

# KENYON • WANAMINGO Messenger

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DECEMBER 18, 2024

Volume 17 • Issue 19

## Announcements

• **OPEN INVITATION:** All are welcome to breakfast, fellowship, bible study, and prayer time every Saturday morning at Hauge Lutheran Church in Kenyon. Breakfast and fellowship start at 8:00 am. Followed by a verse by verse bible study. Finishing with prayer time at 10:00 am. All are welcome (men, women, and children) each Saturday morning!! Any questions, please contact Loren Bauer: 507-450-6623.

• **Three Rivers Community Action is currently accepting new Meals On Wheels clients in the communities of Zumbrota, Mazeppa, Goodhue, Pine Island, Kenyon and Wanamingo.** Receive a hot meal delivered to your home by a volunteer at lunch time up to 5 days per week. To qualify you must be 60 or older, live within city limits, have limited mobility and/or are unable to prepare nutritious meals. The suggested donation is \$5-\$10 per meal. For more information on how to sign up for meals or to be a volunteer driver, please contact Dana Bergner at 507-421-6067 or dbergner@threeriverscap.org

• **Hiawathaland Transit:** Service hours are 7:30am-4:30pm Monday through Friday. Call dispatch at 866-623-7505 Monday through Friday 6am-9pm and Saturday 7:00am-5:00pm. Visit [threeriverscap.org](http://threeriverscap.org) for more information.

• **Wanamingo Veterans Honor Guard invite you to become a member.** Join us and help us make the Wanamingo Veterans Honor Guard an even bigger success. WVHG meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Wanamingo Community Center. The VFW will meet from 7-7:30p.m. The Honor Guard will meet from 7:30-8:30p.m. For more information contact Eric Dierks 507-321-1967, Gary Floan at 507-732-7740, or Larry Van De Walker at 507-421-4674.

Do you have an announcement?  
Email: [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

# Christmas in Wanamingo



By Cheri Roshon

December 5th in Wanamingo, the streets were busy with people going from business to business to celebrate the season. Christmas in Wanamingo is a tradition started by the Commercial Club years ago, to kick off the season with some holiday fun! Many of the businesses were open, and people were enjoying everything from meatballs to cookies and desserts, to candy bags and even my favorite-- herring! We all had our "punch cards" to fill in by going into the participating stores and partaking of the delicious offerings, and saying hello to the owners. It was kind of like

Trick or Treat, without the costumes! The punch cards were then turned in to the bank, and a drawing was held at 7 pm for the winners of cash prizes. The other drawing was for 3 mini water towers to help raise funds for the 4th of July fireworks. Tickets were \$5 each, and I hope I won!  
*(continued on page 6)*

## Goodbye to Blossoms and Keepsakes

By Cheri Roshon

After 42 years of providing Blossoms and Keepsakes for her customers, Jeri Ryan is ready to retire-- well, sort of! "I'll miss the customers coming in, looking for that perfect gift, or bouquet of flowers."  
*(continued on page 3)*



# Christmas in Kenyon



Santa at Security State Bank of Kenyon with kids and puppies

*(additional pictures on pages 4 and 5)*

## Christmas at Vang and Dennison

"Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth!"  
(Luke 2: 14) *(continued on page 2)*

## Christmas at Wanamingo Lutheran & Trinity Lutheran

Christmas Eve services will be held at 4:00p.m. at Wanamingo Lutheran Church and 5:30p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church.

**NEW in January at The Annadine**

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## Keep Christ in Every Day!

Around this time of year you may see signs reminding you to "Keep Christ in Christmas!"

That's a good reminder, because we're tempted to get so busy with celebrating the earthly traditions of the holiday- shopping for presents; putting the lights and the tree up; baking cookies and planning family gatherings- that we lose sight of the real thing Christmas is supposed to be about.

What is Christmas about? The angel said it to the shepherds on the first Christmas night: "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." (Lk 2:11 NIV) I hope this Christmas the biggest part of your celebration will be remembering that Jesus the Savior was born for you, to pay for your sins and win you a place with him in heaven forever as a gift of God's grace.

There will be some great opportunities to do that in some of the special Christmas services that area Christian congregations, including the ones I serve, will be holding this season. If you don't know much about the one whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, or what it means, come and find out!

But I think there's another, even greater danger Christians are tempted to fall prey to than leaving Christ out of Christmas: That's leaving Christ out of our everyday lives.

The devil would love it if Christians would all confine Christ mainly to an hour per week or so of their lives, at most, when they go to

## Christmas at Vang and Dennison

(continued from page 2)

There will be a special Christmas program and celebration on Sunday, December 22. This will be a combined service at 9:00 AM at Vang.

Christmas Eve candle light services will be at 5:00 PM at Dennison and 8:00 PM at Vang.

There will be a Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 29. It will be a combined service at Vang at 9:00

Come celebrate the good news of Jesus birth!

church- and live the rest of their lives without thinking much about Christ or letting him make much of a difference in their lives. The world around us will tempt Christians to do just that. And the sinful flesh that still lives inside of Christians will tempt them to feel it's easier to live their daily lives in this way, because then they fit in better with the world around them and many of the people around them.

But Christ isn't just for Christmas; and he's not just for Sunday mornings and Wednesday

evenings. If you belong to Christ, then he is THE most important part of your life- He is your life! - 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

When we remember him, we remember that we have forgiveness of all our sins in him, and the privilege of being God's children as a gift, through faith in him, who paid for our sins on his cross.

When we remember him, we have the security of knowing death won't be the end for us, but he will raise us to eternal life with

him; and the security of knowing he who so loves us and has such power is with us and watching over us in love right now.

When we remember him, we know our life on earth is not meaningless, but we get to do all things to his glory and give him praise, and to be his tools to pour out his gracious love on others, and it brings joy to him, to whom we belong, and joy to our hearts, too!

Dear fellow Christians, keep Christ in Christmas; but even more, keep him in every day of your life! Amen.

### DENNISON/VANG LUTHERAN PARISH

Pastor Paul A. Graham  
(C) 507-269-5997 • Office: 507-645-6042  
P.O. Box 117, Dennison, MN 55018  
Website: [www.dennisonvang.org](http://www.dennisonvang.org)  
You can join us for Worship online at  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/167136242800>

### TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

301 2nd Avenue, Wanamingo  
824-2155  
December 22: 9:00a.m. Sacred Space;  
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL;  
10:00a.m. Worship at TLC  
December 24: 4:00p.m. Worship at WLC;  
5:30 Worship at TLC  
December 25: MERRY CHRISTMAS!  
December 29: 9:00a.m. Sacred Space;  
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL;  
10:00a.m. Worship at TLC

### WANAMINGO LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

130 West 3rd St., Wanamingo  
824-2457  
[www.TrinityWanamingo.org](http://www.TrinityWanamingo.org)  
December 22: 9:00a.m. Sacred Space;  
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL;  
10:00a.m. Worship at TLC  
December 24: 4:00p.m. Worship at WLC;  
5:30 Worship at TLC  
December 25: MERRY CHRISTMAS!  
December 29: 9:00a.m. Sacred Space;  
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL;  
10:00a.m. Worship at TLC

### ASPELUND EMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Rob Edwards, Pastor  
429 County 1 Blvd, Kenyon  
507-824-2307  
[www.emmanuelaflc.org](http://www.emmanuelaflc.org)  
9:00a.m. Sunday School;  
10:00a.m. Coffee Time  
10:30a.m. Worship Service

### FIRST EV. LUTHERAN

D.J. Chatelaine, Pastor  
309 Forest Street, Kenyon • 507-789-5261  
website: [fickenyong.org](http://fickenyong.org)  
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.;  
Noon-1:00p.m. Open Prayer Time,  
1st Tuesday each month

### GOL LUTHERAN

Joe Jorgensen, Pastor  
507-838-2100  
Sunday Worship 8:30a.m. Sept.-Dec.



Email your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the Kenyon-Wanamingo Messenger at: [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

## AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

### The Joy That Comes From Christmas

Scripture: Psalm 51:12

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

A young run-away girl collapsed on the streets of a large city at the beginning of the Christmas season. She was rushed to a hospital, placed in intensive care and finally made it to a room where she made slow progress in regaining her health.

One evening a group of carolers stopped by her room and sang the beautiful songs that describe the birth of Jesus. After they sang, a young lady approached her bed and asked if she knew the Baby that they sang about.

Quietly, barely above a whisper she said, "I heard about Him when I went to Sunday school. But don't remember too much about Him."

The young lady reminded her of the story and meaning of the birth of Jesus and the plan of salvation. She accepted the Lord as her Savior. Finally, it was time for her to leave and a nurse said, "Well, now that you're better, it's time for you to leave."

Happily she said, "Yes, but I'm not leaving alone. I'm taking Jesus with me. Do you know Jesus?"

"Oh, yes," replied the nurse, in a grumpy voice.

"Well, then," she asked, "why aren't you filled with joy like I am now? If you truly know Jesus, you'll be happy all the time."

David said, "Restore the joy of my salvation!"

### GOSPEL OF LIFE FAMILY CHURCH

Pastor Steven G. Roberts  
[www.gospeloflifechurch.org](http://www.gospeloflifechurch.org)  
2010 Jefferson Rd, Northfield - Sunday 10:30a.m.  
507-259-2644  
Wanamingo - Wednesday 7:00p.m.

### ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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### GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, NERSTRAND

Mike Ahrens S.A.M.  
Service 9am. Coffee hour follows @ 10 am  
Sunday School 10:15 am

### HAUGE LUTHERAN

Larry Grove, Pastor • 507-271-9761  
302 Bullis Street, Kenyon  
Sunday Worship 10:00a.m.  
with lunch following

### LANDS LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

David Krinke, Pastor  
16640 Hwy. 60 Blvd.  
[www.landslutheran.com](http://www.landslutheran.com)  
Wednesday 6:15 p.m.  
Sunday 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. at Everson Park

### STORDAHL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

Pastor Kathleen Lowery  
15049 Cty. 12 Blvd., Zumbrota • 732-5711  
Sundays 10:30 a.m. Worship

### HOLDEN/DALE

Pastor Dustin Haider • 507-789-6677  
Email: [holdendalsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:holdendalsecretary@gmail.com)  
Worship schedule found at:  
[www.holdenlutheranchurch.org](http://www.holdenlutheranchurch.org)  
Holden/Dale Facebook

### MOLAND CHURCH

507-456-4242  
Sunday Worship 10:00a.m.

### NERSTRAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Gary Liker, Pastor  
12 Maple Street • 507-330-0025  
Worship 9:00 a.m.

### UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Reverend Daren Flink  
429 4th Street, Kenyon • 507-951-1271  
Worship 9:30 a.m.

### ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Cory Rohlfing  
Deacon Newell McGee  
108 Bullis St., Kenyon  
Sunday Mass 8:00a.m.  
Wednesday Mass 5:00p.m.

### NEW LIFE CHURCH

525 Beverly St., Wanamingo  
507-824-3019  
10am Worship Service  
[office@nlcwanamingo.org](mailto:office@nlcwanamingo.org)  
Website with online services which are live at 10:00a.m. or can be viewed at anytime:  
<https://nlcwanamingo.org/>



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Fax 507-645-9878  
[www.kenyonmn.net](http://www.kenyonmn.net)  
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Published in cooperation with  
Mainstreet Publishing Minnesota, Inc.  
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## Goodbye to Blossoms and Keepsakes

(continued from page 1)

I will especially miss the Christmas season." says Jeri. As you may know, Jeri has had the pleasure of decorating the Governor's mansion in St. Paul, and many trees in Rochester's Mayo Civic Center at the Festival of Trees. She also decorated for the holidays at Edgewood Restaurant for Don Hernke for many years.

The store still boasts a wide variety of Christmas decor, poinsettias, and even holi-

day napkins to grace your special dinners this year. But wait!! There is a huge sale going on from now until December 20th. 50% off many items, and there is a lot more than just Christmas decorations! Clothing, food items to make the holiday dips and drinks, jewelry for that special someone who is so hard to buy for, specialty candy produced locally, and live plants to bring cheer any time of the year! Everything but the plants and food items are on sale!

As I was talking to Jeri about her decision to retire, Kim Froyum popped in to pick up some decorations and look for gifts. "There are always treasures to find here," she said. "I will miss coming in for that special something." Kim picked out a beautiful white poinsettia in a pot, holiday napkins, stocking

stuffers and Christmas embellishments for her tree. I can attest to the fact that Kim's tree will be awesome! Come in and check out the selection for your holiday decor!

Jeri started her journey into the world of flowers and gifts when Sherree Van De Walker sold her the shop that was on Main Street back then. After about 10 years in that location, she moved to her current space at 125 2nd street E in Wanamingo, and rents her space from Henry Syverson. She built her business to accommodate her customers' needs, and it just kept evolving.

When I asked her how she came to the decision to retire, she said, "It was a lot of little things. First, Henry told me that he was thinking about retirement himself, and may sell the building." Then, this past year, she has had some health issues to deal with, and some travel plans she is looking forward to. But the biggest part, I think, was her desire to spend more time with her grandkids while they are still young. We all know they grow up way too fast, and we won't ever get that time back!

So, Jeri would like to say thank you to all her customers who grew the business with her. She invites you all to come in and browse through her selections until the end of December. Her hours right now are Fridays from 1 to 5, and Saturdays from 9 to 12. You can check out her personal facebook page for other dates and times. Some Saturday hours may vary. After December, she will be selling her flower business ribbons, vases, etc. to other florists, so come in while the stock is still available, and get a great deal!

## OBITUARY

### Nordis Mae Luebke

Nordis Mae Luebke, 81, of Kenyon, passed away on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at Methodist Hospital in Rochester.

She was born April 29, 1943, in Faribault, Minnesota to Norman and Myrtle (Simonson) Nelson. She grew up just outside of Kenyon and graduated from Kenyon High School in 1961. Nordis met Curtis Luebke and the couple was united in marriage on October 27, 1962, at Vang Lutheran Church in rural Kenyon. Nordis help raise their three children until they were of school age, then she helped Curtis run Curt's Cannonball in Cannon Falls. She loved to attend her children and grandchildren's sporting and school events. Nordis also loved watching any Minnesota sporting event that was on. Curtis and Nordis loved to vacation together travelling around the United States watching drag racing, and wintering in Palm Desert, California. During the summer you would see Nordis driving around town on her golf cart with her dog Murphy riding along with her.

She is survived by her children, Brenda (and Todd) Angelstad of Nerstrand, Brad (and Catherine) Luebke of Nerstrand, Lisa (and Paul) Peterson of Kenyon; grandchildren, Mia Peterson, Madi Luebke, Ally Peterson, Tanner Angelstad, Cal Luebke; sister, Janet (and Denny) Greseth; sisters in law, Jean Benson, Helen Porter; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband Curtis Luebke; parents Norman and Myrtle Nelson, sister in law and brother in law, Lila and John Cole; brothers in law, Lavern Benson, and David Porter.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, December 21, 2024, at 11:00 AM at First Evangelical Lutheran Church with a visitation starting one hour prior to the service. Interment will be in the Kenyon Cemetery in Kenyon Minnesota. Memorials are preferred to First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenyon.

## Traxler Law PLLC

traxlerlaw.com

**Ann Traxler**  
Attorney

### PRACTICE AREAS

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*Merry Christmas*

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# Christmas in Kenyon



Cookies at the Gunderson House



Craft Fair at Kenyon VFW

## WARM WISHES FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

The holidays are a time to spend with family and friends. We wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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## KELLER INSURANCE AGENCY

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*Merry Christmas*

As we gear up for another Christmas, we're happy and grateful to be celebrating it with the customers and friends who have made our year so special. We appreciate your trust in us, and we're proud to serve this community.

*Best Wishes for a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

**River Road Repair**  
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*Merry Christmas*  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

We've enjoyed spending time with friends and customers like you this year and hope you have a wonderful holiday season!

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Warlords MC toys for kids

## KENYON-WANAMINGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS of the WEEK

A black and white photograph of ten elementary school students posing for a photo. They are arranged in two rows: five standing in the back and five sitting on the floor in the front. Each student is holding a certificate that reads "Noble Knight of the Week".

### NOBLE KNIGHTS OF THE WEEK FOR DECEMBER 6, 2024

Front Row: Ari'Elle Steinberg, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; Emma QuaM, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Nora Callahan, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Shia Evenson, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs. Back Row: Adeline Baalson, Gr. 2, Mrs. Megan Jordan; Declan Smith, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Mira McNeal, Gr. 3, Mrs. Sandy Bohaty; Oakley Benbrooks, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman; Gretta Haugen, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing



Games for kids at the Library

A black and white photograph of ten elementary school students posing for a photo. They are arranged in two rows: five standing in the back and five sitting on the floor in the front. Each student is holding a certificate that reads "Noble Knight of the Week".

### NOBLE KNIGHTS OF THE WEEK FOR DECEMBER 13, 2024

Front Row: Jacob Sivahop, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; Pryor Morris, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Keagan Welgemoed, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Vayda Amundson, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Marissa Samlaska, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs. Back Row: Liza VanDeWalker, Gr. 2, Mrs. Megan Jordan, Henry Enberg, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Roman Johnson, Gr. 3, Mrs. Sandy Bohaty, Jack Priebe, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman; Adeline Prondzinski, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing



Lizards, turtles, chickens and bunny at the Library



## Christmas in Wanamingo

(continued from page 1)

Some places I was able to chat a bit, and others I just popped in and took pictures of the fun, because there were so many people participating.

I have been in Wanamingo for almost 3 years now and there are still places I haven't ventured in to, so it was fun to be able to introduce myself to some new people. I learned a lot, and can share a little about what I found out.

Jake's Liquor Store was first on my list. They have a huge selection of beer, wine and liquor to peruse. They also now have medicinal CBD and THC products from a local company called Hiza. The manager, Amy, has a lot of information on all the items sold in the store, and also has plans for a "farmer's market" in the spring/summer.

Next was River View Services. They have so much going on to help our developmentally disabled adults in our area. Home services like grocery shopping, cleaning, taking them on outings, and more. They run 4 homes in Wanamingo, 1 in Zumbrota, and 2 in Red Wing.

On to Blue Harbor where Terry Kane is having a blowout sale on her clothing. 60% off through December is what she is offering! Stop in and check out her holiday gifts, too!

24 Hour Fitness had a special visitor-- Santa Claus! He was taking gift requests from towns people, large and small! The big news here is that Tina and Brent Leininger purchased the workout center in August, and have any plans for the future. Be looking for an article with them in the near future!

New Life Church was at Area 57, handing out fresh donuts. Their message was, "Please come join us for our services. Everyone is welcome!"

Jim Sviggum wanted to say "Merry Christmas" to all of you.

The Spot was serving warm drinks and snacks to their customers, and has some ideas coming up for the new year.

And Beth was busy handing out her awesome holiday cookies and whiskey fudge to her customers at Flour Child Bakery. She will be open extra hours through December, so be sure to order your holiday treats soon!

And my last stop was City Hall where Michael Boulton and Karen Masters had a snack tray, and were answering questions that their visitors were asking.

All in all, it was a fun night and the weather cooperated. I think we should have more of these all inclusive events, and feature our awesome business owners for the part they play in our local community. It's a chance to visit with our neighbors, meet new folks, and have some outdoor fun! And, we get to help raise money for future events, too. That's how community should be!

Merry Christmas to all from the team at the Messenger!



New Life Church welcomes you!



Jim Sviggum, Sviggum Insurance



Beth, Flour Child Bakery



Security State Bank



Steve, Laura, Todd & Randi



Santa came for big and small!



# Christmas in Wanamingo



Terry Kane, Blue Harbor Boutique



Jake's Liquor Store crew



The Spot



Beth Smith and family, insurance



Michael Boulton and Karen Masters



River View Services



Area 57



Olmsted Medical Group



**Do You Have an Announcement?**  
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**MomCo**  
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**Mom's & Children's Programs**  
 (nursery provided)  
 Faith Community Church, West Concord

Meets 1st and 3rd Friday of each month from 9:30am to 11:00am during school year

CONTACT: Cindy Breederland 507-272-2600 or Louise Severud 623-695-3813.

**merry christmas**

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## Q&A With Santa

Submitted by Robert Duncan

Hello Messenger readers:

I'm Robert (Bob) Duncan, (scribed@aol.com), new to Minnesota from Indiana to be closer to family because of my advanced age.

On December 18, 2011, I thought it timely to bring Santa's story into the 21st. century augmenting Clement C. Moore's brilliant 1823 A VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS "TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS...". Below is my offer for consideration.

Q&A with Santa  
By Bob Duncan

WKKG Trutv moderator: Welcome to all who have come out on this rainy first day of April to participate in TRUTV'S final Q&A episode of KNOWING OUR LEGENDS.

From the git-go this series was specifically formatted to provide the public with in-depth and factual information about the legends permeating our cultures and societies throughout time. We've been extremely fortunate to bring to our stage eleven, now twelve, of those legends from around the globe. All graciously accepted questions from the audience, some answers startling.

Many revelations came forth. One being that wet hair does not cause colds as vociferously pointed out by Mother Nature. The Boogie

Man, Ralph Edward Boogman, stunned everyone when he disclosed that he suffers from Phengophobia, a fear of daylight and open spaces. That's why he hides under beds and in closets. And how can we ever forget Father Time showing up at the wrong time because he forgot to change the sand in his hour glass to daylight savings time?

Not all of our episodes were upbeat. Lady Godiva remarked that because of that one-time wardrobe malfunction she is forever banned from participating in children's activities. The Tooth Fairy had to file for bankruptcy and Humpty Dumpty, because of his injuries could not have children, thusly, never married. He lives a sedentary life on a sunny Kansas farm with his aunt Rebecca Brooke.

It's time to quit talking, wave the starting flag and bring in the big guy himself. Please welcome.....Santa Claus!

Applause, more applause, more applause. Santa: Thank you, thank you, thank you so very, very much. Please, please...every one...please...sit down. Thanks also to you viewers out there for tuning in. I am honored to be the one chosen to close out the series. I'm touched...truly I am. Now, let's get going! Who's first? You...yes you in the checkered jacket.

Covert reporter from ABC news: Do you still have my letters?

Santa: Of course, Carl. Next? Richard Freeze from the St. Louis Gazette: When were you born?

Santa: I was firstly known as St. Nicholas of Myra, a Greek Christian Bishop in the fourth century AD.



Laurence Fish, city attorney: Then why do people call you Santa?

Santa: It's analogous to someone calling Philip Phil.

Edna Rappaport from Foods Galore magazine: Have you always been fat?

Santa: No. Well.....yes and no, I guess. Britney England: rest stop manager exit

253: Do you always wear red?

Santa: What?

Britney again: Do you always wear red?

Santa: Oh.

Phil Weaver, efficiency plant manager from Pittsburgh: How many toys can your elves turn out per shift?

Santa: What elves?

(continued on page 11)

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## Q&A With Santa

(continued from page 10)

Helen Gleez from Saskatchewan: Your elves. You know...your elves.

Santa: What in the world are you talking about? Elves? I don't have any elves! There's no such things as elves!

James Whitmoor of Atlanta: What is your favorite game?

Santa: Find the Needle in the Hay Stack! My best time is just under four weeks.

Kenneth Orlando from Florida: Hi Santa. I'm Kenny Orlando.

Santa: I know. Tell Grandma Junita I said "hey".

Kenneth again: If there are no elves to help you, how can you make all those toys by yourself?

Santa: I don't make any toys.

Wilma Louise Logan from the upper east side of Boston: If you don't make the toys, where do they come from?

Santa: From you all.

Wilma again: I don't understand.

Santa: They come from you, moms and dads, grandparents, aunts, friends. You put them under the trees. Do you actually believe anyone could visit 3.7 billion people in one night? What ARE you people smoking?

Student Janice Meltor: Ohhhhhhh...I get it! Covert Carl from ABC news again: Get what?

Janice again: Duh!

Henry Maniken from Denver: So that means we're your elves?

Santa: Elves, elves, elves. What is it with you people and elves?

Jesus Rodrigues from El Salvador: How tall are you?

Santa: Five-one.

Jesus: ME TOO MAN!

Elsa Stern: Do reindeer really fly?

Santa: Not that I know of. Why?

Elsa again: Well...who pulls your sleigh?

Santa: Six huskies and Shorty, my lead dog. But it's a sled not a sleigh.

Kevin Skinner from Texarkana: Do you have any hobbies?

Santa: Yes.

William P. Morgan hedge fund manager: Do

you like cookies and milk?

Santa: I like milk but it doesn't like me. I'm lactose intolerant. Cookies? No...not really.

Heloise Turnbough, seamstress from Mississippi: Do you keep a naughty and nice list?

Santa: Oh Goodness, no, no, no. My Lilly does all the paperwork. I suck at it.

LeRoy produce manager at 7-11: We'd like to meet her. Did she come with you?

Santa: No. She couldn't get out of her hair and nails appointment. They charge for no-shows.

Thomas Find from New York City: What do you think about Rudolph's red nose?

Santa: I don't know. Maybe he should see a dermatologist.

Adrian Whitsel from Topeka: Santa, are you real or a figment of our imaginations?


Santa: "Yes".

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## Parents, Guardians Responsible for Kids' Safety Around Cold Water

By Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Rapidly falling air temperatures, dangerously cold water, and the likelihood of skim

ice on some ponds across Minnesota means it's imperative for parents and guardians to talk with their kids about the importance of safety ahead of the Thanksgiving break.

Whether through thin ice or into open water, falls into the water this time of year can turn tragic quickly, and an unexpected fall can incapacitate even the strongest swimmers in short order. It's up to parents and guardians to teach their kids about the dangers of cold water, and ensure they're properly supervised anytime they're around it.

"Many kids have an innate curiosity about the water, but they likely don't understand the dangers," said Capt. Adam Block, boating law administrator for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

*(continued on page 13)*

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## Parents, Guardians Responsible for Kids' Safety Around Cold Water

(continued from page 12)

"All water this time of year is dangerous, from the small neighborhood pond to the state's biggest lakes and rivers."

The best way to stay safe around cold

water, or survive an unexpected fall in, is to wear a life jacket. Foam life jackets are better than inflatable life jackets this time of year, since cold water means the latter might not fully inflate. In addition, Block recommends people carry a phone in case they need to call for help, let others know where they're going and when they plan to return, and plan for how they'll deal with an unforeseen incident.

### Did you know?

New ice is usually stronger than old ice. Four inches of clear, newly-formed ice may support one person on foot, while a foot or more of old, partially-thawed ice may not.

Ice seldom freezes uniformly. It may be a foot thick in one location and only an inch or two just a few feet away.

Ice formed over flowing water and currents

is often dangerous. This is especially true near streams, bridges and culverts. Also, the ice on outside river bends is usually weaker due to the undermining effects of the faster current.

The insulating effect of snow slows down the freezing process. The extra weight also reduces how much weight the ice sheet can support. Also, ice near shore can be weaker than ice that is farther out.

Booming and cracking ice isn't necessarily dangerous. It only means that the ice is expanding and contracting as the temperature changes.

Schools of fish or flocks of waterfowl can also adversely affect the relative safety of ice. The movement of fish can bring warm water up from the bottom of the lake. In the past, this has opened holes in the ice causing snow-

mobiles and cars to break through.

For more information on ice safety contact the MN DNR and ask for our free ice safety publications, which include the brochures, "Danger, Thin Ice" and "Cold Water Kills" and the wallet-sized reference card and 11X14 posters titled, "Minimum Recommended Ice Thicknesses." Metro (651) 296-6157 or toll free outside the metro area 1-888-646-6367 or email the Information Center at info.dnr@state.mn.us opens in a new browser tab.

For more information about surviving a fall into cold water, see the cold water dangers page of the DNR website.



\*\*\*\*\*

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## Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson,  
Minnesota State Patrol



### tires are still good?

Answer: Winter season is a good time to remind motorists about the importance of installing and maintaining good tires. Tires must be able to carry your vehicle's weight and grip the surface of the road properly. Inspect tires regularly for cuts, cracks, uneven wear, bald spots, bulges, and punctures. Carry a good spare tire and check its pressure often. Tires do not have as much traction on gravel or dirt roads as they do on concrete or asphalt roads. Tires have been known to lose up to 1 psi (pounds per square inch) every month. Check your tire pressure often and never drive with under-inflated tires.

• The vehicle's recommended tire pressure is located on a sticker inside the driver's door of your vehicle or in the owner's manual.

(continued on page 15)

**Question:** Winter is here. Can talk about tire safety and how a person can tell if their

## Commissioner Corner



**Todd Greseth**  
Goodhue County  
Commissioner  
District 3

I want to start off with a very Merry Christmas to everyone. There have been challenges this year, with our changing economy, with the increased cost of everything we at the county are working to keep the service that our citizens want and struggle to control the costs to our taxpayers. We did settle on a 3.49% levy over the 2024 budget. I know that some homes did see a reduction in their taxes for next year, this is due to increased values and added property.

I want to thank you all for voting for me this last November, even though I was the only one on the ballot. There will be challenges going into the next 2 years with our State legislatures so please be patient with all of us and please let us know if you have any questions, or concerns or if you feel you have a solution to a situation. Remember we are all in this together so keep informed, and do your own research. Sorry media, sometimes it is hard to believe what we are told.

Again, Merry Christmas and happy New Year to everyone.  
God Bless. Todd

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**Todd Greseth**  
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## Ask A Trooper

(continued from page 14)

- Check your tires before you've driven or at least three hours after you've driven your vehicle.
- Insert a pressure gauge into the valve stem on your tire. The gauge will show a measured

- psi.
- Compare the measured psi to the psi found on the sticker inside the driver's door or in the owner's manual. **DO NOT** compare to the psi on your tire's sidewall.
  - If the measured psi is above the number, let air out until it matches. If below, add air until it reaches the proper number.
  - Check your tires often for wear and damage problems. A tire is illegal if the tread is less than one-sixteenth of an inch deep. An easy way to check for wear is by using the penny test.
  - Take a penny and hold Abraham Lincoln's

- body between your thumb and forefinger.
- Select a point on your tire where the tread appears the lowest and place Lincoln's head into one of the grooves.
  - If any part of Lincoln's head is covered by the tread, you're driving with the legal and safe amount of tread. If your tread gets below that, your vehicle's ability to grip the road in adverse conditions is greatly reduced.
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related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson – Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us) Twitter: MSPPIO\_SOUTH

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&  
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