



The Paddlewheel

Moorhead Rotary Club

Volume 99—Number 25

December 24, 2019

New Members 2019-2020

Zach Heuring
Josh Jaster
Megan Wiesneski

Moorhead Rotary Club 970 District 5580

President Steve Schaefer
President-Elect Jerry Rogers
President Nominee 2021-2022 Gina Monson
Treasurer Emily Gess
Secretary Teresa Joppa
Past President John Andreasen

Directors (2020)

Gina Monson, Pat Gulbranson and
Greg Johnson

Directors (2021)

Dave Sederquist, Kevin Heazlett and
Tracey Moorhead

Directors (2022)

Tammy Finney and Steve Astrup
RYLA Coordinator Randy Farwell
Polio Plus Coordinator Cindy Nolte
Sergeant at Arms Team

Dave Sederquist, Eric Johnson
& Jean Hannig

Pianist Sharon Fangsrud
Song Leaders Bill Schwandt,
Bob Hanna

Photographer Russ Hanson
Paddlewheel Editor

Nancy Edmonds Hanson

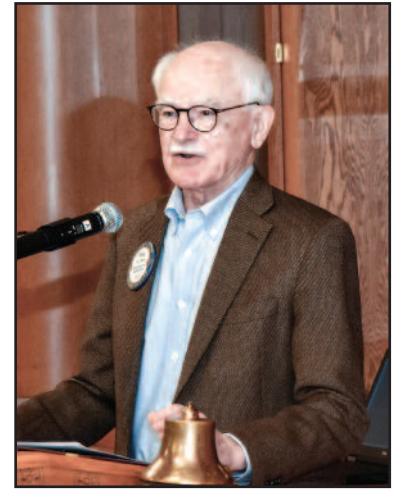
Rotary Exchange Student

Frida Lehtonen, Finland

Meetings are held at 11:50 a.m. every
Tuesday in Birkeland Lounge at
Concordia College's Memorial
Auditorium.

Other F-M Rotary Meetings

Monday: FM/PM Rotary
5:30 p.m., Lucky 13 Pub
Monday: Fargo West Rotary
Noon, Holiday Inn
Wednesday: Fargo Rotary
Noon, Radisson
Thursday: FM/AM Rotary
7 a.m., Ramada Plaza



**Merry Christmas!
Happy Hannukah!
Happy New Year**

Moorhead Rotary's next meeting is January 7.
Enjoy the holidays!

Rotarian Paul Dovre advises 'to hear God's word, you have to turn down the volume'

President Steve Schaefer welcomed members and guests. He announced that registration is now open for the 2020 District 5580 Conference, to be held April 23-25 at Madden's Resort on beautiful Gull Lake near Brainerd, Minnesota. Registration fills quickly, he said — so make your reservations as soon as possible: www.rotary5580.org (Click the "events" tab.)

Steve also asked again for one more regular song leader. Jerry Rogers is seeking more members for the centennial committee; it will start meeting after the first of the year. John Andreasen, too, is seeking additional volunteers to help organize the



Photos/Russ Hanson: Sergeant at Arms Gary Nolte. Rotarian of the Day Anne Blackhurst. Paul Dovre delivers his annual Christmas message. (Above) Prospective members Taylor McCadern and Dylan Connell talk with John Andreasen.

11th annual Recital with a Cause fund-raising concert in April.

Happy dollars pour in

Sergeant at Arms Gary Nolte welcomed an avalanche of good news when he invited members





Photos/Russ Hanson: Sarge Gary helps Greg Johnson pick the (wrong) card in the weekly raffle.

Guest Kathy Benson and her son Jon.

Jerry Rogers and Ernie Simmons.



Guests, 12/17/19

Kathy Benson, guest of Tracey Moorhead

Mardi Dovre, guest of Paul Dovre
Taylor McCadern, prospective member
Dylan Connell, prospective member
Brent Brandt

December Birthdays

Lunak, Brandon	Dec 04
Andreasen, John	Dec 05
Deilke, Violet	Dec 20
Monson, Gina	Dec 30

Wedding Anniversary

Sederquist, David and Jane
35 years Dec 08 1984

Rotary Anniversaries

Wright, Edgar	64 years
Dec 06 1955	
Finney, Tammy	4 years
Dec 08 2015	
Baldwin, Jill	19 years
Dec 12 2000	
Nolte, Gary	31 years
Dec 13 1988	
Parries, Kay	31 years
Dec 13 1988	

to share happy dollars. The biggest: Chris Andreasen reported that he proposed to his love and she said yes! Dave and Jane Sederquist are celebrating 35 years this month; he added, "My parents' 68th anniversary is this month."

Other happy dollars saluted invitations to Rotary, kids home for Christmas, and the contributions of the late Craig Whitney to the Chamber of Commerce. Brent Brandt invited everyone to classic movies at the Safari. Guest Kathy Benson saluted Rotary and its work fighting polio, confiding she herself is a survivor of polio in the 1950s.

Jean Hannig shared that former exchange student Reye Yashima will be visiting Moorhead soon. Bill Kraft celebrated Paul Dovre's annual talk, and Sue Koesterman hailed the joy of the season.

Dovre finds good news amidst the noise

Rotarian of the Day Anne Blackhurst introduced a familiar voice to Moorhead Rotarians, Dr. Paul Dovre. "It's hard to imagine Rotary without Paul's Christmas message," she said. "Fortunately, we don't have to."

Paul, a 1958 graduate of Concordia College with a masters and doctorate from Northwestern University, joined Concordia's communication arts and theatre faculty in 1963. He served as

president from 1975 to 1999, again as interim president in 2003 and a final time in 2010-2011 after the death of President Pam Jolicoeur.

"I think I've been doing this for 35 years," Paul told fellow Rotarians. Reflecting on 2019, he said, "A recent commentary stated, 'To hear God's word you need to turn down the world's volume.' There's lots of noise out there – perhaps one of the noisiest Advent seasons in our recent memory. So let's try to turn down the noise out there for a few minutes by facing the facts, by reading the Word, and by trusting the promise."

"In Old Testament times, he said, the Israelites, the children of the promise, were scattered far beyond the land in to which Moses once led them. They were oppressed by Greeks and Babylonians and Syrians and all of their gods. They were a divided and unfaithful people who refused to obey the law handed down by Moses, and were often betrayed by leaders who turned the teachings of God to their own purposes.

Paul continued:

We can face the facts of Jesus time: Oppressed by the Romans, neither the Jews nor the Gentiles could claim freedom or expect justice. They were divided among the Pharisees & Sadducees, the publicans and Samaritans—it was a confusing time for those who were religious, and false gods were in the ascendance.

Looking Ahead

December 24 — No meeting
December 31 — No meeting

January 7

Sergeant at Arms
Program.....Lynn Kotrba, Harvest Hope & Huntington's Disease
Greeters.....Pat Gulbranson & Bill Woods

January 14

Sergeant at Arms
Program.....Dawn Chisholm, "If Only" LLC (Workplace Safety)
Greeters.....Bob Hanna & Zach Heuring

January 21

Sergeant at Arms
Program.....Pat Metzger, Your Ultimate Potential
Greeters.....Kevin Heazlett & Eric Johnson

January 28

Sergeant at Arms
Program...Sue Koesterman, Home4All Coalition
Greeters...Chuck Hendrickson & Greg Johnson

February 4

Sergeant at Arms
Program.....Steve Moore, Moorhead Strategic Vision/Plan
Greeters.....Dale Hetland & Sue Koesterman



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Let's ace the facts of our own time. The stock market tells us we are prosperous and my retirement portfolio proves it ,as do statistics on poverty. But the gap between rich and poor widens to our eventual peril, and our national deficit is booming. In our own well-off community, the homeless shelters are filled to overflowing, and the food shelves can barely keep up. Diabetics without the right insurance are at risk. And farmers deal with uncertainty in the markets and crop failure in the field.

In the public square, we quake at growing racism and declining civility. Partisans seem to glory more in separation than solutions. Mistrust in our leaders is growing as are levels of citizen anxiety and uncertainty. And the false gods of wealth, escape and indulgence both tempt and betray us.

Such are the facts that ring through when we turn down the world's volume.

So we turn from the facts to the words of Advent.

The texts of the season contain warnings of

judgment and ruin, including Isaiah 10:1-4 and Isaiah 24:1-5. In the book of Matthew, we hear John the Baptist railing against “the brood of vipers.” But John also provided a baptism—a baptism of repentance, which would subsequently be replaced by a baptism of renewal.

This was not a new idea. Isaiah shifted gears from judgment to repentance and hope as well in Isaiah 40:1-5. Jesus would fulfill all of these promises and more—consider these verses from the Beatitudes: Matthew 5:1-11.

When we turn down the volume of the world, we can hear again those incredible promises.

And these are promises we can trust.

Consider John the Baptist — in jail facing death and wondering about Christ. So Jesus sent word: “Go and tell John what you hear and see: The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.” Think about how John must have rejoiced even in the face of his eminent death.

Celeste Kennell-Shank wrote in the current issue of the Christian Century about hope. She said: “All around me I see people who seem to have given up, who seek only to get theirs in an unjust society. Young men sell drugs on street corners and shoot each other over turf.... I wonder when exactly the way of the wicked is brought to ruin.”

But then she goes on to write: “Hope is continuing to be God’s hands and feet in a world, even when the odds are against us. Hope is openness to transformation, listening and looking for signs of God’s action happening all around us, just like Jesus told John’s disciples to tell John. Hope is trust in the character of our God as one who brings justice to the oppressed, not just tomorrow

but today. Hope is knowing that God acts in human history for liberation and restoration.”

And, I suggest, hope abounds!

Peter Marty writes about Shon Hopwood, the convicted bank robber who became a law professor at Georgetown. He talked about the miracle of second chances. He said “If every parent, grandparent, teacher, coach, or employer of ours had refused to grant us any breaks after mistakes made, we’d be completely broken and lifeless people.”

But our parent God — on an even more colossal scale — offers us second chances on a daily basis.

I think about the ways in which members of this club—individually and collectively—are making a difference in this community—becoming God’s hands and feet as it were... Filling food shelves. Volunteering at homeless shelters. Gathering toys for tots. Ringing the bell for the Salvation Army. Working to re-energize Christian ministries. Keeping watch with the dying. Taking a stand for justice, for equality, for civility. Doing the sometime tedious and frustrating work of politics and good government. Welcoming strangers with no safe place to call home. Reaching out to those with whom they disagree as both an act of shared humanity and out of a sincere desire for a shared future.

So in this wondrous season, let’s turn down the volume of the world. Let’s indeed find the facts of our situation, and then let’s hear and celebrate and give life to the promise.

Let us choose redemption over guilt and living in the expectation of God’s promise. Let us choose hope over fear.