



# Mindekirken COMMUNICATOR

2024 March  
Issue 238#

*A Monthly Newsletter of the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church - ELCA*



*(Left) Hans Sandom posing with the Mindekirken church ship in progress*

*(Right) Intricate detail on the ship*



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**Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church**  
924 East 21st St., Minneapolis MN 55404-2952  
612-874-0716 | [mindekirken.org](http://mindekirken.org)  
Office Hours: 10 am - 3 pm Tuesday - Friday

# PASTOR'S HILSEN



## WHAT IS LENT FOR YOU?

We are in the Lent time now. To many people this means a time of the year when they try to be on a diet, and there are Christians who practice fasting also during Lent.

But this time is first and foremost a time for meditation, for reflection, and for following the steps of Jesus, from persecution to pain and death. All because of my sins, and because of your sins. So Lent should most of all be a time for gratitude, where we praise our Lord for what he did for me and for you.

And to be able to meditate over his way during Lent, we need silence and sometimes even solitude. In one of my sermons just before Lent, I referred to some research made by The University of California, San Diego. That research found that an average American is bombarded with 34 gigabytes every day, by

words, by reading, by news etc. And that is the same as 100 000 words, a little more than Tolkien's 'Hobbit', which has a little more than 95000 words. Is that not shocking? How can we be able to listen to the word of God, or to the words of Jesus in all this bombardment of words and images?

So maybe Lent should, first of all, be a time where we seek more solitude, more time for silence, so that we can be able to listen to the words of Jesus?

One of my friends in Norway, he is a well-known violinist, is practicing this every day. We need to live more slowly, he told me, so that we can be open for everything that does not shout so loudly.

The voice of Jesus does not shout. But his voice is the most important voice you can listen to. Give yourself a gift during this Lent, push away a lot of the other loud voices, so that you can listen to Jesus!

- Gunnar

## HYMN BLOG BY GRACIA GRINDAL

Gracia Grindal's *Hymnfortheday.com*, a blog on hymns and the text for the coming Sunday, has a brief devotional and lots of information of favorite hymns, many from the Nordic countries. Go to the site and scroll down to the bottom of the page and you will find out how to sign up to receive the blog every week. You can search for information on your favorite hymns on the site as well.

## MISSION OF THE MONTH

Connect with a Child ([connectwithachild.org](http://connectwithachild.org)) is a holistic care program in Kenya that provides education and support primarily to orphaned children. Mindekirken was blessed with a visit and concert by students in their Hakuna Matata choir just a few years ago. Our Mission of the Month gifts will support the well-being and future of Kenyan youth. Thank you for your generous Mindekirken Mission of the Month donations to our global and local organizations in need.



- Wendi S.

## Need Pastoral Care?

The Mindekirken pastoral care team wants to care for you and your family as you walk through life's celebrations and challenges.

Please contact Pastor Gunnar Kristiansen at [1gunnarkristiansen@gmail.com](mailto:1gunnarkristiansen@gmail.com) or call 651-955-5359, or the church office at 612-874-0716 if you are hospitalized, having surgery, or are in need of pastoral support.

## Have a Prayer Request?

Prayer requests can be emailed to: [pastor@mindekirken.org](mailto:pastor@mindekirken.org). All requests will remain confidential.

## HANS SANDOM



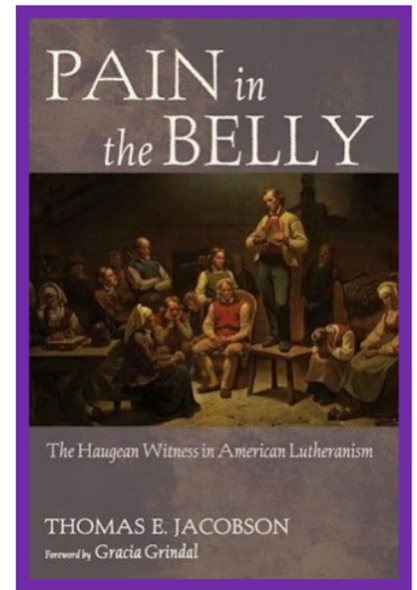
### HOW TO BUILD A CHURCH SHIP

The fellowship hall in Mindekirken was filled with people during TOH on February 6, when Hans Sandom was telling the story about how he is building the church ship, *Restaurasjonen*, for our sanctuary. Of course we wanted him to tell about his wood carving work as well, as you can see, he is a true master. People really enjoyed his story and his talents.

- Gunnar



Mindekirken has established a series of lectures or events on the three figures in our south facing windows: Martin Luther on Reformation Sunday, Saint Olav on Olsok, the anniversary of Olav's martyrdom at the battle of Stiklestad, and Hans Nielsen Hauge. This is the sixth year we have sponsored such a lecture. We are privileged to feature a lecture by Dr. Thomas (Tom) Jacobson. He gave one of our first lectures on the subject, and now he has a book published on Hauge's influence on the Norwegian pioneers in America. No one has done this work before—tracking the influence of a spiritual movement is something like tracking rainbows, but Pastor Jacobson has done a masterful job in his book. The lecture will reflect on the findings in his book which will be for sale after the lecture. Thomas serves currently as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Thornville, Ohio and as Assistant Professor of History at the Institute of Lutheran Theology. His area of focus is American Lutheran history, especially the Scandinavian-American Lutheran experience. He completed his Ph.D. in 2018, and his dissertation has now been published as a book entitled "Pain in the Belly: The Haugean Witness in American Lutheranism." He is married with three children.



## MINDEKIRKEN'S FAVORITE HYMNS



In 2024, Mindekirken is connecting with hymns like never before. We are learning, listening, singing ... and nominating hymns to become one of Mindekirken's Favorite Hymns. If you would like to nominate a hymn, please contact Erik Pratt at [hymns@mindekirken.org](mailto:hymns@mindekirken.org).

To listen to all of our currently-nominated hymns, please use this QR code to access our YouTube playlist "Mindekirken's Favorite Hymns – 2024 Nominations".

## SPOTLIGHT ON SUNDAY AT 10AM: INTRODUCTION TO WORSHIP IN NORWEGIAN

Sundays at 10am is a time for education and fellowship at Mindekirken. Our activities are free and open – no registration required. Our offerings follow a consistent monthly schedule. On the third Sunday of each month we have our Introduction to Worship in Norwegian class.

Have you ever felt like you wanted to better understand how our services are organized? Perhaps you want to learn about the history of the how we got to the services we have now. We address these questions and much more in our monthly Introduction class. Each class reflects a lesson about our services, but then is shaped by the questions and needs of the participants.

Typical classes include:

- \* Translating texts and key words used in the Norwegian service,
- \* Listening to the hymns to get familiar with the tunes
- \* Practice listening to texts to understand them 'by ear'
- \* History of where the service order came from and why it exists
- \* Questions and answers brought by participants

We hope to see you on March 17 – the third Sunday in March.



# MINDEKIRKEN FOUNDATION

The Mindekirken Foundation Board met February 7, 2024. The meeting was lead by Magne Hatlevik, president. The financials and market outlook were presented by John and Glenn Steinke, owners of GSInvestments, and Peter Storvick, Foundation Treasurer. As of February 2, 2024 the foundation fund has a value of \$1,411,467.

The board approved grant requests for 2023 totaling \$49,790.61

<b>Approved Items</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Mini-Split for Fellowship Hall/Sacristy	31,500
Cameras and Smoke Alarms	1280.65
Garden supplies - East side	86
Cabinets for Defibulators	500
Replace disposal - kitchen	4030.26
Laptops, monitors, file cabinet, printer, mice, office setup	3198.4
Microphones - Sanctuary	576
Rooftop Insurance Deductible Hail Damage	5000
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,171</b>

<b>Previously Approved</b>	
Defibulator	2960
Garden supplies - East side	659.61
<b>Previously Approved</b>	<b>3619.61</b>
	<b>46171</b>
<b>Total for 2023</b>	<b>49,790.61</b>

Total grant allocation for 2024 was approved for \$51,758.

As reported in the January Communicator the Foundation Julebord was a success and raised a total of \$4,186.44.

Thanks to generosity of our donors, the grants allow the church to do special projects and to maintain the church.

The Foundation annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday April 7, after church service.

- Prepared by Nancy Olson, board member

## TREASURER'S CORNER

***We are looking to fill the position of Treasurer.  
If you are interested contact Kris Grodahl, President of  
the Council or Nancy Olson, Trustee Chair***

Since we just had the annual meeting where the treasurer's report for 2023 was presented, along with the proposed budget for 2024, I will just give a summary of the year-end and the 2024 budget.

In budgeting for 2024 overall we used an increase of 3%, except for staff salaries, with an increase of 4%. Taken into consideration was the retirement of the full time office administrator, which decreased both the salary and benefits expense areas. We also hired a new bookkeeper to replace our retiring bookkeeper, and shifted some responsibility to the office administrator.

The 2023 actual expenses came in \$17,000 under the 2023 budget projections, which as I stated before, was mostly related to the retirement of the office administrator.

The 2024 budget expense came in at less than ½ of 1% under the 2023 year-end actuals.

- Nancy Olson, Trustee Chair

## TRUSTEES REPORT

We have a lot of projects that we are beginning to explore this year, from maintenance to enhancements to our systems, that will update us for doing business in the 21st century.

- Replacing the Odin server that is at the end of it's lifetime.
- New church website.
- New sound and camera system for Fellowship Hall.
- Loop System – enhance hearing experience, connecting hearing devices to audio system.
- Heating replacement system
- Clean tile floor and seal – bathrooms and kitchen
- Clean carpet – annex
- Clean and organize office
- Organize storage areas
- Continue sorting archives

Thank you to all council, staff and volunteers who help us get through each day. Special thanks to Magne Hatlevik who keeps trying to retire from his volunteer job, but who has been a resource for our technical support. I also found out he has been paying annually for a license for software allowing remote access, that many of us did not know about!

A special shout out to Herb Nelson, who has kept our books, and provided technical support, adding events to our website. Thanks for all your years of service. Watch for notice of church coffee to honor him.

- Nancy Olson, Trustee Chair

## IN REMEMBRANCE



**THELMA JOY**  
May 1 1928 -  
December 23 2023

Thelma Joy served Mindekirken as a member of the Tuesday Open House committee and also as TOH kitchen coordinator from 1999 to 2013 when she retired. She then joined TOH as a participant. Marilyn Sorensen remembers her questions were thought provoking and relevant to the topic.



**RUTH SYLTE**  
March 10 1960 -  
January 12 2024

Ruth's love of Norwegian culture led her to hardanger fiddling and Norwegian folkdancing. She shared her leadership skills by serving on church committees and community boards wherever she lived.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Volt + Potenza Duo: Edvard Grieg in Rome

Friday, March 1, 2024 // 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Concert at Mindekirken

As a nod to their Norwegian and Italian backgrounds, Volt + Potenza will highlight legendary Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg's time in Rome, including favorites from, In Autumn, Two Elegiac Melodies, and The Peer Gynt Suite.

Tickets and more info at [NorwayHouse.org](http://NorwayHouse.org)

### Venner Luncheon

Saturday, March 23, 2024 // 11 am at Mindekirken

One of our nice spring events is our Venner's luncheon. We will begin with a concert in the sanctuary, performed by the Mindekirken Band. Then we will go to Fellowship Hall, where our own Husmor, Charlotte, will serve *Fiskegrateng* (fish au gratin), a favorite dish in Norway. There is no charge for this event, but we will take a free will donation for our church ship that Hans Sandom is building.

Reservations required: [www.tinyurl.com/vennerluncheon](http://www.tinyurl.com/vennerluncheon) or scan QR code. No internet? Call the office (612) 874-0716 and select option 8. Contact the office with any questions.



Scan for Venner Luncheon Reservations

### Easter Brunch

Sunday, March 31, 2024 // 9:30 am at Mindekirken

\$15 (\$5 ages 13-19, free ages 12 & under, families \$30). Reservations required, pay at the door

### Lutefisk Dinner

Saturday, April 20, 2024 // at Mindekirken

Tickets available in late March - \$29 (\$10 ages 7-12, free ages 6 & under)

Presented by the Norwegian Men's Glee Club

Three seatings: 12:30, 2:00, 3:30

### Rømmegrøt Luncheon & Hauge Lecture

Saturday, April 27, 2024 // 12 pm Lunch, 1:30 pm Lecture at Mindekirken

Tickets available in late March - \$17 (\$7 ages 7-12, free ages 6 & under) Includes simple open-faced sandwiches, cookies, and coffee/tea

Followed by a lecture by Dr. Thomas Jacobson on Hans Nielsen Hauge's influence on the Norwegian pioneers in America (1:30 in the Sanctuary, see page 3 for more info)



Mindekirken

Norwegian Language & Culture Program

### VIL DU LÆRE NORSK?

Our winter session is winding down and we are excitedly making plans for our spring session. Registration opens on **March 1st** and classes will kick off on **March 25th**. Connect with us, learn more about our program and register for classes at <http://www.mnlcp.org> **Velkommen til oss!**

### SPOTLIGHT ON CLASSES

#### Roald Amundsen's Private Diary | ONLINE

The world-famous polar explorer Roald Amundsen, the first person to reach the South Pole, carefully cultivated his public image. He extensively documented his expeditions in his journals, anticipating each of them would be published. But he also kept a private diary, addressed to the married Englishwoman Kristine Elisabeth "Kiss" Bennett, whom he'd secretly loved for the past decade. The diary offers an intimate, humanizing, and sometimes unflattering glimpse into the life of the man behind the myth.

In this course, we will read and discuss Amundsen's diary. The participants will help shape the course based on their personal learning objectives and needs. Beginners are welcome. The diary itself is in Norwegian, and the instructor will provide English translations.



March 25th- June 3rd | 6pm-8pm CT



[www.mnlcp.org](http://www.mnlcp.org)



# TUESDAY OPEN HOUSE

## Wecome to TOH!

Please make an advance registration by visiting [tinyurl.com/tuesdayopenhouse](http://tinyurl.com/tuesdayopenhouse), or by calling the church office at (612) 874-0716 and pressing 7

Your \$10 donation is requested at the entrance to the Fellowship Hall.

## Schedule

10:30 a.m. Doors open  
11-11:30 Lunch served  
11:45 Announcements  
& Brief Devotion  
Program  
12-1

*Arrive early to find a seat, enjoy coffee, and socialize before lunch starts.*

## WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

In case of a snow event, please check webpage or call the office for any updates before coming.



## March 5

### Norway Art and the Work of Dr. Mary Jo Thorsheim Presenter: Max Stevenson and colleague

A special presentation from Norway House and The Norwegian American Newspaper about the new exhibit at Norway House featuring the work of Dr. Mary Jo Thorsheim.



## March 12

### Grandparents and Grandkids Connecting Presenter: Brenda Hudson

Brenda Hudson, PhD, is a teacher, editor, certified journal facilitator, author, and creative writer. She leads writing workshops at Norway House where participants create unique stories and books of themselves using journaling and book arts techniques. She has taught Grandparents and Grandchildren Heart to Heart: An intergenerational writing workshop; Memoir Writing; and Food Memories.



## March 19

### Immigrant Stories Presenter: Chad Filley

Cambridge, MN resident Chad Filley is a Scandinavian storyteller, high school history teacher, and standup comedian. After years of researching museum archives and newspaper articles, Chad has put together a one-of-a-kind storytelling program performing the stories of immigrants and their descendants in first-person accounts. These stories are compelling and often humorous. He even tells a couple of Scandinavian jokes and even a story or two about his Norwegian grandmother, Lily Filley.



## March 26

### Albert Quie - A Hero of Our Time Presenter: Joel Quie

Albert Quie modeled a life as a servant leader. Raised in a rural family and grounded in faith he left a legacy of love and purpose. His son Joel will share insights that made his father a role model and inspiration for countless people in his nearly 100 years of life. Joel Quie is a former ELCA pastor, happily retired and living in Eden Prairie, MN. He grew up in the Washington DC metro area as the fourth of five children of Albert and Gretchen Quie. He graduated from St. Olaf College with a major in Classical Languages. He and his wife, Sarah have three sons and four grandchildren. Since stepping away from ministry, Joel has claimed the Spanish word for retirement, 'Jubilation'. He has discovered weekends and the freedom to develop his many interests and talents.



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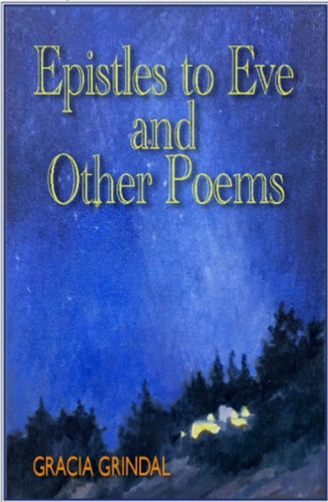
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## MINDEKIRKEN STAFF

### PASTOR

Gunnar Kristiansen  
[pastor@mindekirken.org](mailto:pastor@mindekirken.org)

### MUSIC STAFF

John De Haan: Choir/Music Director  
[dehaa006@umn.edu](mailto:dehaa006@umn.edu)

Steven Liening: Organist  
[organist@mindekirken.org](mailto:organist@mindekirken.org)

### OFFICE STAFF

Maggie Burr: Office Administrator  
[office@mindekirken.org](mailto:office@mindekirken.org)

Terry Parker: Facility Coordinator  
[terry@mindekirken.org](mailto:terry@mindekirken.org)

Curt Aaseng: Bookkeeper  
[bookkeeper@mindekirken.org](mailto:bookkeeper@mindekirken.org)

### PROGRAMS

Krista Schweppe: MNLCP Administrator  
[norsk@mnlcp.org](mailto:norsk@mnlcp.org)

Marilyn Sorensen: Tuesday Open House  
Coordinator  
[tuesdayopenhouse@mindekirken.org](mailto:tuesdayopenhouse@mindekirken.org)

Charlotte Breivik: Husmor (Kitchen  
Coordinator)  
[charlotte@mindekirken.org](mailto:charlotte@mindekirken.org)

## Mindekirken 2023 Congregational Council

### Executive Committee

Kris Grodahl, <i>President</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
Gracia Grindal, <i>Vice President</i>	Nancy Sand Olson, <i>Trustees Chair</i>
Jennifer Thue, <i>Secretary</i>	Nancy Watkins, <i>Deacons Chair</i>
Gunnar Kristiansen, <i>Pastor</i>	

### Trustees

Toby Hillmann  
Tom Lanman  
Tom Peterson  
Doug Watkins

### Deacons

Laurie Agrimson  
Erik Pratt  
Lyndelle Pratt  
Wendi Storhoff  
Ethan Bjelland

# March 2024

The Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church  
MINDEKIRKEN COMMUNICATOR  
924 E 21st St  
Minneapolis, MN 55404-2952

**Return Service Requested**

## MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**- March 3 -**

9 am English Service with Communion  
11 am Norwegian Service with Communion

**- March 10 -**

9 am English Service  
11 am Norwegian Service

**- March 17 -**

9 am English Service with Communion  
11 am Norwegian Service with Communion

**- March 24 -**

9 am English Service  
11 am Bilingual Family Service

**Holy Week:**

**- March 28 -**

**7 pm Maundy Thursday Service**

**- March 29 -**

**7 pm Good Friday Service**

**- March 31 -**

**Easter Sunday:  
11 am Bilingual Family Service**

## SUNDAYS AT 10

**- March 3 -**

**Sunday Forum:** Presenter Melanie LaPointe, from Community Emergency Services (CES). CES provides a food shelf and Meals on Wheels for our neighbors in need.

**- March 10 -**

**Mindekirken Tour for Everyone:** A monthly tour of Mindekirken covering church history, the building, and artwork.  
**Norskeklubben:** A free Norwegian class for children ages 5-12.

**- March 17 -**

**Introduction to Worship in Norwegian:** A class designed to help visitors and members alike better understand and participate in our Norwegian worship services.

**- March 24 -**

**Norwegian Pronunciation Practice:** Designed to help non-native Norwegian speakers with their pronunciation skills

### COMMUNICATOR MAILING

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