St. Pauli News in Detail





Greeting and Ushering

Oct. 4	Corey and Nikki Berg
Oct. 11	Neil and Sharon Bugge
Oct. 18	Ken and Cindy Cedergren
Oct. 25	Craig Folkedahl

Altar Preparation: Cindy Cedergren

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

October 4th
Holy Communion

Pastor Darrel Cory will conduct Holy Communion services on Sunday, October 4th. He will also conduct services on Sunday, October 11th, but we will not have communion.

Kevin Reich will be hauling beets for those two weeks – hopefully, given the wet weather.

* * * * *

Sorry to Say

Deer have rutted around two of the newly planted trees in the landscaping on the east side of the pavilion at the cemetery. They have broken another tree in half. These will all need to be replaced next spring.

Aarrggh!!!

It's time to install some wire netting around the remaining trees to prevent further damage.

Rags to Give Away

As you know, WELCA is making diapers for Lutheran World Relief out of used t-shirts. The only part needed is from the armhole and down, which leaves a lot of good pieces left that would make excellent rags.

Please contact Kathy Alberg or Jan Strandlie if you would like some.

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FALL EVENT

Sunday, October 4th
3:00 pm

Peter Samuelson
Singer and Guitarist

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

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October Milestones

Birthdays

Oct. 14	Kyland Rondorf
Oct. 15	Eileen Kotaska
Oct. 16	Jim Rondorf
Oct. 21	Ryan Haugen
Oct. 23	Chris Carter
Oct. 31	Jim Kotz

Anniversaries

Oct. 26	Myles and Kathy Alberg



In Memoriam

Carol Elaine Lavold

December 22, 1934 – September 13, 2026

Carol was Ronnie Anderson's sister.

Carol Elaine (Anderson) Lavold was born on December 22,1934 to Paul and Milla Anderson. She was raised on a farm near St. Hilaire, MN with her brother, Ronnie, and two sisters, Marilyn (Christianson) and Yvonne (Martin). She was baptized on Easter Sunday, 1935, and confirmed in 1948 at Calvary Lutheran Church in St. Hilaire.

Carol graduated from Lincoln High School in Thief River Falls in 1951. She worked as a legal secretary in Thief River for one year before attending Concordia College. She received a finance degree and worked as a secretary for a financial investment group in Fargo, ND.

On November 10, 1956, Carol married Jack Lavold at Trinity Lutheran Church in Thief River Falls. They made their home in Dayton, Ohio for one year, before relocating to Cottage Grove, MN. Together, Jack and Carol had 3 sons: Michael, Brad, and Eric (Sandy).

A devoted wife and mother, Carol stayed home to raise her sons. She was a Cub Scouts "den mother" for all 3 boys. Her home was spotless and decorated (and redecorated) beautifully! She was always cleaning and loved doing the laundry. Carol's favorite household task was tending to the yard. She loved whipping around on her riding lawn mower, pulling weeds, and planting flowers. If she wasn't inside working, she was outside admiring her garden.

Carol was an active member of All Saints Lutheran Church in Cottage Grove, MN. She served as a fourth grade Sunday School teacher for many decades. She loved to share her faith with others, especially the very first Bible verse she ever memorized as a teenager from Psalm 51 "Create a clean heart in me, O God, and renew a right spirit within me".

Carol was known to her friends and family as an avid quilter. One of the rare times she would sit down during the day would be while working on a quilt. Each of her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren have received one of her handmade quilts during her lifetime. Each quilt represents hours and hours of love poured into every stitch. Several of her close friends have also received one of her talented creations as a wedding gift. She made her last quilt in 2018 when her eyesight made operating the sewing machine difficult.

Apart from quilting, Carol spent her time restoring antique furniture, shopping, collecting porcelain dolls, watching Hallmark movies, and practicing old-time church hymns on her piano.

Carol was lucky enough to travel the world with Jack. Some of her favorite international trips included London, Brussels, Paris, and Rome. Two highlights of her American travels include cross country skiing at Steamboat Springs in Colorado and biking the trails of Wisconsin and Northern Minnesota. She visited many National Parks, including Yellowstone and Glacier.

Those who were lucky enough to call Carol "grandma" know that it was her favorite title. She loved watching her grandkids activities, especially their Christmas concerts. Carol was always worried her grandkids were working too hard but never wondered where their work ethic came from. Everyone knew if they showed up to her house, they would be served French toast, macaroni and cheese, and Jello salad. If she knew one of her grandkids was visiting, she would make up a batch of Special K bars or her famous chocolate chip cookies. Her cookie recipe can be found on the back of the yellow package of chocolate chips (you're welcome!).

Carol passed away on Sunday morning, September 13, 2026 at the Pillars Hospice. The end came suddenly for her, with a late diagnosis of colon cancer only four days before her death. She spent her final days surrounded by her loved ones and was never alone, even as she took her final breath.

Carol is survived by her loving husband, Jack; her son Michael; her son Brad and his children, Jenna (Conor) Kennelly and Paul; her son Eric (Sandy) and their children, Luke and Axl; her other grandchildren Sheila SantaMaria, Evandro SantaMaria, and Vicky (Bruce) London. Her numerous great-grandchildren include Maria, Frannie, Evelyn, Jack, Cecilia, Brigid, and Stephen Kennelly; Max Cruz; Isabella SantaMaria; Conrad and Adrian London. She is also survived by her brother, Ronnie (Virginia) Anderson, and sister, Yvonne (Tim) Martin; sister-in-law Kay Nelson; and several nieces and nephews.

Carol is preceded in death by her parents, Paul and Milla Anderson; her sister, Marilyn (Dale) Christianson; brother-in-law, Jim (Mary) Lavold; and brother-in-law, Duane Nelson.

Carol's family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the palliative care team at Regions Hospital, Sara and the entire care team at the Pillars, as well as all of their friends who visited, prayed (from near and far), and delivered food during her final days. We can never forget the love shown to us during that special time.

A Memorial Service was held at 11:00 am on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at All Saints Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove, MN



In Memoriam

Lyle Irvin Hanson

January 28, 1944 – August 29, 2026

Lyle was the son of Manuel and Anna Hanson and was confirmed at St. Pauli.

Lyle Irvin Hanson, 82, of St. Hilaire, Minnesota, passed away surrounded by the love of his family.

Lyle was born on January 28, 1944, in St. Hilaire, Minnesota, to Manuel Hilman Hanson and Anna Sophia (Arne) Hanson. He was baptized into the Lutheran faith and later confirmed at St. Pauli Lutheran Church in rural St. Hilaire. Lyle attended school in Grygla and later graduated from Lincoln High School in Thief River Falls.

Lyle proudly served his country in the United States Army from January 18, 1962, until his honorable discharge on February 17, 1965. During his military service, he was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, and received recognition for his exceptional marksmanship.

On January 13, 1968, Lyle was united in marriage to Gwen Haugen at Calvary Lutheran Church in St. Hilaire. The couple made their home in St. Hilaire, where they raised their three children, Kimberly, Patric, and Aric.

Throughout his life, Lyle worked a variety of occupations. He farmed, worked for Arctic Cat, where he also drove support truck for the race team, worked for Thygeson's Construction and Hartz Truck Line, and proudly owned and operated his own over-the-road trucking business. No matter where he worked, Lyle was known for his strong work ethic, determination, and willingness to lend a helping hand.

Lyle was a man who enjoyed life's simple pleasures. He was lovingly known as “Popsy”. He loved NASCAR racing, watching old cowboy television shows & Judge Judy, and following the Minnesota Vikings and Minnesota Twins. He took great pride in maintaining a meticulous lawn, enjoyed tinkering on treasures others may have overlooked, attending auction sales, and sharing breakfast with family and friends. Animals seemed naturally drawn to him, a reflection of his gentle nature. He also enjoyed a cold Bud Light, a shot of Fireball, and an occasional game of BINGO. Above all else, Lyle treasured the time he spent with family and friends, creating memories that will be cherished forever.

Lyle is survived by his three loving children, Kimberly Hanson of Thief River Falls, Minnesota, Patric (Amber Holtan) Hanson of St. Hilaire, Minnesota, and Aric (Tracy) Hanson of Osakis, Minnesota; grandchildren Trevor (Anna) Peterson, Tanner Peterson, Tessani (fiancé Ethan Johnson) Peterson, Ella Gust, Tristan (Gabe Peterson) Hanson, and Alex Hanson; great-grandchildren Ada, Nora, Carter, and Gauge; brothers DuWayne "Bud" Hanson, Roger Hanson, and Ricky Hanson; sister-in-law Jackie Olson; and many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Gwen, in 2000; his parents, Manuel and Anna Sophia Hanson; siblings Harry, Dale, Margie, Dennis, and Harvey Hanson; brothers-in-law Mike Olson and Gary Haugen; sisters-in-law Ruth Hanson and Shirley Hanson; and his father- and mother-in-law, Raymond and Gladys Haugen.

A service to celebrate Lyle's life was held on Friday, September 4, 2026, at Johnson Funeral Service in Thief River Falls with Steven Dahlen officiating. Burial followed at Community Cemetery in St. Hilaire. Military honors were provided by the American Legion Post 117, VFW Post 2793 and Minnesota Army National Guard Honor Guard.

Lyle will be remembered for his hardworking spirit, his quick wit, his love of family, and his ability to find joy in the everyday moments of life. His presence will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.



Confirmation on April 19, 1959

Back row:
Delores Rolandson
James Weckwerth
Lyle Hanson
Faye Torkelson
Meribeth Folkedahl

Front row:
Larry Rude
Valarie Torstveit
Rev. Berg
Dianne Odegaard



In Memoriam

Yvonne Celeste Pederson

August 12, 1942 – August 25, 2026

Yvonne was the son of Willard and Ingeborg Johnson and was confirmed at St. Pauli.

Yvonne Celeste Pederson was born on August 12, 1942, in Thief River Falls, Minnesota, to Willard and Ingeborg (Larson) Johnson. As a baby, Yvonne was baptized at Telemarken Church. Her mom believed that baptism was very important and needed to be done soon after birth. In 1955 she was confirmed at St. Pauli Lutheran Church. Yvonne graduated from Lincoln High School in Thief River Falls in 1960 and went on to build a life centered on family, hard work, and caring for others.

After high school, Yvonne married Keith Pederson in Thief River Falls on October 7, 1961.

Over the years, Yvonne held a variety of roles that reflected both her strong work ethic and her nurturing spirit. Early in her life she worked at Bostwick's. She also devoted herself to her home as a homemaker. She later served as a childcare provider in Thief River Falls and Detroit Lakes, offering care and guidance to children and families. She also worked as a teacher's aide in McAllen, Texas.

In the final chapter of her working life, she was a cashier at Hugo's in Thief River Falls, where she remained until her retirement.

Yvonne will be remembered as bubbly, funny, and full of life. She loved to make people laugh and brought a goofy charm and ever-present smile wherever she went. She was compassionate, empathetic, loving, caring, determined, and strong-willed, with a wonderful sense of humor that made others feel at ease. While she was very playful and fun, she also had the great ability to have deep, heart-to-heart conversations. Her proudest accomplishment was raising her children, and that love for family remained the center of her life.

She found joy in many simple and meaningful things. Yvonne enjoyed looking through pictures, shopping on HSN, organizing, and spending time talking and laughing with people. She loved playing cards with friends and family and enjoyed Bunco. An animal lover at heart, she also treasured music and dancing. At gatherings and holidays, Yvonne was happiest when feeding the people she loved, often preparing an overabundance of food and salads so that everyone would be well cared for. On weekend camping trips, she made sure the camper was always stocked with goodies, adding her special touch to those family memories.

Yvonne shared a deep love with her husband, Keith. After Keith passed away suddenly in 1985, she faced a very difficult loss with strength and perseverance. She never remarried, as Keith was the love of her life, and she carried those memories in her heart throughout the years.

She is survived by her children, Kerri (Dave) Flatland of St. Hilaire, Shelli (Brent) Nicks of Lampasas, Texas, Bradley (Ashley) Pederson of Detroit Lakes, and Kayla (David) Wiebe of Leander, Texas. She is also survived by her grandchildren Lindsey Christopher, Ashley Olson, Amber Armstrong, Tyler Pederson, Jessika Lantz, Brooke Stefka, Trey Dalziel, Danielle Graham, Samantha Pederson, Kruz Pederson, Jessica Singer, Harley Pederson, and Joshua Wiebe; her step-grandchildren, Heidi Flatland, Arin Flatland, Haley Hampshire, Elias Hampshire, Chance Nelson, Tessa Walker; her great-grandchildren Wyatt, Brya, Claire, Scarlett, Wesley, Barrett, Emma, and Elliot; and her step great-grandchildren Kaysen, Maysen, and Tripp. She is further survived by her sisters Sharon Durisseau of Rochester, Minnesota, Jan Elleson of San Antonio, Texas, and Sheila Johnson of Thief River Falls; and by her brother Richard (Pati) Johnson of Mesa, Arizona; sisters-in-law, Carol Pederson of Red Lake Falls, Sheryl Bsales of Rochester, MN, and Joy Pederson of Edinburg, TX; and many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Keith; her parents, Willard and Ingeborg Johnson; her brother, Darryl Johnson; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Kenneth and Edna Pederson; her sister-in-law, Janice Carlson; her brothers-in-law, Dan Elleson, Kendall Pederson, Lyle Pederson, and Royce Pederson; and her step-granddaughter Cassandra Flatland and her boys, Hudson and Cooper.

Yvonne's warmth, humor, resilience, and devotion to family will be held close by all who knew and loved her. Her memory will live on in the laughter she shared, the meals she prepared, the kindness she showed, and the enduring love she gave so freely.

Yvonne Celeste Pederson passed away on Tuesday, August 25, 2026, at the Thief River Care Center in Thief River Falls, surrounded by her loving family. She was 84 years old.

Visitation and prayer service were held on Sunday, August 30, 2026, at Johnson Funeral Service, Thief River Falls. A second visitation was held on Monday, August 31, 2026, at Zion Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, followed by the funeral service.



Yvonne's Confirmation in 1947

Back row:
Dian Folkedahl
Harold Arneson
Sharon Rude
Norris Thune
Yvonne Johnson

Front row:
Carolyn Nelson
Rev. Person
Carol Yonke (SH)

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St. Pauli Church Council Minutes

April 14, 2026

The St. Pauli Lutheran Church council held its monthly meeting on Thursday, April 14, 2026 at St. Pauli Church. Members present included Faye Auchenpaugh, Marisa Benson, Jordan Rondorf, Jana Prickett and Kevin Reich.

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

Approval of Agenda: M/S/C (Benson/Prickett) to approve the revised agenda.

Secretary's Report: M/S/C (Benson/Jordan Rondorf) to approve the Secretary's report for March 2026.

Treasurer's Report: M/S/C (Jordan Rondorf/Prickett) to approve the Treasurer's report for March 2026.

Checking Account Balance End of Feb 2026	$20,059.01
March 2026 Revenue	4,278.00
March 2026 Expenses	(2,483.97)
Checking Account Balance End of March 2026	$21,853.04
Other Account Balances End of March 2026	
Edward Jones	$93,469.00
Memorial Fund	8,430.97
Savings	46,080.25
Total Acct Balances End of March 2026	$169,833.26
Cemetery Assoc. Funds End of March 2026	$67,336.24

Kevin Reich's Report: Kevin reported on updates from area churches within the Northwest Synod, including changes in pastoral leadership and SAM assignments.

Other Reports:
WELCA – There will be no potluck this month.
Board of Education – Sunday, May 10th will be the last day of Sunday School this year.

Old Business:
- A new kitchen faucet was successfully installed. Thank you, Jim Rondorf and Gary Iverson!
- Printer - Marisa Benson purchased a new printer plus copier for the church paying $490. The old printer was donated to Strayed Goods in Thief River.
- The local conference summit originally scheduled for April 11 was cancelled.
- The 2026 Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly will be a virtual event held on Saturday, May 30 with the theme "... grace in a digital space." There was discussion about broadcasting it on the TV in the basement of the church for any interested parties.

New Business:
- Thank you to Arlo Rude and Gary Iverson for fixing electrical issues throughout the church.
- Baptism for Ava Berg is scheduled for Sunday, April 26. A cross, candle and baptismal certificate will be gifted on behalf of the congregation.
- Movie night will be held in the church basement on Monday, April 27th to watch the 75th Anniversary Red Lake Electric video on the history of electricity.
- Pulpit Supply
  a. May 3 - Kevin Reich
  b. May 10 - Pastor Corey with Holy Communion (Mother's Day and last day of Sunday School)
  c. May 17 - Kevin Reich
  d. May 24 - guest speakers Kari Torkelson and Susanne & Emmy Hinrichs will share a slide show about them mission trip to Belize
  e. May 31 - cemetery for dedication with picnic to follow

Next meeting date: We will skip meetings during the summer months of May - August. Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 17.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Jana Prickett
St. Pauli Church Council Secretary

Minutes of the Women of the ELCA

August 26, 2026

The St. Pauli Women of the ELCA met on August 26, 2026 at 3:00 pm with 6 members present. President Cindy Cedergren opened with devotions titled “Rest in the Truth” based on Jeremiah 6:16.

Secretary’s report: The minutes of our April 22, 2026 meeting were read.

Treasurer’s report: February 9, 2026 – August 26, 2026: Expenses: $705.79; Income: $492.50. Checking balance $1,070.16. Savings balance as of July 31 is $619.89. CD balance as of the May 25, 2026 renewal date: $7,037.26.

M/S/C Jan Strandlie/Sharon Bugge to approve both the secretary’s and treasurer’s reports.

Stewardship Report:
Kathy Alberg took five of the larger quilts to VIP. We still have three remaining here for fire quilts.

Materials Kathy picked up in Oklee in May were the very best Thrivent cards she had ever used there. The more you spent, the higher discount you received. She ended up getting 25% off on everything! She picked up the diaper flannel, flannel for receiving blankets, bottoms for quilts, plus there is leftover money to buy more flannel at Hobby Lobby or Walmart. She made 12 receiving blankets with all of the flannel she had purchased at Oklee along with pieces she found at the church.

Cindy says we have supplies for eight baby kits. Diapers we have enough of for this shipment and the next. Faye Auchenpaugh will use the remainder of Virginia’s Thrivent card to purchase flannel for receiving blankets at Hobby Lobby and/or Michael’s.

Kathy bought sheet sets for quilt bottoms with some of her mother’s memorial gift money.

Council Report: Council hasn’t met in person over the summer. After this hot season, we decided to get quotes on central air conditioning for the church. Should be relatively simple since we already have the ducting.

Communications: Thank you letters received from Nutrition Services for the senior meal program, HIA Health (formerly Hospice) for the gift of $217 (from our annual meeting potluck donations), and a letter from the sheriff’s department asking for a donation to the National Child Safety Council. In the past, we have given $75 for this program. M/S/C Jan Strandlie/Virginia Anderson that we donate the same amount.

Old Business: Thank you to everyone who has watered and weeded this summer. M/S/C: Jan Strandlie/Sharon Bugge to purchase another 100’ flexible hose. Church council will pay for it.

New Business:

- Reimbursing for SWO Convention: Kathy, Sue and Virginia will be going for one day. $75 registration fee for one day. M/S/C Faye/Jan that we reimburse for the full amount. Jan brought two baskets for the silent auction and some books. Kathy has a variety of Easter-themed materials that can be used to fill them.
- Fall Event: October 4 at 3:00 pm. Peter Samuelson, singer/guitarist, is the entertainment. His fee is $250. Pie is popular, so we will serve pie and ice cream or whipping cream. (Vince Lundeen makes pies for $12.) Attendance has been 50-60, so we will need no more than 10 pies total. Kathy will decorate tables. Cindy will prepare a flyer.
- Cindy has confirmed that Tammy Swick will clean the church in September.
- Fall Gathering: October 17 at Silver Creek. Glenice Johnson is speaker “A Time to Laugh.” Cost is $10/person.
- NW MN Synod WELCA leadership meeting at Little Norway Church, Fertile, on October 30th, 9:30-3:00. Speaker is Pr. Genelle Netland.
- Instead of a Christmas Tea, should we, as a congregation, go Christmas caroling on a Sunday afternoon this year? All agreed this is a nice idea. Maybe we could all go out to eat after.

Lydia Circle date changed to September 30 at Kathy’s home at 3:00.

Next WELCA meeting is September 23, 3:00 at the church. We will do final prep for Fall Event and have election of officers.

Prayer partners exchanged and offering taken. Lord’s Prayer prayed.

Faye Auchenpaugh, Secretary

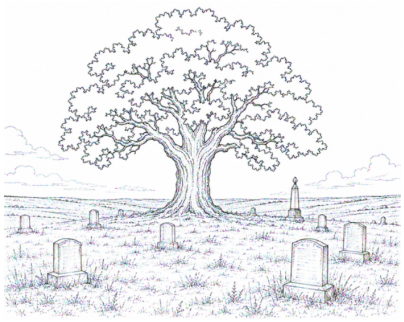
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Memorial Pavilion Dedication

St. Pauli Cemetery

31 May 2026

Pope Gregory III designated November 1 as All Saints' Day (All Hallows' Day) in the 8th century to honor all saints and martyrs. The evening prior—October 31—became a sacred vigil known as **All Hallows' Eve**. In keeping with this sacred vigil, we include portions of the memorial pavilion dedication.



This cemetery is not a place of heaviness,
but of quiet comfort.

Set against the open prairie, where the wind moves gently
through the grass and the sky stretches wide above,
it holds not only stories of loss but of love,
endurance, and community.

Families rest together,
Generations bound by both hardship and hope,
their names carried forward by those who
still walk these grounds.

There is peace here.

A reminder that even in life's briefest moments,
there is meaning,
and that those who came before are not forgotten,
but held in memory, in landscape,
and in the enduring spirit of this place.

Thank you all for gathering here today as we dedicate this memorial pavilion in this sacred place —a place of rest, reflection, remembrance, and quiet beauty.

But this cemetery is more than a resting place for those who have passed.

It is a space where the living come to remember, to grieve, to reflect, and, often, to find peace.

Today, we honor those who have been and will be laid to rest here but also commit ourselves to preserving a space that connects memory, history, and community. This memorial pavilion, with its benches for quiet reflection, the cross as a symbol of faith, and the newly planted trees and flowers, offers a place of shelter and contemplation at the heart of these grounds.

This is a striking and meaningful setting.

Here on the open prairie—where the land stretches wide and the horizon feels endless—this cemetery stands in gentle contrast to the fields just beyond. For many who first settled in here, especially those who came from the mountains of Norway, this terrain must have felt both unfamiliar and vast.

And yet, these emigrants created beauty, rooted themselves in the land, and carried forward traditions of remembrance in this new and different setting.

To fully appreciate the meaning of this place, it is helpful to look back at a movement that reshaped the American landscape and our relationship with burial grounds—the **rural cemetery movement** of the 19th century.

Before this movement began, burial spaces in America were often crowded, urban churchyards—solemn and utilitarian, with little room for contemplation or comfort. But beginning in the 1830s, with the establishment of places like Mount Auburn Cemetery in Massachusetts, a new idea emerged: the cemetery as a **landscape of beauty and tranquility**.

These were not merely burial grounds - they were **designed parks**, with winding pathways, rolling hills, gardens, and carefully placed monuments. At a time when public parks were scarce, these cemeteries became some of the first spaces where people could **walk, reflect, and even picnic** in a natural setting. Families would visit on Sundays, strolling among trees and flowers, finding solace not only in remembrance but in the restorative power of nature.

This American evolution toward park-like cemeteries finds a quiet parallel in traditions elsewhere in the world. Norwegian burial grounds, for example, have long emphasized simplicity, natural surroundings, and integration with the landscape. Rather than elaborate monuments, many Norwegian cemeteries reflect a cultural preference for **modesty, order, and harmony with nature**, often featuring uniform headstones, carefully tended greenery, and peaceful settings adjacent to churches or nestled within the countryside.

The St. Pauli Cemetery is not a designed park, of course, but we share a common value with that rural cemetery movement: burial places should offer **beauty, serenity, and a meaningful connection between the living, the land, and those who have passed**.

The American rural cemetery movement also reflected a profound shift in how people understood death—not as something to be hidden away, but as a natural part of life, worthy of dignity, reflection, and even beauty. It also reinforced a powerful idea: that the places where we honor the dead should also nurture the living.

As we stand here today, we continue that tradition. This cemetery has been created not only as a place of remembrance, but as a place of serenity—a place where future generations can connect with nature, with history, and with those who came before them.

For more than a hundred years, this cemetery has been part of everyday life in the surrounding community. I remember riding my bike over here on a summer day, wandering among the stones and tracing the letters, sitting among those I never met and as the years went on, walking among those I knew.

When we tell each other stories of growing up here, it turns out others did the same and still do. They come from near and far to tend the graves of loved ones—placing flowers, pausing in remembrance, and keeping connections alive across time.

This has never been only a place of mourning; it has been a place of presence, of familiarity, and of belonging.

Another deeply meaningful aspect of cemetery tradition, particularly during the Victorian era, is the use of **symbolism in memorial art**. Gravestones speak not only through words, but through imagery rich with meaning.

In this place, you can see a **lamb carved into a stone**, marking the grave of an infant or small child. The lamb, gentle and pure, symbolizes innocence and the belief that the child rests peacefully in eternal care. It is both a symbol of loss and of tenderness, offering comfort to grieving families.

While not here at St. Pauli, in older and larger cemeteries you might also encounter a **tree stump or broken columns**, sometimes intricately carved. These stumps often represent a life **cut short**, a person taken before their time. Others have weeping willows carved in the stones with their branches drooped in perpetual mourning. **Clasped hands** represent farewell—or the hope of reunion. And you'll sometimes find **hourglasses with wings**, a poignant reminder that time, like life, moves swiftly onward.

These symbols tell stories that words alone often cannot capture. They speak of love, grief, faith, and hope. They allow us to see not just names and dates, but human lives remembered—lives that mattered deeply to someone.

But this place is not only about the past or even the future. It is also about the present—about how we choose to care for one another today. A cemetery reminds us of what endures: the impact of our lives, the relationships we build, and the legacies we leave behind.

It is our hope that this new pavilion continues and deepens that tradition—that it serves as a gathering place not only for ceremonies like today's but for quiet visits, shared moments, and ongoing connections between neighbors, families, and generations.

And so, this is not only a place of endings—it is also a place of **continuity**. It connects generations. It invites reflection. It encourages us to live with intention, knowing that what we do, and how we care for one another, matters.

Today we dedicate this pavilion as a gathering place. We dedicate it with reverence, not only for those who will rest here, but for the values this place represents: dignity, remembrance, beauty, and peace.

And in that spirit, it is especially fitting that we gather together for a picnic following this ceremony. In the tradition of the rural cemetery movement, sharing a meal in this setting reflects not irreverence, but connection—reminding us that these grounds are not only for mourning, but also for community, renewal, and the quiet celebration of life among those we love.

May this place offer comfort to the grieving.
May it preserve the memories of those who are gone.
May it remain a place of quiet reflection for all who enter.

And may it remind each of us, in its stillness and its beauty, of the preciousness of life - and the enduring power of memory.

~ Marisa Benson

Brief History of the Cemetery

There were eleven (11) charter members of the St. Pauli congregation. Those with an asterisk * are buried here in the cemetery and have cross flags placed on their graves for today's dedication:

Gilbert Anfinsen*	Ole Braaten*	Jim Braaten*
Arne Braaten*	Kari Braaten* (mother of Ole, Jim and Arne)	
Tollef Erickson*	Andrew Odegaard*	Ole Peterson*
Gilbert Sherva	John Sherva	Ole Torkelson

The earliest burial is little Gilbert Melvin Anfinsen who was born on November 18, 1897 and died the same day. His father – charter member Gilbert Anfinsen – died less than a year later on August 1, 1898 leaving his wife Sigri Braaten Anfinsen with three-year-old Elmer and pregnant with their last son who would be named Gilbert. Sigri died just three years later on November 1, 1901.

Other babies are here: Baby Armstrong, Amanda Brennan, Alfred Hestekind, Baby Johnson, Baby Moe, Baby Nelson, Darlene Thune, Baby Thune, Inga Thune, Hilda Torstveit, Baby Vinje – and Baby Lokken who was laid to rest with her mother Cora who died giving birth.

Yet other lives were tragically cut short – there are small children, teens, and young persons in their 20's buried here. The Hogquist parents and their adopted son are buried on the western edge of this cemetery. All were killed on June 1, 1960 in a head-on collision of their car with a tractor-trailer where County Road 20 that goes past St. Pauli Church meets U.S. Highway 59.

Two unmarked graves lie in the southeast corner: Aslaug (Ellen) Hendrickson and her son Thorval. Sister to charter member Ole Torkelson, Ellen emigrated after the rest of her siblings and was crippled with polio. Though claiming her homestead as a widow in 1888, she had perhaps never married Mr. Hendrickson. Although not written in the St. Pauli record books, this appears to be the reason that she and her son were not allowed to be buried in the main sections of the cemetery.

The oldest person buried here as of this date is Ole Einerson Vigen, born in the western More og Romsdal county of Norway in 1831 and died in 1916. Ole was born on the Ormseth farm near Tingvoll, but when he married Ingri – the farmer's daughter who inherited the Storviken farm and Ole moved to that farm – he took that place name. His six sons chose among the spellings of Wiken, Vigen, or Viken and you will see several of their stones here.

The cemetery is managed by the St. Pauli Cemetery Association, incorporated as a 501(c)3 charity to ensure the ongoing maintenance and preservation of this beautiful and historic space.



About 40 people attended the ceremony. Copies of the dedication program with litany are available in the church narthex.

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Wally Torkelson turned 95 on September 19th



Happy Birthday!

Surprise!

Kari Torkelson, April 2026

I was in Rapid City, SD for a meeting and vacation in April 2026 and when driving back home there was a detour that took me east and then was going to take me back west to the same road. I decided I didn't want to head west and instead continued east on gravel roads. I came across a sign that said, "St. Pauli Lutheran Church Cemetery 1 mile." What? I just had to go check it out. And I found a sign similar to our cemetery with St. Pauli on it.



There was no longer a church standing but there was a structure that contained the church bell, a photo of the church, some photos of the interior of the church, a map of the burial plots with familiar names like Everson, Johnson, Hagen, etc., Norwegian and American flags, a plaque honoring donors that shows the dates of the church as 1883-1976, a veterans memorial and a small replica of the church.



I stopped and took photos and just enjoyed a little time in a place that I had never been but felt so familiar. I returned to that gravel road and not much farther along I saw another interesting sign that said "Wallace, SD." What a coincidence! My Dad's name is Wallace. Of course, when I got home, I googled the church and it seems like there is an active cemetery association that is keeping the memory of the church and its congregation alive.



It was a fun thought that I had happened across St. Pauli Lutheran Church in a town named Wallace!

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The St. Pauli Lutheran Church congregation near Wallace, South Dakota was formed in 1881. The photo at left of the church and its parishioners was taken in 1900, the year it was built. The St. Pauli Cemetery Association was formed in 1976 when the congregation dissolved.

It looks so much like our church! For more information and history on the St. Pauli Church in Wallace, SD go to:

https://www.stpaulicemeterysd.org/

They have an annual meeting every year. Wouldn't it be fun to go?

Annual Meeting ~ Saturday, May 29, 2027 ~ 10:00 AM
Location ~ St. Pauli Cemetery, Wallace, SD

(In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held at Calvary Lutheran Church in Wallace, SD)

- The meeting will be held outside at the St. Pauli Cemetery
- Benches are available to sit on. Bring a folding chair if you wish.

The Back Page

Pastor Carl's 2022 Sermon for Reformation Sunday

based on John 8:31-36



Jesus said to the Lutherans who had believed in him, *"If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."* The Lutherans answered him, *"We are descendants of Martin Luther and have never been slaves to anyone. We have consumed barrels of coffee, tons of lutefisk and sung every verse of every dumb hymn that the pastor picks – all for the Kingdom of God. What do you mean by saying, "'You will be made free?'"*

Today, on Reformation Sunday, I have a question for all of us to think about: What is a Lutheran? And does the answer to that question make any difference? To new members? To confirmands? To all of us? To our culture?

We live in a culture where brand name loyalty doesn't mean as much as it used to. We shop by price far more than we shop by brand. More people identify themselves as independents than either Democrats or Republicans. The fastest growing religious preference in the United States is "no preference." In these times, the adjective "Lutheran" appearing in front of the noun "Christian" may seem quite quaint.

When I was growing up, we had yearly revivals conducted by visiting evangelicals. The services were loud, long and scary. The picture of God that lingered with me was one of a severe, remote, and angry Judge. While I'm sure the evangelists didn't intend to say this, what I heard was that God was out to get me and everyone else. Sermons described hell in graphic detail for forty minutes, while heaven was mentioned for no more than four. Salvation got lost in condemnation.

When I went off to college, I started visiting different kinds of churches. One day I went to a Lutheran congregation. I loved the music. The sermon was based on scripture and spoke of a gracious God. So, I went back another Sunday. And I also went to the library, to read more about how Lutheran Christians understood the Gospel. The readings pointed me to today's second lesson from Romans: *"Since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."*

That was the good news I had been looking for. God was not waiting for me to become good enough, frightened enough, or religious enough. God's grace was a gift. I didn't have to earn it. Christ had already done what needed to be done. Martin Luther had struggled with many of the same fears centuries before. He too had feared an angry and judging God, until he discovered in scripture that the righteousness of God was not something we achieve, but something God gives us through faith in Jesus Christ.

That is why I am grateful to be part of a Christian congregation with the adjective Lutheran on the door. The Lutheran Christian focus is on a gracious God revealed in Jesus Christ.

Luther's spiritual journey and Carl's spiritual journey come from a different era than our own. Today, American culture doesn't focus on God as judge; American culture focuses on me, me, me. The army tries to recruit people by advertising "An army of one." Burgers are marketed with the slogan, "Have it your way." We're told, "You're entitled;" "You deserve it." Our culture is telling us the message of the serpent in Genesis 3: "You will be like God." You are the center of the universe.

That message and approach sneaks into the church. Let me give you a theological quiz. Which of the following two statements is more important?

- I accepted Jesus.
- Jesus accepted me.

If you chose the second statement, you understand something very important about the Lutheran understanding of the Gospel. The first statement puts the emphasis on me and what I have done. The second puts the emphasis where it belongs—on Jesus and what God has done for me. Faith is not another accomplishment that we can add to our résumé. Grace is not our reward for making the right decision. God acts first. God loves first. God forgives first. God accepts us before we can ever make ourselves worthy of being accepted. That is what makes grace, grace.

Whether your hair has fallen out because you are fearful of a God who is out to get you, or whether you've bought into the American gospel that sings only one note: "mi, mi, mi, mi, mi," wherever you are, God is there. He is a God who is "slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." He is a God who calls us to be part of what he is doing in this world.

So can we join in singing with God's people of every time and place:

God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes who fear it.
For God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day.
The Kingdom's ours forever!

Amen