

St. Pauli News in Detail



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Christmas Eve

Bell Ringing
5:30 pm

Worship Services
5:00 pm



Greeting and Ushering

Dec. 5	Craig Torkelson
Dec. 12	Wallace Torkelson
Dec. 19	Chad Torstveit (SS Program)
Dec. 24	Val Torstveit (Christmas Eve)
Dec. 26	No worship services
Jan. 2	Myles Alberg

Altar Preparation: Kari Iverson
Christmas Eve: Jan Strandlie

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Sunday School Christmas Program

We always look forward to this annual event, which will be held this year on Sunday, December 19, during worship services. Due to Covid restrictions, there will be no potluck dinner following the program.

CHRISTMAS TEA

Sunday, December 5th
3:00 – 5:00 pm

WELCA will host a "Christmas Tea" this year on Sunday, December 5, at the Country School on Faye Auchenpaugh's property. Cost is \$10 per person. You are welcome to bring one guest.

The Country School complies with Minnesota Covid-19 guidance. Mask wearing is strongly urged, but will not be possible at our tea. We have several vulnerable members, so if you or your guest have chosen to not be vaccinated we wish you a Blessed Christmas and hope to see you next year.

Email, call or text Cindy Cedergren to sign up for the tea by **Nov. 28**. Include your guest's name. Payment can be made at the event, or in advance to Cindy.

Prizes awarded for
Largest, Funniest and Prettiest hats worn!

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December Milestones

Birthdays

Dec. 5	Roxanne Rondorf
Dec. 12	Heidi Haugen
Dec. 23	Jim Strandlie
Dec. 28	Ella Rondorf
Dec. 29	Neil Bugge
Dec. 30	Richard Geske

Anniversaries

Dec. 1	Jordan and Erin Rondorf
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Greetings may be sent to Richard Geske at:
2473 Idaho Ave.
Maplewood, MN 55119

Minutes of the Church Council

October 21, 2021

The St. Pauli Church Council met on October 21, 2021 at 7 PM at the church with the following members present: Virginia Anderson, Craig Folkedahl, Pastor Carl Hansen and Tammy Haugen. Members Absent: Wade Benson and Jim Strandlie.

The meeting was called to order by President Craig Folkedahl. Pastor Carl Hansen opened with prayer.

Agenda: Remained as presented.

Secretary's Report: M/S/C (Haugen, Hansen) to approve the September Secretary's report.

Treasurer's Report: M/S/C (Haugen, Hansen) to approve the Treasurer's report as presented.

St. Pauli Treasurer's Monthly Report September 2021

Checking Balance End of Aug 2021	\$18,309.57
Sep 2021 Revenue:	\$2,208.00
Aug 2021 Expenses:	(\$5,702.78)
Checking Balance End of Sep 2021:	\$14,814.79
Other Account Balances End of Sept 2021:	
Education Fund	\$1,100.94
Edward Jones	\$77,039.45
Memorial Fund	\$14,677.73
Mission Grant	\$4,436.23
Savings	\$36,601.41
Total Account Balances End of Sept 2021	\$148,670.55
Cemetery Ass'n Funds End of Sept 2021:	\$62,073.49

Pastor's Report: Pastor will be having a Myelogram (a form of CT Scan) on his neck on October 22, 2021 in Crookston hopefully to determine whether he can relieve some discomfort in the neck area. Also, his plans are to leave on winter vacation December 25th through January 11, 2022 where he will spend time with family in Texas. Pastor tentatively spoke with recently retired Pastor Gary Graff of Red Lake Falls about possibly filling pastoral duty at St. Pauli on January 9, 2022. He will confirm this as soon as he hears back from Pastor Graff. Kari Torkelson will also be contacted, possibly for January 2 fill in.

Pastor also presented the biography of Eric G. Milller who will be installed as the new Pastor at Trinity Lutheran in Thief River Falls in November. Pastor Carl and the Council found the information in the biography very favorable.

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

New members or interest in membership: None available.

Reports:

- WELCA – Due to uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 restrictions, we will not be hosting a Fall Event in 2021. Church members are asked to donate as they are able to make up for what we would receive in the event of a Fall Event.
- A small group of women gathered for quilting on September 29th and 30th and assembled 10 quilts. At an earlier date 18 school backpacks were filled and 17 fabric kits were also assembled as well as 14 baby care kits. All of these will be shipped to Lutherans World Relief on November 6th by semi-truck from Thief River Falls. Quilting day always turns out to be a time of fellowship along with working on a worthy cause.
- Board of Education – N/A
- Other Reports – N/A

Old Business: Damaged tree at cemetery is still standing. A new vacuum cleaner has been purchased in the amount of \$189.00 for weekly church cleaning. Virginia has the State Sales Tax Exempt number for any future purchases.

New Business: Tammy is looking into the reason our church telephone is not working, she will contact someone to check it out. It was decided that we need a telephone at the church especially for those who wish to call in or for an emergency at the church for anyone without an available cell phone.

Virginia will ask Kari Torkelson if she will provide fill-in for Pastor Carl on January 2nd 2022 in his absence.

The carpet needs cleaning especially in the basement. Virginia will contact Greg Radniecki for an estimate and availability as he is very reliable at doing church cleaning.

The St. Pauli Cemetery Association meeting will immediately follow the adjournment of this council meeting.

Lord's Prayer was prayed.

Meeting was adjourned by President Craig.

Virginia Anderson, Secretary

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Minutes of the Cemetery Association

October 21, 2021

The St. Pauli Church council met on Thursday night, October 21, 2021 at 8:00 pm at the church for the Cemetery Association Meeting. Members present: Virginia Anderson, Craig Folkedahl and Tammy Haugen. Members

absent: Pastor Carl Hansen, Wade Benson and Jim Strandlie.

The meeting was called to order by President Craig.

Approval of Agenda: No formal agenda was presented.
Secretary's Report: No previous report was given at this time.

Treasurer's Report: No Treasurer's report was given due to absence of Treasurer.

Old Business: The damaged tree at the cemetery is still standing, REA will take it down when they get around to it.

New Business: Jim and Jan Strandlie sent their proposal for a tree project around the perimeter of the church cemetery. They have been working with USDA in Thief River Falls who prepared a projection of the project which would eventually provide a windbreak along with enhancement of the cemetery.

After reviewing the proposal from USDA, the council members who were present felt they needed clarification and had questions as to the layout and the selection of trees. Because Jim Strandlie was not present, questions that came up could not be answered. It would also be too

late in the season for proper site preparation. The matter will be addressed at the next cemetery meeting and then at annual meeting.

The topic of placement of cremated remains at the St. Pauli cemetery came up. It was recently called to our attention that we don't have any rules addressing the placement and number of remains placed in one cemetery lot as do Greenwood Cemetery and St. Bernard's Cemetery both of Thief River Falls. St. Pauli Cemetery should have some rules and regulations concerning this. The council will look into the matter and hopefully come up with suggestions to discuss at the next cemetery association meeting and then at the annual meeting. Any other concerns on this topic could be brought to the council.

President Craig called for adjournment of meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Virginia Anderson, Secretary

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Minutes of the Women of the ELCA

October 27, 2021

The St. Pauli Women of the ELCA met on October 27, 2021, at 7 pm with six members present.

President Kathy Alberg opened the business meeting with devotions and prayer. The secretary's report was approved as read. The Treasurer's report for August and September was approved as read. Faye reported on cookbook sales to date: \$3,482 income; \$2,951 expenses. Checkbook balance as of 9/30/21: \$1,220.25; Savings Account: \$573.33; CD Balance \$6,209.21.

Stewardship Report: No report available.

Council Report: Phone is currently out of order. A new vacuum has been purchased. The Council determined that no church-sponsored potluck or other meals should be held at the church until further notice due to COVID restrictions. Carpet cleaning will be scheduled this fall.

Old Business: Fall event donations are coming in.

New Business: Blaine Torstveit and Dawson Haugen are this spring's high school graduates. Quilts will be sewn this winter for these graduates. Thankoffering program will be held at the November 17th meeting, with Sue Kotz serving as hostess. Lydia Circle will be held on Wed, Nov. 10 at the church, with Virginia Anderson serving as hostess. A Christmas Tea will be held on Sunday, Dec. 5 from 3-5 pm at the Country School on Faye Auchenpaugh's property. Cost per person was set at \$10. Members are welcome to bring one guest, and all attendees must be vaccinated for COVID. The light meal will be catered by Faye and Evergreen Catering. RSVP's are due to Cindy Cedergren by Nov. 30 (later changed to Nov. 28). Hats are encouraged.

The meeting closed with offering, prayer partners, and the Lord's Prayer. Faye Auchenpaugh served as hostess.

Cindy Cedergren, WELCA Secretary

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2021 "Fall Event" Donations

Donations this year totaled \$1,825. WELCA at their November 23 meeting decided to donate a total of \$2,000, taking the extra money from their checking account.

Lutheran Social Services	\$200.00
Violence Intervention Project	200.00
Hospice of Red River Valley	300.00
ELCA Scholarship Fund	200.00
Salvation Army	200.00
TRF Area Community Fund	200.00

ELCA Good Gifts, as follows:

Share of a safe water project	\$250.00
Goat	50.00
2 Piglets	60.00
40 Chicks	40.00
Total for ELCA Good Gifts:	\$400.00
Northland Rescue Mission	100.00
Prowler Pantry	100.00
Total Charitable Donations:	\$2,000.00

Two of Pastor Carl's Advent Sermons from 2019 – worth rehearing

First Sunday in Advent: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Some years ago, crowds rioted in the streets of Khartoum, the capital city of Sudan. They were demanding the execution of a British schoolteacher who had allowed her students to name the class teddy bear, Mohammed. The children's choice was quite understandable, since Mohammed is the most popular boy's name in Sudan. But the rioters took this innocent action of elementary school children as a great insult to the founder of Islam.

Many times the state of Israel and the Palestinian authority have agreed to enter into peace talks with the goal of agreeing to and signing a peace treaty. Many diplomats and political leaders on all sides know and basically agree on what shape such an agreement would take. President Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Rabin of Israel were assassinated because they defied the zealots and signed peace agreements. President Clinton devoted much of his waning days in office to Middle East peace only to have Yasser Arafat reject an equitable offer. The Bush Administration attempted to facilitate an agreement without success. History would seem to say that current and future Administration efforts will meet the same fate.

More than 27 centuries ago, Isaiah of Jerusalem had these sorts of things in mind when he said, *"God shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!"*

These are wonderful words, inspirational words. And over the centuries since the prophets Isaiah and Micah spoke them, some intractable enemies have defied all expectations and made peace. Europe in the 21st century is far different than in Luther's time and far more peaceful than since then, or after the Thirty Year's War in the 17th century, or the Napoleonic Wars in the 19th century, or World War I, World War II and the Cold War.

But today's world situation is far from tranquil. Names like Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Afghanistan, North Korea, Iran and others make us wonder what the future holds for all of our children and grandchildren. The Polar Ice Cap continues to shrink faster than our waistlines expand. What's happening in today's world causes me to think about words from the gloomiest book in the Bible: Ecclesiastes. *"There is nothing new under the sun."* Or as popular culture and my daughter often say: *"Same old. Same old."*

We are entering a season where we seek salvation by overstuffing. We overstuff ourselves, our family and our friends with food. We overstuff our calendars with three months of activities jammed into one. We overstuff Christmas stockings with lots of things designed to make us happy; things that will hit the garbage can within a few days or a few weeks. But somehow overstuffed stomachs, calendars and stockings cannot anesthetize us to the realities and uncertainties of life and death in this world. Then come the short, bitterly cold days of January to drive that home. *"Same old, same old."*

When we look at the world, it sometimes seems as if human beings, no matter how hard we try, can do nothing. Or nothing that really lasts. God knows that by ourselves, we are stuck. Stuck in the snow. Stuck in longstanding feuds and jealousies. Stuck in the same old, same old.

Something needed to be done for us. And something was done in Advent and Christmas.

God reached out to us, despite the futility of our groping toward him.

God fills us. Not with an excess of food or things or activities, but with his undeserved grace and love. We are freed from sin and death. We are freed from the need to make ourselves feel good by climbing up the backs of others. We are freed to be the people that God has created us to be.

In our family, one of our customs while we open presents is to take off the ribbons. Now, according to my late beloved wife, no present is truly a present unless it is wrapped with wrapping paper and has a bow on it. The bows that we use are the kinds that have a built-in adhesive, where you peel off the backing and stick them on the present. So what we do when we take off the ribbons is to stick them on one another's heads. It makes for interesting sights and pictures. But it also has a deeper meaning.

You and I are not self-made men, women and children. Rather, we are gifts of God. In baptism, God makes all of us his own. As the bows remind us, we are gifts of God, given to and for one another.

We come this day to the Lord's Table to be filled. To be filled with the grace and mercy of Our Lord Jesus Christ. He fills us with love. He forgives us of our sin. And he sends us out—not for more "same old, same old"—but to live a new life of service and self-giving so that all may know and be touched by His love. Amen.

Second Sunday in Advent: Luke 1:68-79

This past Thursday I was traveling down I-94 to visit my dear friends Jim and Deb, and to attend a concert given by the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. As I was driving down the road, I played a CD of Handel's glorious oratorio, the "Messiah," and sang along with the music. I'm not a terribly drippy-eyed person, except when it comes to music. Wednesday, I sang all of the hymns with the congregation gathered for the funeral of President George H. W. Bush. And Thursday, I sang along with the Messiah as well as other hymns and Christmas carols.

The Gospel According to St. Luke is my favorite Gospel. A primary reason for that is that Luke's Gospel is full of music.

There are 4 hymns in the first two chapters of Luke:

1. Mary's song—the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) is her response to the news that she will give birth to Jesus, the Savior of the world, whose very names means savior.
2. Zechariah's song—the Benedictus (Luke 1:67-79). Today's hymn, "Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel," is Zechariah's song, a song of praise of a devout couple

in their old age. Their son John will be the prophet who will prepare the way of the Lord.

3. The Angel's song—"Glory to God in the Highest," proclaiming the good news of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:14).
4. Simeon's song is found in Luke 2:25-38—"Lord, Now Let Your Servant Go in Peace." In that song, Simeon and the prophetess Anna see the baby Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem. They proclaim the Good News of Jesus near the end of their own lives. They speak of the blessings of Jesus' coming, but also of the spear that will pierce Mary's soul later on in her life. It's fascinating that the hymns in Luke 1 and 2 feature the young—the Blessed Virgin Mary—and the old—Zechariah, Elizabeth, Simeon and Anna. But not those in between.

The Angel Gabriel brought the news of their special sons to both Mary and Zechariah. First, Gabriel comes to Zechariah while he is serving as a priest in the Temple in Jerusalem. (Priests served two weeks out of each year.) Gabriel appears to Zechariah as he is standing by the altar of incense. Zechariah is terrified. Gabriel tells Zechariah to not fear, but rejoice that his previously childless wife Elizabeth, will give birth to a son whom they are to name John. It will be John's task to prepare the way of the Lord. Zechariah asks Gabriel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting along in years."

The angel replies, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to you to speak and to bring you this good news. But now because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After those days, his wife Elizabeth conceived and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, *"This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."*

In first-century Israel, if a couple were childless, popular piety blamed the woman. People assumed that God was withholding the blessing of a child because the woman had sinned. That's why we hear that Elizabeth stayed out of sight for five months in order to make sure that Gabriel's word was the word of the Lord. She did not want to be condemned again by popular piety.

It's interesting, though, to consider how Gabriel responded to Zechariah when he expressed doubt about how all of this would take place due to Zechariah and Elizabeth's age. Gabriel told Zechariah that he would be mute until John the Baptist was born, because he did not immediately believe Gabriel's word from the Lord.

Now listen to what happened when John was born as recorded in Luke 1:57-66. *"Now the time came for*

Elizabeth to give birth and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her."

"On the eighth day, they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But the mother said, 'No, he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue was freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about through the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What will this child become?' For, indeed, the Lord was with him."

Now let's listen to what happens when the angel Gabriel comes to Mary. *"In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, of the House of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed at his words and wondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called Son of the Most High and the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the House of Judah forever and of his kingdom there will be no end.'"*

"Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The power of the Most High will overshadow you, therefore the child to be born will be called Son of God. And now your relative Elizabeth in her old age has conceived a son and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.'"

"Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her."

Both the elder priest Zechariah and the Virgin Mary asked Gabriel, *"How can this be?"* Gabriel answered Zechariah by telling him that he would be mute for months while these events unfolded. Six months later, John was born, and Zechariah emerged from silence praising God.

But to Mary, Gabriel said that her son would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary responded, *"Here I am, the servant of the Lord. Let it be with me according to your word."*

Martin Luther said that the greatest miracle was not that Mary conceived. The greatest miracle was the Mary believed.

In this Holy Season, may our Heavenly Father fill us with His grace so that we too will believe and trust and live as His children, now and forever. Amen.



Items Needed for “BAGS OF BLESSING”

(Place in baskets at church. They will be delivered to Northland Rescue in Grand Forks.)

- Men's/Women's body wash
- Foot powder
- Large toothpaste
- Nail clippers
- Chapstick
- Hair brushes
- Monetary donations used for shoes/jean/jackets

- Men's 3 in 1
- Shampoo/Conditioner for women
- Lotion
- Men's pajama bottoms, all sizes
- Large Christmas bags

WELCA is donating \$100.00 from our fall donations to help purchase shoes/jeans/jackets.

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Lainey Dicken is Confirmed



Lainey was confirmed on Sunday, November 7th.

Pictured at left are Pastor Carl Hansen, Lainey, and her confirmation teacher, Gary Iverson.

Pictured at right is Lainey's family: Mark Kleinwachter, Kari Iverson, Lainey Dicken, Shea Dicken



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We still have a few of the St. Pauli Christmas cards available for purchase at \$1.00 each.



This holiday season, we can all learn a lesson from Beethoven

Opinion by Arthur C. Brooks
Washington Post, Dec. 13, 2019

“For the last three years my hearing has grown steadily weaker . . . in the theatre I have to get very close to the orchestra to understand the performers, and . . . from a distance I do not hear the high notes of the instruments and the singers’ voices.”

These are the words of Ludwig van Beethoven in 1801, when he was 30. His 250th birthday was in 2020.

Beethoven was, as we now know, going deaf. Already quite famous as a pianist and composer, he had for several years experienced buzzing and ringing in his ears; by 1800, his hearing was in full decline. The problem thereafter worsened by the year, and it became clear to him and those around him that there was no hope of remission. But what happened as a result changed the world of music, and holds a lesson for us more than two centuries later.

For a long time, Beethoven raged against his decline, insisting on performing, with worse and worse results. To be able to hear his own playing, he banged on pianos so forcefully that he often left them wrecked. “In forte passages the poor deaf man pounded on the keys until the strings jangled,” wrote his friend and fellow composer Ludwig Spohr. “I was deeply saddened at so hard a fate.”

Beethoven confided in friends that without sound, his life would be meaningless. One close to him wrote of his laments: “It is a cry of revolt and of heart-rending pain — one cannot hear it but be shaken with pity. He is ready to end his life; only moral rectitude keeps him back.”

He finally gave up performing as his deafness progressed but found ways to keep composing. His housekeepers noticed that he would try to feel the timbre of notes on the piano by putting a pencil in his mouth and touching it to the soundboard while he played. When his hearing was partial, he apparently avoided using notes with the frequencies he could not hear. A 2011 analysis in the *British Medical Journal* shows that high notes (above 1568 Hz) made up 80 percent of his string quartets written in his 20s but dropped to less than 20 percent in his 40s.

In the last decade of Beethoven’s life (he died at 56), his deafness was complete, so music could reside only in his imagination. That meant the end of his compositional career, right? Wrong, of course. During that period, Beethoven wrote the music that would define his unique style, change music permanently, and give him a legacy as one of the greatest composers of all time.

Entirely deaf, Beethoven wrote his best string quartets (with more high notes than in works from the previous decade), his magisterial “Missa Solemnis” and his greatest triumph of all, the Ninth Symphony. He insisted on conducting the latter piece’s premier (although legend has it there was a second conductor in the wings whom the orchestra was actually following). After the performance, unaware of the thunderous ovation, Beethoven was physically turned by one of the musicians to see the jubilant audience members on their feet



after hearing what has come to be regarded by many as the greatest orchestral piece ever written.

It seems a mystery that Beethoven became more original and brilliant as a composer in inverse proportion to his ability to hear his own — and others’ — music. But maybe it isn’t so surprising. As his hearing deteriorated, he was less influenced by the prevailing compositional fashions, and more by the musical structures forming inside his own head. His early work is pleasantly reminiscent of his early instructor, the hugely popular Josef Haydn. Beethoven’s later work became so original that he was, and is, regarded as the father of music’s romantic period. “He opened up a new world in music,” said French romantic master Hector Berlioz. “Beethoven is not human.”

Deafness freed Beethoven as a composer because he no longer had society’s soundtrack in his ears. Perhaps therein lies a lesson for each of us. I know, I know: You’re no Beethoven. But as you read the lines above, maybe you could relate to the great composer’s loss in some small way. Have you lost something that defined your identity? Maybe it involves your looks. Or your social prestige. Or your professional relevance.

How might this loss set you free? You might finally define yourself in new ways, free from the boundaries you set for yourself based on the expectations of others. For example, as you age, what if you lean in to the “declines” — really just natural changes — and use your wisdom more than your beauty and wits? What if you turn your energy from impressing strangers to being completely present with the people you love?

It would be naive to think that Beethoven fully appreciated the artistic freedom his deafness granted him. I can imagine Beethoven went to his grave regretting his loss of hearing, because it cost him his beloved career as a fine pianist. He did not know the extent to which his radical new

compositional style — heard only by others — would define him as truly great for hundreds of years after his death. Maybe he had a clue, however. It is significant that his Ninth Symphony closes triumphantly with lines from Friedrich Schiller's poem "Ode to Joy:"

Joy! A spark of fire from heaven,
Daughter of Elysium,
Drunk with fire we dare to enter,
Holy One, inside your shrine.
Your magic power binds again,
What we by custom wrench apart,
All people become brothers,
Where you rest your gentle wings."

This holiday season, perhaps we can all learn a lesson from the life of the great Beethoven. Take time to listen to the Ninth and give deep thought to the changes in your own life. You might not revolutionize music, but maybe you will discover joy in the freedom that can come from losing something, but allowing yourself to grow.

In 1972, the Council of Europe made Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" its official anthem. Years later, in 1985, the European Union did the same. Although Schiller's text isn't sung in the anthem, the music conveys the same ideas of freedom, peace, and unity.

During World War I, German prisoners held captive by Japan introduced their captors to Beethoven's 9th Symphony. Years later, Japanese orchestras began performing it. Then, after the devastating events of World War II, many Japanese orchestras began performing it at the end of the year, hoping to bring in enough audience members to help fund reconstruction efforts. Since then, it has become a Japanese tradition to perform Beethoven's 9th symphony at the end of the year.

In many churches, the hymn "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee," written in 1907 by the American author Henry van Dyke, is set and sung to Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" melody.

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THE ORIGINS OF STREET CAROLING

There's no definitive history behind Christmas caroling. It is unclear where they originated, who wrote them and how they evolved. Carols commemorating the nativity, or birth of Jesus Christ, were purportedly first written in Latin in the 4th and 5th centuries, but they didn't become associated with Christmas until the 13th century. Saint Francis of Assisi, the Roman Catholic saint of animals and the environment, is often credited with incorporating upbeat Latin hymns into Christmas services. The energetic, joyful carols were sung in sharp contrast to the somber Christmas music of the day.

Today, many caroling groups sing for charity; some historical accounts claim this is rooted in feudal societies, when poor

citizens would "sing for their supper" in exchange for food or drink. Another theory is that carolers traveled door-to-door because they were not originally allowed to perform in churches. Others say this idea didn't develop until the 16th century, when Anglo-Saxon peasants adapted these pagan customs when they went wassailing, requesting nourishment from their superiors in exchange for singing good tidings.

Wassail was a thick, hot spiced beverage that helped keep the traveling well-wishers warm; in its heyday, the drink was just as much of a holiday tradition as eggnog is now. As wassailing evolved, with children often going door-to-door, it became more associated with Christmas and caroling.

Yet another theory says caroling grew out of the work of a group of English town criers known as "the waits," who roamed medieval towns calling out the house in song and passing on the news of the day. For two or three weeks prior to Christmas, the waits would wander through the cities singing in return for money.

In the 1600s, Oliver Cromwell in England and the Puritans in the U.S. banned Christmas celebrations, believing Christmas was a serious holiday and should be celebrated accordingly.

Caroling didn't regain its popularity until the 19th century, when the joyful, expressive music was well-received in the Victorian Era and pianos were becoming commonplace in homes.



More than 400 tuba players play carol favorites in Chicago's annual Tuba Christmas





Together with families, friends, and neighbors, young and old, Norway House in Minneapolis (913 East Franklin Avenue, 612.871.2211) is bringing its annual signature holiday tradition Gingerbread Wonderland to the Gallery for its 7th year running. You'll recognize familiar buildings and landmarks from the Twin Cities and beyond, created by the local community—everyone from favorite neighborhood bakeries and sweets aficionados, to teams of families and first-time gingerbread making enthusiasts.

Rules: The base of the structure must be less than 3 feet in length or width (so it fits through the door) and to be eligible for the judged contest, at least 75% of the structure needs to be gingerbread and 100% must be edible (minus light decorations and baseboard).



NEW EXHIBIT HOURS

Mon | 10:00am - 4:00pm
Tue | * 12:00pm-4:00pm*
Wed | 10:00am-4:00pm
Thu | 10:00am-4:00pm
Fri | 10:00am-4:00pm
Sat | 10:00am-4:00pm
Sun | *Closed*

ADMISSION

FREE

Kids 12 and under

\$5.00

Member Admission +

Veterans & Seniors (55+)

\$7.00

General Admission



Judging takes place at the opening of the exhibit for the following categories:

- Best of Minnesota
- Best Kids (age 8 and under)
- Best Kids (age 9 - 16)
- Most Creative
- Most "Koselig" (Cozy)
- Best Amateur
- Best Professional Baker

Public voting concludes on December 22, 2021 for:

- People's Choice
- Favorite Kids' Structure

GINGERBREAD + ICING RECIPES

One recipe is good for one house approximately 4" x 6" x 8" in size, with some extra cookie dough for accessories. Before starting your project, decide on a design and cut a pattern out of parchment paper.

Sift together:

- 2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ tsp. each of baking soda and salt
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 ½ tsp each of powdered ginger and cinnamon
- ½ tsp. each of nutmeg and cloves

In a large bowl, cream the following:

- ½ cup shortening
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ cup molasses
- 1 egg

Add dry ingredients to creamed ones and mix until well blended. Chill 2 hours or overnight.

Preheat oven to 350°. Roll out 1/3 of the dough at a time between 2 pieces of waxed paper until it's a bit less than 1/4" thick. Remove top sheet of wax paper and lay parchment pattern pieces on the dough, leaving at least 1/2" between

pieces. Cut around your pattern pieces and remove the leftovers (return the extras to the refrigerator for the next round). Cover a cookie sheet with parchment. Flip the waxed paper with all of the gingerbread pieces over on the cookie sheet and peel the waxed paper off (hopefully this can be reused for the next round). At this point, you can fill windows with crushed candy pieces if desired, but be sure you don't skimp (you don't want the windows to be too thin and fragile). Bake for 8 to 10 minutes. Remove from oven and trim any rough edges while hot (this will allow the pieces to fit together easily). Let cool until window candy is set.

ICING RECIPE

"Trust us, you'll be sorry if you use anything but this recipe to 'glue' your house together!"

Beat egg whites to a soft peak. Slowly add dry ingredients and vanilla and beat until you get peaks that stand up on their own. Now go crazy and decorate your house/building with sweets!

- 3 egg whites
- 1 lb. powdered sugar
- Dash salt
- 1 tsp cream of tartar
- 1 tsp vanilla



To get the house and store patterns, go to <https://www.norwayhouse.org/bake-gbw-2021> and click on the "Gingerbread Kit Template" box below the gingerbread and icing recipes.



Last week I told my grandpa that Amazon is the best place for holiday shopping. He just called me from Brazil.

How a truck driver stares at you while you try to back up and park your little car...



ST. PAULI VETERANS IN THE NEWS

A Lifetime of Service

by Dave Hill, *The Times*
November 9, 2021

Arlo Rude just had too many chores on the farm when he was in high school to belong to any clubs or organizations at school. He was able to play football for four years, but only because the local Rotary Club members provided rural team members rides home after practice. After high school, he joined the Air Force and took an oath to the Constitution and code of military justice. Support and defend are two words in the oath of enlistment. Rude has spent a lifetime doing just that.



Rude served in the Air Force from June 1970 to June 1974, first as a heat technician and then an electrician. He was at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, TX, and then at two radar sites in Alaska. It was the same summer he left the Air Force that he marched down to Post 117 in Thief River Falls where Jerry Odegard signed him up to become a member of the American Legion. At the time, he just wanted to be part of a group of veterans who had served their country.

He didn't immediately immerse himself in service to others. First, he made use of the GI Bill and went to the University of North Dakota to get a degree in electrical engineering. After graduation he went to work in Minneapolis for one year, and then started working for the City of Thief River Falls in 1978. He retired as director of utilities in December 2011...

Rude said that while he was in the military he learned pretty quickly that if you kept your uniform clean and in order, and got your work done, you didn't attract the kind of attention you didn't want to attract. Rude still doesn't like to stand out in a crowd, but he does what it takes to serve his fellow veterans and community...

When he joined the Legion, Rude said joining because of a sense of duty or responsibility never popped into his mind. He said that if he sees a need, he just volunteers to help.

That's just the way Rude is. Deep down, however, I suspect he believes his oath to defend and serve didn't come with an expiration date.



Wally Torkelson given "Red, White and Blue Quilt"



Wally Torkelson, center; Esther Johnson, left; Arlo Rude, right

Wally served in the U.S. Navy from January 1951 to November 1954 achieving a rank of Petty Officer First Class. He received his basic training at the Naval Station Great Lakes (NSGL) in Illinois. Opened in 1911, NSGL is the Navy's largest training installation and the home of the Navy's only Boot Camp.

He was then sent to Norfolk, VA where he spent three months on an aircraft carrier and was flown to Jacksonville, FL for six months' training as an aviation electrician. He was then assigned to Naval Air Station Litchfield Park near Phoenix, AZ where he spent the duration of his service.

Litchfield was built during World War II. When it was closed in 1968, the city of Phoenix purchased the airport. While it is not served by any airlines, it is a major keep and maintenance spot, and the aircraft of many airlines, both domestic and international, can be spotted there.

Stitching Together a Tribute to Area Veterans

The Times, November 9, 2021

The quilts have a special place in their recipients' hearts. For some, the significance is evident after the veteran has passed away and the handmade quilt has been placed on the veteran's casket and/or proudly displayed at the veteran's visitation. For others, the significance is event when the veteran tells a Red, White and Blue Quilters member that he has never been thanked for his service. In some instances, the significance is realized when the veteran hands a donation to the member to fund the creation of a quilt for another veteran.

Sharon Baron and Jan Rabideaux volunteer with the Red, White and Blue Quilters. They're honored to be a part of the effort to recognize the contributions of veterans. They also

enjoy the opportunity to visit with the veterans, including their late father's friend, who, around the age of 93, didn't want the VA Hospital to wash the quilt that the "old ladies" had brought for him. They still laugh about his comment and noted that he didn't see real well...

Baron's involvement goes back to its formation in September 2015. At that time, Julie Desrocher saw a suggestion posted by Lynn Carr in the American Legion Auxiliary newsletter to make quilts for veterans. Before long, Desrocher asked Baron, a fellow member of the TRF Quilts Guild, to join her. The rest is history.

Volunteers soon began making quilts with priority given to World War II and Korean War veterans. Quilts are now being disbursed to veterans no matter when they served. To date, quilters have distributed 325 homemade quilts to area veterans. Some of those quilts have been distributed at the Goodridge Freedom Fest.

Quilters' efforts have been supported by the American Legion Post 117, the Legion Auxiliary, Color Guard, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2793, the VFW Auxiliary, Universal Screenprint (which donates the labels), and individuals. Donations of fabric and money continue to be accepted for the quilts. To make a donation, call Sharon Baron at 218-689-2931 or Jan Rabideaux at 218-591-2790. To request a quilt for a veteran, fill out a form at the VFW or American Legion.

Love of "complex machines" takes PA student from flying helicopters to providing healthcare

Mark Lambert, Radford University, November 5, 2021

Radford University Carilion (RUC) physician assistant (PA) student Kirsten Walker likes working with complex machines. After graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point, she was commissioned as an Army officer and chose to attend flight training, following in her late father's footsteps. She was soon piloting Blackhawk helicopters.

"I always wanted to be a pilot," Walker remembers. "I feel like I was born to fly and made flying for the Army my first successful career." Walker said that it feels wonderful to make a giant, intricate machine perform exquisite, physics-defying maneuvers, and that is why she is now learning in the PA program at RUC.

"I also love the complex machine that is the human body," Walker said.

Walker began her work in healthcare while she was still in the service. Her final and first non-flight job while enlisted was with the Army Physical Disability Agency on the physical evaluation board. "I worked with other officers and a team of doctors to evaluate soldiers' medical conditions and

determine if they were fit for continued military service," she said. "It renewed an interest I had in medical science and spurred me to enter the healthcare field."

Walker said that her time working in healthcare made her realize she had a desire to provide direct patient care. When she retired from the Army in 2016, she served as a clinical manager of several kidney dialysis clinics and attended Georgetown University's post-baccalaureate pre-medical program to earn her prerequisites for entering a PA program.

While Walker said she learned a lot from both her classroom and practical healthcare experiences, it was the time she was in the military that really prepared her for physician assistant school.

"The Army has what we called the 'suck factor' and it's ruled by Murphy's Law," Walker said. "When you're training in a field environment, and there are few comfort items, and it's cold and starts to rain, that's the suck factor. Plus, what could go wrong, will go wrong."

Walker recalls that the military taught her resilience, to train and be prepared for the worst, not to be surprised and to be flexible when things change. "It also taught me that I thrive in leadership positions where I can be a daily decision-maker, train and mentor others, and positively affect other people's lives," she said.

Walker said she chose the PA program at RUC after doing some extensive research and finding it had the attributes that are important to her.

"I found it to be a long-standing, accredited program that is highly regarded in the medical community," she said. "The faculty truly want every student to succeed and prepare us thoroughly for both clinical rotations or clinical practice and the PA national certification examination."

Walker added that the PA faculty foster a truly collaborative environment for students to learn and grow. Her favorite part of the program is the interprofessional education courses that have allowed her to work with students in other healthcare programs throughout the university.

"I was so impressed with the faculty and students during my interview that it endeared me to the school. Also, Roanoke is a beautiful city that has a large medical community with many learning opportunities during clinical rotations. It was the perfect place for me to continue my education."

Once she graduates, Walker plans to work in emergency medicine or trauma, but she's keeping an open mind about other areas of medicine. She also thinks that Southwest Virginia may end up being her permanent home.

"The Roanoke area is beautiful, and I have family in Blacksburg, so we would be open to staying in the valley," Walker said. "My oldest two daughters will graduate high school in the next two years, so staying here is a definite possibility."



Kirsten Walker



GRANDPA'S HANDS



Grandpa, some ninety plus years, sat feebly on the patio bench. He didn't move, just sat with his head down staring at his hands.

When I sat down beside him, he didn't acknowledge my presence and the longer I sat, I wondered if he was OK. Finally, not really wanting to disturb him but wanting to check on him at the same time, I asked him if he was OK.

He raised his head and looked at me and smiled. "Yes, I'm fine. Thank you for asking," he said in a clear strong voice.

"I didn't mean to disturb you, Grandpa, but you were just sitting here staring at your hands and I wanted to make sure you were OK," I explained to him.

"Have you ever looked at your hands?" he asked. "I mean really looked at your hands?"

I slowly opened my hands and stared down at them. I turned them over, palms up and then palms down. No, I guess I had never really looked at my hands as I tried to figure out the point he was making. Grandpa smiled and related this story:

"Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your years. These hands, though wrinkled, shriveled, and weak have been the

tools I have used all my life to reach out and grab and embrace life. They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back."

"As a child, my mother taught me to fold them in prayer."

"They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots."

"They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent."

"They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn sons."

"Decorated with my wedding band they showed the world that I was married and loved someone special."

"They trembled and shook when I buried my parents and spouse and walked my daughter down the aisle."

"They have covered my face, combed my hair, and washed and cleaned the rest of my body."

"They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw."

"And to this day, when not much of anything else of me works real well, these hands hold me up, lay me down, and again continue to fold in prayer."

These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of my life. But more importantly, it will be these hands that God will reach out and take when he leads me home.

And with my hands, He will lift me to His side and there I will use these hands to touch the face of Christ."

I will never look at my hands the same again. But I remember when God reached out and took my grandpa's hands and led him home.

So, when my hands are hurt or sore, I think of Grandpa. I know he has been stroked and caressed and held by the hands of God. I, too, want to touch the face of God and feel His hands upon my face.

DAY BY DAY

I'm disenchanted now that Summer has returned to Fall,
Then I realize its beauty is the best of all.

Then when Autumn disappears to Winter's silver haze,
I miss the paintbrush of God's hand that made these rainbow days.

Then suddenly it's Spring again, a different kind of hue,
When colors burst from out the ground in moods of joy and blue.

When Summer once again appears, I'm so thankful and so gay,
That God has shared His all with me, His beauty, day by day.

The Seasons; Oh, how wonderful! They give each soul a lift.
How much my God must love me, to give me such a gift.

The Back Page

CHRISTMAS IS LOVE

What does Love mean to 4-8 year old kids?

*A group of professionals posed this question to a number of 4 to 8 year-olds:
"What does love mean?"*

*The answers they got were broader, deeper, and more profound
than anyone could have ever imagined.*

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love."

Rebecca - age 8

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth."

Billy - age 4

"Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other."

Karl - age 5

"Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs."

Chrissy - age 6

"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired."

Terri - age 4

"Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK."

Danny - age 8

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and just listen."

Bobby - age 7 (Wow!)

"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate."

Nikka - age 6

(we need a few million more Nikka's on this planet)

"Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it every day."

Noelle - age 7

"Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well."

Tommy - age 6

"Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken."

Elaine - age 5

"During my piano recital, I was on a stage and I was scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared anymore."

Cindy - age 8

"My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night."

Clare - age 6

"Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford."

Chris - age 7

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day."

Mary Ann - age 4

"I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones."

Lauren - age 4

"When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you."

Karen - age 7 (what an image!)

"Love is when Mommy sees Daddy on the toilet and she doesn't think it's gross."

Mark - age 6

"You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget."

Jessica - age 8

And the final one:

The winner was a four-year-old child whose next-door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife.

Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there.

When his mother asked what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry."

