



The Paddlewheel

Moorhead Rotary Club

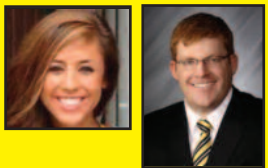
Volume 97—Number 26

December 19, 2017

Welcome Our New Members!



Patrick Lorenson
Ramsey State Bank
Brett Drevlow
Boy Scouts



Liz Brandenburg
Northwestern Bank
Rob Mounts
Bremer Bank



Roger Erbes
American Federal Bank
Alex Ohman
Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch



Sharon Fangsrud
Pianist
Chris Volkens
Moorhead City Manager



Scott Wilkie
Avis Rent a Car
Brent Brandt
Health Equipment Recycling



Sue Koesterman
Churches United for Homeless



Coming Up Tuesday: Members tour the Hjemkomst Center's St. John's Bible exhibit, "Illuminating the Word," guided by committee chair Anne Kaese. Gina Monson is sergeant at arms and Sam Wai, Rotarian of the Day. Scott Wilkie and Violet Deilke are our greeters.

Paul Dovre shares Christmas message of hope: 'For In us, angels sing'

President Corey Elmer opened our second December meeting by thanking Ron Kolb, Alma Cater and Jon Benson for organizing the Christmas party at the Moorhead Country Club. More than 50 members and their spouses attended.

He reminded members of retirement parties for Lynne Kovash Dec. 12 and Jerry Rogers Dec. 14.

Plans for the club's next social and service projects are underway. The social will be at Junkyard Brewing at the end of February.

Aspiring to well-crafted verbiage

Sergeant at Arms Eric Johnson confided his desire to share well-crafted remarks in preparation for Dr. Paul Dovre's eloquent Christmas message. "Alas," he said, "I drew a blank." Instead he turned to Seinfeld's "show about nothing" ... "i.e., January in Moorhead ... nothingism ... neoism ... life philosophy."

He passed the basket among members to collect the club's annual holiday donation, this year to Clay County Social Services. "And I'm hoping for more than nothing," he emphasized.



Photos/Russ Hanson: Members at lunch. President Corey Elmer. Gina Monson with Paul Dovre. Rotarian of the Day Steve Schaefer. Sergeant at Arms Eric Johnson. Paul Dovre, a Rotarian for more than 37 years, delivers his 30th Christmas message to the club.

Rod McLaren shared his happy dollars in recognition of the enjoyment he gets from helping with the reading program at S.G. Reinertson Elementary School. After being shamed last week for not knowing the movie, new Rotarian Alex Ohman reported he has now seen "It's a Wonderful Life" and is grateful to have a better life because of it. Violet Deilke contributed in honor of Carson Wentz's testimony.

Gary Nolte donated in recognition of the women in his life. Russ pitched in to make up for his and Nancy's missing the Christmas

Photos/Russ Hanson:
 Song leader John
 Andreasen. Mardy Dovre
 and Alma Cater. Rod
 McLaman and Paul Dovre.
 Brent Brandt with Doreen
 Filler and her guest,
 Amanda Rogalla.



Guests, 12-12

Judy Kolb, guest of Ron Kolb
 Marty Dovre, guest of Paul Dovre
 Amanda Rogalla, guest of Doreen
 Filler
 Rev. Ray Olson, guest of John
 Andreasen

December Birthdays

Lunak, Brandon	Dec 04
Andreasen, John	Dec 05
Deilke, Violet	Dec 20
Ohman, Alex	Dec 20
Hanson, Nancy	Dec 24
Moore, Noel	Dec 25
Monson, Gina	Dec 30

Rotary Anniversaries

Wright, Edgar	62 years
Dec 06 1955	
Finney, Tammy	2 years
Dec 08 2015	
Rosenfeldt, Jade	2 years
Dec 08 2015	
Baldwin, Jill	17 years
Dec 12 2000	
Nolte, Gary	29 years
Dec 13 1988	
Parries, Kay	29 years
Dec 13 1988	

Moorhead Rotary
 Chartered May 1, 1921
 Club 970
 District 5580

- President Corey Elmer
- President-Elect
- Secretary & Paddlewheel reporter David Wahlberg
- Treasurer Doreen Filler
- Past President Eric Wilkie
- Director Dale Hetland
- Director David Sederquist
- Director Tammy Finney
- Director John Andreasen
- Director Gary Gonser
- Director Troy Nellis
- RYLA Coord. Randy Farwell
- Polio Plus Coord. Cindy Nolte
- Sergeant at Arms Team
- Dave Sederquist, Eric Johnson,
Mike Hulett & Jean Hannig
- Pianist Sharon Fangsrud
- Song Leaders Bill Schwandt,
Bob Hanna, John Andreasen
- Photographer Russ Hanson
- Meeting Reporter Teresa Joppa
- Paddlewheel Editor Nancy Edmonds Hanson

party because of the annual Moorhead
 Police Volunteers banquet, where he was
 honored for serving 750 hours.

**Former CC President Dovre shares
 his 30th Advent message with Rotarians**

Rotarian of the Day Steve Schaefer
 introduced a man – and a tradition – who
 need little explanation. Paul Dovre joined
 Moorhead Rotary in July 1980, when he
 was five years into the presidency of
 Concordia College, where he served until
 1999 and again as interim president twice
 during the early 2000s.

His service to the community has continued
 since his retirement(s). He is a member of
 the boards o Lutheran Social Services of
 Minnesota and Oak Grove Lutheran School.
 Active wit the Northwestern Minnesota
 Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church
 in America, he also volunteers with Hospice
 of the Red River Valley.

“In his own words, Paul is ‘retired and living



well,” Steve said.

Paul’s stirring and hopeful remarks are
 included in this week’s Paddlewheel and will
 be featured in the Moorhead Extra
 newspaper on Thursday.

The latest Wilkie comes close

New member Scott Wilkie’s ticket was
 chosen for a chance to win the weekly club
 raffle. But – just his luck – no one could find
 the deck of cards from which he’d have
 drawn. He’ll get another chance this week.

Looking Ahead

December 19

Sergeant at ArmsGina Monson
 Rotarian of the Day.....Sam Wai
 ProgramAnne Kaese, tour of St. John’s Bible
 GreetersViolet Deilke & Scott Wilkie

**December 26 — No Meeting
 January 2 — No Meeting**

January 9

Sergeant at Arms
 Rotarian of the Day.....Gina Monson
 ProgramMSUM Update: Dr. Anne Blackhurst
 GreetersPaul Dovre & Sue Koesterman

January 16

Sergeant at Arms
 Rotarian of the DayRandy Farwell
 ProgramRYLA Students
 GreetersDoreen Filler & \Chris Volkers

January 23

Sergeant at Arms
 Rotarian of the Day.....Gina Monson
 Program
 GreetersRandy Farwell & Joel Paulsen

January 30

Sergeant at Arms
 Rotarian of the Day.....Gina Monson
 ProgramDr. Bill Craft, Concordia Update
 GreetersHeidi Olson-Fitzgerald &
 Chuck Hendrickson

February 6

Sergeant at Arms
 Rotarian of the DayViolet Deilke
 Program.....Rick Holmberg,
 2 Levels Up Coaching
 GreetersPat Gulbranson & Emily Gess

Doing the work of God ... now it's up to us. We are it!

Christmas is a season for all of us, but it is especially a season for children. I recently read a book called *Children's Letters to God* by Stuart Hemple and Eric Marshall. Here



are some samples:

“Dear God -- Are you invisible or is that just a trick? Lucy”

“Dear God -- Thank you for the baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy. Joyce”

“Dear God -- Maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other if they each had their own room. It works with me and my brother. Larry”

“Dear God -- Are you real? Some people don't believe it. If you are, you'd better do something quick. Harriet Anne”

Well, this is the season we celebrate what God did 2,000 years ago. It's really all described in this simple text from the Gospel of John. “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” (John 1:14)

To understand what God had in mind when he sent Jesus, we need to consider the many ways in which Christ became flesh and how he dwelt among us. I'll begin there. And then I'll shift gears to ask how Christ becomes flesh today and our role in that.

Jesus came humbly — born of common people, nestled in a barn for starters. You can't be more common and humble than that. In this act, God was saying that he cared for ordinary people. Some may have expected the Messiah to arrive in the midst of the rich or the powerful, but that's not what God had in mind.

Jesus became flesh to the lowly, the outcast — to sinners. A star led the shepherds to the stable in Bethlehem. In selecting disciples, he chose a much-despised tax collector, Matthew. He met Mary at the well and erased her sins. And, we are told, he was criticized by the religious establishment for trafficking with publicans and sinners.

Jesus came to seekers — to people who wanted to know the answers to life's great questions ... people like Andrew and Peter, Phillip and Nathaniel, who became early followers because Jesus opened up for them a new universe of faith and confidence.

Jesus became flesh to those who abused the holy. You recall that Jesus came to the temple, where he found it desecrated by money changers, people who fed their greed off the resources of faithful people — and Jesus took no prisoners, driving the money changers out of the Temple.

Jesus became flesh to wealth. The Gospels contain many more references to wealth than to sex, perhaps indicating that it was more of a problem. One thinks of the rich young man who possessed much and kept the law but lacked peace of mind. Money didn't fill that need. Jesus could see that money was, for him, both means and end. He said, “ell what you have and give it away, and free yourself from slavery.”

God did not come to earth in a book or as a windstorm or an apparition, but in flesh -- a baby who became a boy who became a man. God literally became flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth.

After Jesus's crucifixion, his disciples were walking to the small town of Emmaus when they encountered the risen Jesus along the way. A rich and lively conversation ensued. The disciples wondered what the plan was going forward.

Jesus said, in effect, “You are the plan. Yes, you. There isn't anybody else. You are now

my flesh, and you are to do the work of God in the world. You're it!"

It is the Christmas season again, and we join in celebrating the word become flesh. But if this celebration is to be more than a memorial service, a nostalgic retelling of a miracle story, a time for carol singing and wassailing -- if it's to be more than that, then we must get with the action. For we are called to be the flesh and blood of Jesus. We're it. There isn't anybody else.

Ours is a world not at all unlike the world of the prophets, who saw flowers fading, grass withering, and the powers of darkness holding sway. It's a world not unlike the one in which Jesus walked, where there was more darkness than light.

It is a world in need of Christ's flesh right now. And I am here with a word of hope today, a word that echoes the words of the prophets ... for Christ is indeed becoming flesh today. Christ's flesh comes alive today through you and me.

Whether it's ringing bells for the Salvation Army or making donations for some needy families in Clay County — we are the flesh of Christ.

When you shape the lives of your children with positive values and healthy practices — you are the very flesh of Christ.

When we go to the polls on Election Day or exercise political persuasion and make clear to power our expectations for responsible conduct — then we are the flesh of Christ.

When we stand against men who oppress women and stand with the victims of that oppression — we are the flesh of Christ.

And when you go to work each day and do your best for your customers, your patients, your students, your clients — then the word is becoming flesh yet again.

Yes, we often look at the litany of darkness, just like the prophets did. But when God put on flesh in Christ, he gave us the option of hope. As we put God's promise into flesh, we bring that hope to life, a hope that not even the gates of hell shall prevail against.

In this hope, let us sing our carols of joy. For in us ... yes, in us ... Christ is alive and the angels sing.

— *Paul Dovre*
Dec. 12, 2017