was a common practice in Young’s own time. But in the English speech of an earlier century “daub” meant to plaster; and the daubing which “fell downe” in the big rain of February 4, 1621, was clay plastering over the clapboards or interior sheathing of the Plymouth hovels—not log cabins.

The Reverend Young finished his book in 1840. Politically, he was a Whig and the Whigs in 1840 were running William Henry Harrison for President. An opposition (Democratic) newspaper sneered editorially that the White House was too good for Harrison, who would doubtless be content—continued the editorial—with a log cabin and plenty of hard cider. In this editorial was the death rattle of Democratic candidate Martin Van Buren. With whoops of delight, the Whigs grabbed at the phrase about a log cabin and hard cider and went to work with a will to show that Van Buren was a horrible dude, an aristocrat who loved silks, gold spoons and such trumpery; while good old Harrison, the plain, honest backwoodsman, was content with a log cabin and cider.

Once the Whigs saw that they really had a fine issue, they carried it to the extremes of political imagination. They erected huge log cabins in towns and cities as rallying places. Log cabins were carried as floats in parades. Badges and replicas in miniature were distributed by the thousands. Songs on the subject appeared.

Consider that in 1840 hundreds of thousands of Americans actually had been born and reared in log cabins. They liked the idea that the log cabin had come straight down to them from the immortal hands of the Pilgrim Fathers. It is wholly understandable that Reverend Young, writing his history, leaned strongly to the theory—which he alone invented—of log cabins at Plymouth.

Then, on August 19, 1840, the great Dan’l Webster, speaking at Saratoga, felt it meet to apologize for *not* having been born in a log cabin. But his elder brothers and sisters had been, he averred, and he was glad, for the Webster log cabin had been

“raised amid the snowdrifts of New Hampshire, at a period so early that, when the smoke first rose from its rude chimney, and curled over the frozen hills, there was no similar evidence of a white man’s visitation between it and the settlements on the rivers of Canada.”

So the myth got off to a fine start. It had first appeared, in all the authority of the printed page, at a period when Americans had begun to marvel at their own progress. They had come a long way in a short time. Now living in frame houses, many of them in mansions, they all liked to make virtue of their early struggles, or those of their parents, with the savage wilderness. They had tamed it while they lived in log cabins; and forever more the log cabin, the true frontier abode, was the symbol on their coat of arms.

Graphic art, as usually happens, presently came forward to make the log cabin myth even more real. In 1858-75 came John G. Palfrey’s huge *History of New England*, and in it the author included a right pretty drawing made by Washington Allston, one of the best-known artists of his time. The drawing was of a handsome log cabin, and Palfrey captioned it “House of an Early Settler,” by which he meant the days of Pilgrims and Puritans. Palfrey’s history immediately took its place as the great authority in schools and libraries. Then, about 1887, a series of pictures by W.L. Williams started to appear. One of these was of an all-log-cabin Plymouth of about 1620. It is beautifully done, clear and sharp down to the finest detail. It shows a pioneer village such as an American would be glad to think of as the home of his forefathers and the germ of the United States. This picture of an idealized Plymouth was reproduced in the thousands and framed and hung in almost every schoolhouse in the North and West, and many in the South. The same picture was made into a postcard, and millions of them have been mailed home by tourists in the past half century.

Thus has one of our most popular historical myths been both preserved down to the present day and enhanced. In 1945, a weekly news magazine, in a story about a family of scholars, pointed out with pride approaching awe that all of the members of this remarkable family had been born in a log cabin. One feels certain that this fact made of them better, truer Americans than would have been the case had they been born in a city flat or in a gaudy horror of the mansard era. The magic still prevails.

Log cabin pictures have been used on flags, posters, cards, letterheads, coats of arms, tableware; in advertisements of patent medicines, groceries, undertakers, banks, trucking concerns, hotels; and made into registered trademarks.

For all these things, Americans may thank Historian Reverend Alexander Young, who knew not the 17th century meaning of “daub,” plus the presidential campaign of 1840, and subsequent artists and orators.

For the log cabin itself, we must thank those Swedes who unwittingly introduced what Americans to this day believe to be, and hail with pride as, the one distinctive and American contribution to architecture, other than the steel skyscraper and possibly the silo. Its arrival in 1638 was perhaps the most influential single event, and certainly the least known, to occur in the American colonies until Samuel Adams staged the Boston Massacre, one hundred and thirty-two years later.

The Back Page

The Bridge

A man walking along a California beach was deep in prayer. All of a sudden he said out loud, "Lord, grant me one wish." Suddenly the sky clouded above his head, and in a booming voice the Lord said, "Because you have TRIED to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one wish." The man said, "Build a bridge to Hawaii so I can drive over anytime I want to."

The Lord said, "Your request is very materialistic. Think of the logistics of that kind of undertaking. The supports required to reach the bottom of the Pacific! The concrete and steel it would take! I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things. Take a little more time and think of another wish, a wish you think would honor and glorify me."

The man thought about it for a long time. Finally he said, "Lord, I wish that I could understand women. I want to know how they feel inside, what they are thinking when they give me the silent treatment, why they cry, what they mean when they say 'nothing,' and how I can make a woman truly happy."

After a few minutes God said, "You want two or four lanes on that bridge?"

Kids Say the Most Amazing Things

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible: Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verse. Little Bobby was excited about the task, but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Bobby was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my shepherd . . . and that's all I need to know!"

A mother took her three-year-old daughter to church for the first time. The church lights were lowered, and then the choir came down the aisle, carrying lighted candles. All was quiet until the little one started to sing in a loud voice, "Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you...."

One day a space shuttle crashed to the ground in the yard of a preschool. When he finally struggled out of the wreckage, the astronaut shouted, "I'm free! I'm free!!!" At this point, one of the little children standing there shouted back, "Big deal, I'm four!"

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt." His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

On the first day of school, the Kindergarten teacher said, "If anyone has to go to the bathroom, hold up two fingers." A little voice from the back of the room asked, "How will that help?"

A three-year-old put his shoes on by himself. His mother noticed the left was on the right foot. She said, "Son, your shoes are on the wrong feet." He looked up at her with a raised brow and said, "Don't kid me, Mom. I KNOW they're my feet."

A three-year-old boy went with his dad to see a litter of kittens. On returning home, he breathlessly informed his mother, "There were two boy kittens and two girl kittens." "How did you know?" his mother asked. "Daddy picked them up and looked underneath," he replied. "I think it's printed on the bottom."