



Mindekirken COMMUNICATOR

2024 May
Issue 240#

A Monthly Newsletter of the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church - ELCA



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



DOES OUR HEAVENLY FATHER CARE?

Maybe we all ask ourselves that question from time to time. Because when we look around, we

can see so much evil and so much pain. And sometimes that pain also hits us. We don't always feel that life is treating us too good.

But, as one wise man once said, it is also a lot of love and care around us, it looks like our heavenly Father has made it so that we can also feel that. I have read a stunning story about how widespread love can be. It is from the island of Røst, one of the Lofoten islands in Norway.

Some years ago some bird scientists did an interesting test. There are bird mountains there, with hundreds of thousands of birds who are nesting there. They took an egg from one of the nests a couple of days before it was ready to hatch,

and they also marked the bird mother with a ring.

When the little baby bird came out, they kept it for a few days, then they brought it back to the bird mountain and put it far away from its mother's nest. The little baby bird started to make some sounds, and after a little while they could see a mother bird, with a ring around one of her feet, flying straight to the baby bird, and bringing it safely to her nest.

Is not this amazing? God has made it so that even a bird mother is so filled with love and care for her baby that she can hear its particular sound from hundreds of thousands of other bird sounds.

To me it is a proof that the ultimate power is love. And if our heavenly Father has initiated that love into even a small creature like a bird, I feel certain that he has an abundance of love for all of us!

- 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

Pastor Gunnar founded and oversees a humanitarian aid organization in Bohol, Philippines which has a profound impact on improving lives. Mindekirken is the main supporter of [ihelpfriendship](http://ihelpfriendship.com) (www.ihelpfriendship.net) and our contributions are crucial for meals, education, medicine, and mental health support. Please give generously to Mindekirken Mission of the Month on our website or earmark your offering. Tusen takk!

- Wendi S.



iHelpFriendship

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

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 first Sunday of each month we have our Sunday Forum.

"The Man in the Window: The Hymns of Hans Nilsen Hauge"

This year is the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's first hymnal and the 200th anniversary of the death of Hans Nilsen Hauge. Mindekirken's founding members included images of both of these men, along with Saint Olaf, in the stained glass windows in the back of the church.

As a postlude to our annual Hauge lecture on April 27 (which this year focuses on how Hauge's work impacted American's Norwegian immigrant community) our May 5 Sunday Forum will tie together the anniversaries of Lutheran hymnody and Hauge's ministry.

The title of this forum, "The Man in the Window", recognizes that of the three people in the window, Hauge is the one that people are least likely to recognize. Our forum will continue to shed light on Hauge by featuring the music of his ministry and of his times, including hymns written by Hauge himself. Please join us for this special forum, presented by Gracia Grindal.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Hipp Hipp Hipp Hurra for Syttende Mai
Gratulerer dere alle sammen med
Grunnlovsdagen (Constitution Day)*

*Today they call it Nasjonaldagen
(Norway's National day), celebrating the
signing of Norway's constitution on the
17th of May at Eidsvoll, Norway.*



Here, at Mindekirken, we celebrate in much of the same way as they do in Norway. Main focus is on the children to make this a memorable day for them.

Thanks very much to Nancy Olson, Chair of Syttende Mai committee, who has agreed to lead the team once again. Nearly 100% of last year's volunteers have signed up for their favorite task. We are grateful to all of you!



Pastor Gunnar will be in Norway during our celebration, finalizing his Visa extension. We will miss him, that is for sure. Thankfully, Dr. Arden Haug, Pastor at Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church, will be leading the 11:00 worship service. Please join us in the Sanctuary at 10:30 for the annual prelude concert!

Mindekirken tour requests are coming in and we are always grateful for advance notice. Have any interest in being a member of team giving tours of our church? If so, please send an email to office@mindekirken.org or call office at 612-874-0716 (press 3) to let us know of your interest. The Arts and Exhibit committee, led by Erik Pratt, is in full swing developing Mindekirken's new tour experience program for our guests to enjoy.

QUOTE from Gracia Grindal: "May is the month of Ascension, usually Pentecost, and springtime. Let the fresh breezes of Pentecost and our Lord's gifts to us in His word continue to enliven you as you relish your faith tradition at Mindekirken."



*Kirsti Grodahl,
Mindekirken Congregation President*



HOME GROUPS

Hilsen Mindekirken Hjemmegrupper!

If you have an interest in taking part in the Mindekirken Community, you already belong to a Mindekirken home group in your neck of the woods of the metro and suburban areas of the Twin Cities! There is no need to be a member of Mindekirken, just an interest in getting to know more about the fellow attendees of the church in a more informal setting.

The feedback was so positive about our Mindekirken home groups in February. It is already time to make the plans for the next time to meet. Please contact your home group leader directly to answer questions and receive logistics for a gathering in early June. If you already attended a home group, you will be contacted by your home group leader. This time the individual leaders are coordinating the logistics, dates, and times for the home groups. The home groups are divided into quadrants of the Twin Cities using Highway 94 East and West intersecting with Highway 35W to inform you of your location.

For those living in:

NW quadrant, please email Kim Berg at olesmom@comcast.net

NE quadrant, please email Laurie Agrimson at agrihowell@gmail.com

SW quadrant, please email Inger Stenseth at ingerkstenseth@gmail.com

SE quadrant, please email Wendi Storhoff at wendistorhoff@aol.com

All are welcome! Most groups preferred to continue a potluck styled dinner where the main meal and beverages will be provided. Please bring a salad or dessert. There is also room to be creative and have your group meet at a venue picked out by your group leader. Please call Maggie at the Mindekirken office if you are unable to email group leader or have more questions at 612-874-0716. Tusen takk!

WEEKLY EMAIL SIGN UP



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"

CHURCH SHIP



The ship is getting ready for our sanctuary in Mindekirken.

Just look how wonderful our church ship is now! Our plan is to have a dedication for the ship on Sunday October 6, during the first service of LEIF (Leif Eriksson International Festival) this year. I hope you will save the date.

- Gunnar



Our bookkeeper for the last nine years, Herb Nelson, has retired from his position. We had a nice thank- you party for him (by the staff) Tuesday April 16.

Thanks Herb for all your work!



TRUSTEES REPORT

Due to our early deadline for articles for the Communicator, last month I anticipated that some items were going to be installed before last month end. We are at the mercy of schedules for people that we hire, and sometimes work has to be moved. With that said, I will report on where we are at now at mid-month:

- One defibrillator installed.
- No Trespassing signs waiting to be installed.
- Six outside cameras installed, one inside camera to be installed.
- 22 smoke detectors installed.
- TV monitor installed in annex lobby, slide show started (programs and other displays will be added).
- West door weatherstripping installed. This door is scheduled to be replaced.
- Flag holders reinforced.
- Hymnal cabinet repaired.
- Waste dispenser installed in first floor bathroom.
- Fence enclosure installed to protect the new Fellowship Hall mini splits condenser units.

The Technology Committee is working on adding base extenders to increase WI-Fi reception. We are still waiting on Norway House, which has had delays in installing their new phone system, which will free up conduit for Mindekirken to add fiber optics. Other options are being explored, depending on the timing. We are also working with Magne Hatlevik to replace outdated server and split with Mindekirken Foundation.

We are continuing to explore options for lighting in Sanctuary, changing the high lights in front to LED's and angling some of the lights to illuminate the painting that was installed on side front wall.

We are obtaining proposals for the hanging of the ship, *Restoration*, that Hans Sandom is building for the Sanctuary. We are obtaining proposals for audio enhancement for the Sanctuary and for the Fellowship Hall, including a new projector, speakers, and cameras for recording events.

We are still looking for a Program/Volunteer Coordinator.

It will be all hands on deck for our annual celebration of Syttende Mai on May 19. Contact Nancy Olson at norskheart@aol.com if you are willing to volunteer.

- Submitted by Nancy Olson, Chair of the Trustees



Mindekirken

Norwegian Language & Culture Program

VIL DU LÆRE NORSK?

Our spring session is underway with more than 100 students from across fifteen states! Whether you are just beginning your journey or hoping to take your language skills to the next level, we invite you to check out our offerings to find a class that is a perfect fit for you.

LANGUAGE

Norwegian language classes are the heart of our program. Each trimester, we offer a range of classes for beginning learners to those that are more advanced. **Cost: \$240 for ten, two-hour sessions**

LITERATURE

Through a variety of literary genres, students build vocabulary, practice grammar and develop their conversational Norwegian skills. **Cost: \$240 for ten, two-hour sessions**

KVINNEKOR

We are excited to share that after a brief hiatus MNLCP's **Kvinnekor** will resume rehearsals in fall 2024! Kvinnekor draws together women who share an interest in Norway and choral music. **Please check back for details about rehearsal times & cost.**



Mindekirken norskeklubben is a Norwegian language and culture group for kids around ages 5 to 12 that explores the theme *sanger og fortellinger* (songs and stories). With an informal structure, activities may include games, songs, art projects, and dramatic play.

Registration is required, but it is **FREE** to attend.

Sundays, 10:00 am - 11:30 am



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



TUESDAY OPEN HOUSE

Welcome to TOH!

Please make an advance registration by visiting 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.



May 7

Journey of Visible Strength and Hidden Scars

Presenter: Shegitu Kebede

Come to hear of Norway's connection to Ethiopia. Years ago, Shegitu Kebede, knew first hand of Norwegians sharing their Christian faith and love. Shegitu and her brothers were adopted by a Norwegian Nurse serving as missionary in Ethiopia. She puzzled when her adopted Mother would leave her in the care of Icelandic missionaries for a time. She would learn that her Mom was returning to Norway to share the stories of the mission and gain further support. Hear her tell of the horror of war tearing her family apart; resulting in the loss of her brothers and her placement in a refugee camp. Her escape and rescue by Lutherans in MN would bring her to a new beginning. Those early roots of faith and love live on now as she returns to Ethiopia and provide care today. Two of her brothers were killed during the revolution. Another brother is operating "Etiopiapisc" a very popular Ethiopian restaurant in Stavanger Norway.



May 14

Albert Quie - A Hero of Our Time

Presenter: Joel Quie

**rescheduled from March* - 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.



May 21

Syttende Mai and Eidsvoll

Presenter: Lori Ann Reinhall

Lori Ann Reinhall, editor-in-chief of The Norwegian American, was inspired when she visited Eidsvoll, Norway, in 2022.

At Eidsvoll, both adults and children can learn about the history of the Norwegian Constitution signed there on May 17, 1814. Lori Ann learned so much there and was so impressed by all that she experienced that she wanted to create a "democracy center" to share with her readers, their children and grandchildren, and families and children anywhere.

An exhibit and a children's activity corner took shape at Norway House, running May 2 – July 28, with sponsor partnership from the Ventura Village Neighborhood Association.

TOH will take a break from weekly programs during the summer months, with the exception of the June Summer Seminar, and will start again in September

Thank you all for attending Tuesday Open House this year. We feel it has been very successful and have welcomed all the support provided by our Food Crew, Planning Committee and all volunteers who have helped in so many ways. This programs success is due to everyone who has attended and all the helpers.

Lunches have been great and so have the programs. We are so fortunate there are so many people to choose from and we always learn.

TUESDAY OPEN HOUSE SUMMER SEMINAR

There will be one more event before we close altogether until September. This will be our Tuesday Open House Summer Seminar. Mark your calendars for **June 25, 2024**. The topic will be "Norwegian Immigration to North America". There were many Norwegians who came during the Colonial era to the Eastern part of our country and made significant contributions to our country. Then, the major immigration began in 1825 and throughout the 19th and early 20th century. Look for more information on the web page and also registration information. It will be an all-day session with at least four speakers and a Norwegian style lunch served.

- Marilyn Sorensen, Chair TOH



NORWEGIAN AUTHOR ELLEN HOFSPØ VISITING TOH



We were so lucky to have the Norwegian author Ellen Hofspø visiting us for TOH April 9.

She talked about her fascinating book, *Messe for de navnløse* (Mass for the Nameless), where she tells stories from the 17th century and from our own time about how much Sami people and Sami religion have been suppressed.

Thanks for your visit, Ellen!



NORDIC MIDSUMMER FEST

Nordic Midsummer Fest is a celebration of Nordic culture and heritage. The festival features traditional Nordic food, music, dance, and crafts. There will also be a variety of activities for children, including face painting, and games. The festival is a great opportunity to learn about Nordic culture and to enjoy a day of fun and festivities.

Buck Hill in Burnsville, MN
Saturday, June 1 - 11 am-6 pm
www.nordicmidsummerfest.com
Free Parking

2024 Syttende Mai Celebration



Each year **Syttende Mai Minnesota** hosts a banquet and reception in honor of Norway's Constitution Day. Join us for this year's event on **Friday, May 17** at **Norway House** as we celebrate the **20th Anniversary** of their founding!

Our program will feature **The Honorable Hårek Elvenes**, a distinguished member of the Norwegian Parliament representing the Conservative Party (Høyre), and **Lori Ann Reinhall**, Editor-in-Chief of The Norwegian American. They will discuss the role of the media in protecting freedom of speech and the press, an essential element of a vibrant democracy.

Reserve your tickets before **May 9** at: www.norwayhouse.org/17mai



Celebrate Norway's Constitution Day on SUNDAY MAY 19 - SYTTENDE MAI

Join us for a festival worship service, *folketog* parade, music & entertainment, photo booth, informational tables, food, and special activities for children. All are welcome! *Velkommen!*

In the church sanctuary:

- no 9 am service on this date
- 10:30 am Prelude Concert
- 11:00 am Festgudstjeneste/Festival Worship Service with guest Pastor Dr. Arden Haug
- Concluding with the mass choir of the **Norwegian Glee Club of Minneapolis** and **Mindekirken Choir** joining together for Grieg's *Landkjenning*

On the street:

- 12:00 pm *Folketog* (Walking Parade) with flags around the neighborhood- about an eight block loop
- Groups in the spirit of celebrating Norway are encouraged to bring their banner to carry in the parade



In the church parking lot:

- 1:00 pm Picnic Lunch - featuring *varme pølser* (hotdogs), chips, brus (soda), is (ice cream), and kaffe (coffee)
- Donation requested of \$5 cash or \$6 using credit card per adult
- Children eat free!

Throughout the afternoon on the church grounds:

- Activities and gift bags for children
- Daughters of Norway Pauline Fjelde #51 will be making runic letter name badges for the children
- Music and folk dancing
- Photo booth
- Informational tables from the Mindekirken Norwegian Language & Culture Program (MNLCP), Concordia Language Villages/Skogfjorden, Daughters of Norway, and more!
- Visit the Norway House Galleri and Ingebretsen's Gift Shop (located across the parking lot, 12 - 4 pm)

Parking Information

The church lot is for handicap parking only. Please arrange to carpool or use public transportation if able.

Parking is available in the lot of The Good Bread Company, at the NE corner of Franklin & 10th (diagonal from the church) and the PPL lot (off Franklin between 10th & 11th). Street parking is also available. Please remember to remove all valuables from your car.





2024 Grand Marshalls

Grand Marshalls **Kari Fosse and Hans Sandom** will be riding in a 1929 Ford Model A (the year the church was built)

Pictured on the left: 2023 Grand Marshalls John Dalland and Gracia Grindal



CONCORDIA LANGUAGE VILLAGES

Concordia Language Villages is excited to be part of the Syttende Mai festivities again this year at Mindekirken. Staff and villagers from Skogfjorden, the Norwegian Language Village, will have fun and games for all ages at their booth. See if you can learn a few Norwegian words by spinning the language wheel! Skogfjorden has been offering language and culture immersion for thousands of learners in Bemidji, MN for 60 years. Along with our villagers and camp staff we'll also have volunteers from Village Parks, a collaboration between Concordia Language Villages and the Minneapolis Park Board. The teens who participate in Village Parks come from Minneapolis high schools and meet weekly throughout the school year as they learn about the languages and cultures of our city. In the summer they all get to go to camp to learn one of the 13 languages offered in summer sessions. 2 of them are going to Skogfjorden!

NORWAY'S NATIONAL ANTHEM

*Ja, vi elsker dette landet,
som det stiger frem,
furet, værbitt over vannet,
med de tusen hjem.
Elsker, elsker det og tenker
på vår far og mor
og den saganatt som senker
drømmer på vår jord.*



Join the Parade Band!

To all musicians - an open call to all marching instrumentalists - The Syttende Mai Parade Band will march again! Mindekirken (The Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church) in Minneapolis is celebrating Norway's Constitution Day on Sunday, May 19th. Bring your instrument and lyres, we can supply the sight-readable music (and an assortment of lyres if you need one). Dress for marching (red, white, & blue is great) and fun! Bunads (Norwegian national costumes) are welcomed. Off-site parking only.

Schedule for musicians in the band:

Optional rehearsal (for those that feel they need it) on Saturday, May 18, at 10 am in the sanctuary at Mindekirken. You must let us know if you want this rehearsal. PDF music is available by request in advance.

Performance: We meet on Sunday May 19 at Mindekirken in the downstairs Oslo room by 11:15 for a short warm-up. Cases may be left here. Parking will be tight- see website or call for overflow parking locations (if needed). We will proceed outside to the street at 11:45 to be in place by 12 ready to start the parade when given the signal. Done by 1 pm (8 blocks walking flag parade). Complimentary picnic lunch to all musicians following parade performance at the church! Picnic entertainment includes folk music, folk dancers, games, and socializing. Please notify Maggie at the church office (office@mindekirken.org, 612-874-0716) or Kari (kariuc@icloud.com) that you will be coming so we can have music ready for you.



DEMOCRACY CENTER AT NORWAY HOUSE

The inspiration for this project was sparked when the editor-in-chief of The Norwegian American, Lori Ann Reinhall, visited Eidsvoll, Norway, in 2022.

At Eidsvoll, both adults and children can learn about the history of the Norwegian Constitution signed there on May 17, 1814. Our editor learned so much there and was so impressed by all that she experienced that she wanted to create a “democracy center” to share with her readers, their children and grandchildren, and families and children anywhere.

An exhibit and a children’s activity corner took shape at Norway House in Minneapolis (May 2 – July 28) —and the same program can be enjoyed everywhere online.

More at www.democracy.norwegianamerican.com



The 1855 painting “The National Assembly at Eidsvoll 1814” by Oscar Wergeland depicts the signing of the Norwegian Constitution.

EASTER AT MINDEKIRKEN

Thanks to all who attended our påskedag service last month! It was a treat to have so many dear friends together. Charlotte (*husmor*, pictured below with Kari) and Mary served a delicious breakfast with help from volunteers. Thank you to all!



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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 Hjemkomst & Runestone Museum. Contact Susan Anderson at 952-393-8707 or susondrew@yahoo.com. \$830-\$610 depending upon number of travelers.



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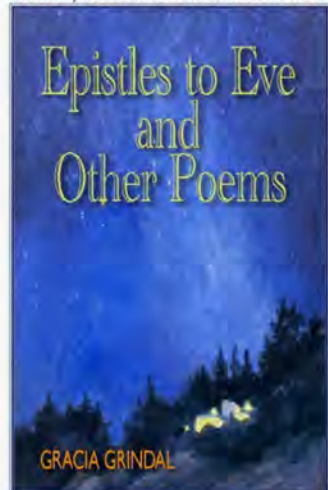
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May 2024

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

Return Service Requested

MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- May 5 -

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

- May 12 -

9 am English Service
11 am Norwegian Service

- May 19 - Syttende mai -

10:30 am Prelude Concert
11 am Syttende Mai Festival Worship
12 pm Parade and Festivities
12:30 pm Picnic Lunch & Entertainment

- May 26 -

11 am Bilingual Family Service
Memorial Day Sanggudstjeneste / Hymns

Our monthly 11am bilingual Family Service will be dedicated to music and singing. Did you know that starting with Martin Luther, Lutheran services were known primarily for their singing? In honor of the 500th Anniversary of the first Lutheran hymnal, and Mindekirken's year of learning about hymns and voting on our favorites, we are reflecting our Lutheran heritage with a special hymns service, called **Sanggudstjeneste** in Norwegian. Please join us for this special service to begin your summer on a high note.

SUNDAYS AT 10

- May 5 -

Sunday Forum: "The Man in the Window: the Hymns of Hans Nilsen Hauge". As a postlude to our Hauge lecture on April 27, please join us for our May Sunday Forum where Gracia Grindal will explore the hymns of Hauge and his times. (Sunday Forums are provided on the first Sunday of each month.)
Norskeklubben: Would your children like to learn Norwegian? Norske Klubben is a free Norwegian class for children ages 5-12. For more information and registration, visit <https://mnlcp.org/>.

- May 12 -

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.)

- May 19 -

No 10am programs because of Syttende mai celebration.

- May 26 -

No 10am programs because of Memorial Day.

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.