



Mindekirken COMMUNICATOR

A Monthly Newsletter of the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church - ELCA

2024 June
Issue 241#



SYTTENDE MAI 2024



Visit from the President of the Norwegian Parliament

Save the date: On **Sunday, July 7th** the President of the Norwegian Parliament, Masud Gharakhani, will be in Minneapolis and will join us for the worship service and kirkekafe at Mindekirken. We hope you can join us for the celebration!

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

PASTOR'S HILSEN



Being in Norway is quite fascinating in many ways. I am in Norway when I write this, to renew my visa.

First of all, it is interesting to

notice what can be news here. I read in a newspaper the other day some comments about how dangerous it is for our health that we change time, one hour ahead in the spring, and one hour back in the fall.

When we look into the world today, with all its challenges, it is actually fascinating that this topic can be news at all. But, as we say, it is much more important that your own goldfish dies than that ten thousand children die in Africa. And that news about our health seems to be quite narrow sighted.

I hope that we are not as narrow sighted when we look into the challenges for our Christian faith

today. When you ask young people, or children around the world, you will see that kids either do not care at all about religion, or some of them care so much that they might become dangerous, because they think that their god demands that they kill for what they believe is a just cause.

Maybe I can understand what a friend of me wrote on Facebook: If it had not been for Jesus, I might have become an atheist. The different religions just give me nothing.

Well, if that is true, we should really do something. Because we should live out the love and care of Jesus to every single person that we meet. I pray and hope that people like my Facebook friend can be able to see that the love of Jesus is still here, spread by us, his followers.

- 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



One of our local Minneapolis missions is Agate Housing and Services (agatemn.org). In 2021, House of Charity and St. Stephen's Human Services merged into Agate Housing and Services. This collaboration led to clients receiving more streamlined holistic services to address homelessness, food insecurity and more. Thank you for

your ongoing support designated to Mindekirken Mission of the Month through your offering or on-line giving.

- 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 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: 1gunnarkristiansen@gmail.com. All requests will remain confidential.

SPOTLIGHT ON SUNDAY'S 10 AM HOUR

You may know that, in general, Mindekirken has an interesting history, with beautiful architecture and artwork, but do you know anything specifically about these things?

Mindekirken's tours are an opportunity to walk through our history, while discovering details that make our community and building so special.

Our regularly-scheduled tours will continue on the second Sunday of each month during the summer, an hour before the Norwegian Gudstjeneste service. Spend a relaxed summer Sunday morning with us on a tour.

If you have guest from out-of-town and can't make it to a tour on the second Sunday of the month, please call the church office. We may be able to accommodate groups at other times with advanced planning.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Syttende Mai celebration, 2024 was a huge success; again thank you to the committee and volunteers, led by Nancy Olson.

We have not seen such a turnout since before the pandemic. Yes, the weather was perfect too. Children were enjoying time with each other, dancing and playing. Lilacs were in full bloom as I recall them at my first Mindekirken 17de mai in 1962.

Our special guests this year were Hårek Elvenes, a long-serving member of Norway's Parliament and Lori Ann Reinhall, Editor-in-chief of The Norwegian American Newspaper.

Norway and the United States have so much in common. Norway, a Constitutional Monarchy; USA, a Constitutional Republic, making both countries a democracy of which we can all be proud.



Photo: John Kaul

Lori Ann introduced the latest exhibit at www.norwayhouse.org, The Democracy Center. A visit to Eidsvoll two years ago, inspired her to share her experience there.

Members of the Ventura Village Neighborhood Association enjoyed a presentation of the Democracy Center by Lori Ann:



This year we honored two of our long-time church members as Grand Marshalls, Kari Fosse and Hans Sandom; Kari and family joined Mindekirken in the 1960's while Hans and family joined in the 1970's. Thank you to Nancy Olson's son for chauffeuring our honorees in his 1929 Ford. Noticed license plate: "SLIP".....Nickname for Nancy Sand Olson's dad who was lovingly known by the name in and around their home in South Minneapolis.



Best regards,

Kirsti Grodahl, Mindekirken Congregation President

ART & EXHIBITS COMMITTEE

Throughout the last 100 years Mindekirken has accumulated many photographs, works of arts and historical artifacts representing its history and cultural ties to Norway. What has now become a large collection has been arranged and displayed throughout the many available spaces throughout the church. You have no doubt walked by them in the foyer, along the hallways and staircases. You see them while sitting in the Fellowship Hall or in one of the other basement rooms: Oslo, Bergen or Nidaros. Yet as Mindekirken grows into the next century, space is required to provide a special place for rotating exhibits to engage viewers, providing information regarding its history, traditions and background information for upcoming events.

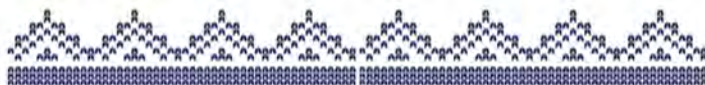
In response to a need to organize and plan exhibits as well as protect and preserve our present collections, the Art and Exhibits Committee has been established. This committee is being led by Erik Pratt and reports to the deacons. Its primary missions are as follows:

1) Conduct an inventory of our present collection and mechanism for preservation. Where and when were these pictures or objects obtained? What do they represent? How can we assure that they are protected? All pictures and documents will be scanned and saved. A procedure of how to store and protect pictures that may be temporarily removed for a display is under development.

2) Develop an ongoing rotation of special exhibits to highlight upcoming celebrations and to enhance self guided tours of the church. A few ideas for special exhibits might include a history of Mindekirken in photos, immigrant faces, Norwegian immigrants through 200 years, descendants of immigrants, who is our neighbor and Christianity and churches in Norway.

3) Develop a mechanism to coordinate with other committees within the church who have needs for permanent and temporary signage.

Ideas and suggestions from members of the congregation are welcomed. Please note that the hallway outside of the Fellowship Hall has the first temporary exhibit of Mindekirken's Syttende Mai festivals. The pictures that were removed to provide space for this exhibition are being prepared for scanning and storage.



Mindekirken's Salmer

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. 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".



< You can listen to all of our nominated hymns on our dedicated YouTube playlist. Please use this QR code to access "Mindekirken's Favorite Hymns - 2024 Nominations".



< You can also listen to all of the hymns in the Norsk Salmebok with this QR code

TRUSTEES REPORT



I am very pleased to announce that we have filled our part-time volunteer/program coordinator position. She was in our own backyard! Welcome to Synneva Bratland (pictured), who started on May 13. Synneva is a language instructor for the Mindekirken Norwegian Language and Culture Program. Synneva also works part time for Norway House's newspaper, The Norwegian American. She is a graduate of St Olaf College and spent a year attending Follo Folkehøgskole in Norway. Synneva also attended and worked at Skogfjorden for many years. She is fully immersed in the Norwegian community. Please welcome her when you see her!

I want to express thanks for the requests that we made to the Mindekirken Foundation that were approved at their April board meeting:

- Mini-split for hallway near kitchen - \$3,500 – improve comfort level in lower level.
- Thermostats were added for the two mini-splits that were installed in 2022 in the Sanctuary - \$1000 to better manage comfort level.
- Chain link fence installed to protect condenser units for mini-splits installed in Fellowship Hall, Kitchen and Sacristy - \$2,800 – secure from theft and vandalism.

We are continuing to work on a number of projects, that were reported in the May Communicator and have no new updates. Summer is a quiet time in the church. I anticipate we will be able to take a number of items off of our list.

MINDEKIRKEN FOUNDATION

The Mindekirken Foundation Board first quarter meeting was held April 24, 2024. The financials were reviewed and the GS investment advisors reported on the investment portfolio. Fund raising was discussed. A joint fundraising letter was sent at the end of the year with the church's year end giving letter. The Julebord that was held in January, for the first time at Norway House, has also been a good fund raiser for the foundation and the foundation is planning on doing it again in January 2025. Grants to the church totaled \$49,791 in 2023. Please consider a donation to the Mindekirken Foundation. Adrian Wear is the new Treasurer, taking over from Peter Storvick, whose term ended. Margy Sather Peterson is a new board member.



Mindekirken
Norwegian Language & Culture Program

Join us on a language adventure!

Language classes meet for 2 hours a week for 10 weeks.
We offer three 10-week terms per year.

2024/2025 Term Start Dates:

Fall - September 9th

Winter - January 6th

Spring - March 24th



Connect with us, learn more about our program and register for classes at <http://www.mnlcp.org> **Velkommen til oss!**



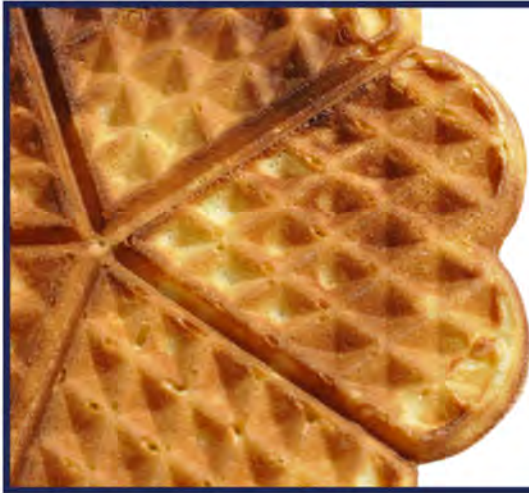
SYTTENDE MAI CELEBRATION

Mange takk to all of our volunteers, and to all of you who came out to celebrate!



SYTTENDE MAI CELEBRATION





Tuesday Open House Seminar: Norwegian Immigration to North America

June 25, 2024, 9:00 am to approximately 3:30 pm (doors open at 8:30 am for coffee)

Location: Mindekirken, The Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church, Fellowship Hall

924 East 21st Street, Minneapolis, MN

Suggested Donation of \$25 (includes presentations, lunch and coffee breaks)

This year we are in preparation for the bicentennial for the 200th anniversary of the first organized group from Norway to North America. Some may not know that the Norwegians were great colonizers and have traveled many places in the world long before 1825 and the ship Restauration.

This seminar will explore the arrivals beginning with the Vikings and moving toward the settling of Norwegians in Canada and the United States. Some of the arrival times are surprising and those after 1825 came in waves. Topics will address the first arrivals together with some narrative history of women who arrived during the Colonial Era. This will be followed by immigration waves and how they traveled in sailing ships and steamships. The seminar will close with a panel addressing various times and how our immigrants assimilated into American Society.

Tentative Schedule:

8:30-9:00 am Coffee

9:00 Welcome

9:15 Early Arrival of Norwegians in North America

10:30 Life and Loves Immigrant Norwegian Women During the Colonial Era

11:45 Light Norwegian style lunch

1:00 Immigration after 1825

2:15 Panel: Norwegian Assimilation into an American Culture

3:30 Seminar Closes

**Registration requested: Visit www.tinyurl.com/summertoh
or scan the QR code to register and pay for the event**



JUNE CALENDAR

Mindekirken - Minneapolis MN, Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church's Calendar

Jun 2024 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	28	30	31	1
9am - English Service with 11am - Norwegian Service	3	4	5	10am - Staff Meeting - Zoom 6:15pm - MNLCP class - In-	7	10am - MNLCP Class
9	10	11	12	10am - Staff Meeting - Zoom 9pm - Trustees meeting	14	10am - MNLCP Class
9am - English Service 10am - Mindekirken Tour 11am - Norwegian Service 12pm - Special Kirkekaffe:	17	18	19	5pm - Technology Committee	21	22
9am - English Service with 11am - Norwegian Worship	6:30pm - Executive Council	6:30pm - Council Meeting	20	10am - Staff Meeting - Zoom	28	28
9am - English Service 11am - Norwegian Service	9am - TOH Summer Session	25	26	10am - Staff Meeting - Zoom	28	28
11am - Bilingual Family	1	2	3	4	5	8

NORWAY HOUSE

Discount to Cookie Decorating Classes - Baker Amy Decker will be teaching cookie decorating classes at Norway House on Thursday, June 13 from 10:30 to 12:30 and on Saturday, June 15 from 10:30 to 12:30. Since cookie baking is such an integral part of Minderkirken's Christmas fundraising, we'd like to extend our member discount to our neighbors on the Norway Block. The price is \$40 for Norway House and Mindekirken members and associates. General admission price is \$45.

Class details are on the Norway House website calendar (www.norwayhouse.org). The discount will show when registering. If you have any questions, please email classes@norwayhouse.org.



BABY SHOWER

On June 30, 2024 we will have a special Kirkekaffe (immediately following the Family Service) honoring Senna Starr and Jeffrey Kobus who are expecting a baby boy in early August. Lynndelle and Erik Pratt are the excited grandparents and Annelise will be an auntie! Gifts are welcome, though optional. Senna and Jeffrey are registered at Target and Amazon. Let's warmly welcome this little one!



MINDEKIRKEN WEEKLY



Want more Mindekirken? Scan the QR code or contact the office to sign up for our weekly emails and stay up to date!

Sign up can also be found on the front page of our website: "Mindekirken Email Signup"

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

Interested in volunteering during a Sunday worship service? Please visit tinyurl.com/mindekirkensunday or scan the QR code on the right to sign up for a slot.



MINDEKIRKEN STAFF

PASTOR

Gunnar Kristiansen
pastor@mindekirken.org

MUSIC STAFF

John De Haan: Choir/Music Director
dehaa006@umn.edu

Steven Liening: Organist
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Krista Schweppe: MNLCP Administrator
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Marilyn Sorensen: Tuesday Open House Coordinator
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Charlotte Breivik: Husmor (Kitchen Coordinator)
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OFFICE STAFF

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Terry Parker: Facility Coordinator
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Curt Aaseng: Bookkeeper
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Synneva Bratland: Volunteer Coordinator & Program Development
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To help support this publication, space is available to share your business card with over 1800 subscribers in your target market! We ask for a donation of \$50 per issue or \$140 for 3 months.

Email office@mindekirken.org for more information.

HOSTFEST 2024 ... join the Daughters of Norway Pauline Fjelde Lodge #51 for a fun four-day coach tour Sept. 25-28. 3 nights hotel, transportation, breakfast, two lunches, stops at Hjenkomst & Runestone Museum. Contact Susan Anderson at 952-393-8707 or susondrew@yahoo.com. \$830-\$610 depending upon number of travelers.



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Minneapolis, MN 55417-2068

Charlotte Breivik
612.408.7449

Save the date:

Ski for Light 50th Anniversary Gala
October 12, 2024



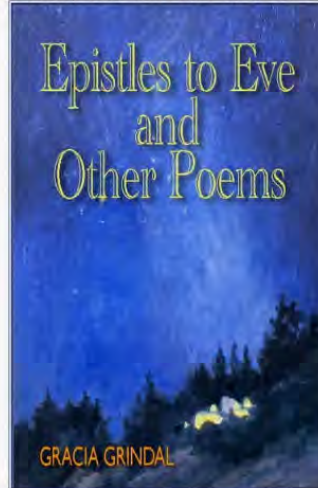
SKI FOR LIGHT, INC.

1975 – 2025

Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime celebration at Norway House in Minneapolis! Ski for Light has taught thousands of people with visual or mobility impairments how to cross-country ski. Come enjoy blasts from the past, success stories of the present, and dreams for the future. There will be special guests, messages from around the world, renewed friendships, music, and marvelous food. Ticket information coming soon. Questions? Call 612-239-0447, or visit SFL.org.

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After publication, the retail price will increase to \$22.99, so order your copy now.

ADVANCE ORDER SHIPS MAY 10, 2024



Gracia Grindal

WWW.FINISHINGLINEPRESS.COM

Mindekirken 2024 Congregational Council

Executive Committee

Kris Grodahl, *President*
Gracia Grindal, *Vice President*
Jennifer Thue, *Secretary*
Gunnar Kristiansen, *Pastor*

Treasurer
Nancy Sand Olson, *Trustees Chair*
Nancy Watkins, *Deacons Chair*

Trustees

Toby Hillmann
Tom Lanman
Tom Peterson
Doug Watkins

Deacons

Laurie Agrimson
Erik Pratt
Lynndelle Pratt
Wendi Storhoff

June 2024

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

Return Service Requested

JUNE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- June 2 -

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

- June 9 -

9 am English Service
11 am Norwegian Service

- June 16 -

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

- June 23 -

9 am English Service
11 am Norwegian Service

- June 30 -

11 am Bilingual Family Service

SUNDAYS AT 10

- June 9 -

Mindekirken Tour for Everyone: Please join us on our monthly scheduled tour of Mindekirken. The tour covers church history, the building and artwork. Visitors, guests and long-time members will all find this enjoyable and informative. (Tours are provided on the second Sunday of each month.)

Sundays at 10 programming will return in September

**In July & August, we will have only
one service (bilingual) at 10 am**

COMMUNICATOR MAILING

If you would like to receive an emailed copy of the Communicator in lieu of the mailed paper edition, please contact office@mindekirken.org. The Communicator is also available on our website, along with past editions.

Please also contact office@mindekirken.org or call (612) 874-0716 for any address changes or requests.