



# Mindekirken COMMUNICATOR

A Monthly Newsletter of the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church - ELCA

2024 April  
Issue 239#

## Lutefisk Dinner Spring 2024

Presented by The Norwegian Glee Club of Minneapolis



**Saturday, April 20 at Mindekirken**  
**924 E 21st St, Minneapolis MN 55404**  
**Three seatings: 12:30, 2:00, 3:30**

\$29 (\$10 ages 7-12, free ages 6 & under)

For tickets, scan QR code or visit  
[tinyurl.com/mindekirkenlutefisk](http://tinyurl.com/mindekirkenlutefisk)

No internet? Call the office (612) 874-0716 and  
press 8 for the reservation line

## Spring Rømmegrøt Luncheon 2024

Presented by Mindekirken's Alle Kvinner Mission

**Saturday, April 27 at Mindekirken**  
**924 E 21st St, Minneapolis MN 55404**  
**at 12:00 pm**

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

For tickets, scan QR code or visit  
[www.tinyurl.com/mindekirkengrot](http://www.tinyurl.com/mindekirkengrot)  
No internet? Call the office (612) 874-  
0716 and press 8 for the reservation line



## Hauge Lecture

Presented by by Dr. Thomas Jacobson

**Saturday, April 27 at Mindekirken**  
**924 E 21st St, Minneapolis MN 55404**  
**at 1:30 pm**

This year's lecture will be presented by  
Dr. Thomas Jacobson, author of "Pain in  
the Belly: The Haugean Witness in  
American Lutheranism", about Hauge's  
influence on Norwegian American  
Lutherans in America

Free, no reservations required. Copies of  
Dr. Jacobson's book will be available to  
purchase for \$25.

# PASTOR'S HILSEN



## WAKING UP FROM THE WINTER

Some of us love the winter. With snow, ice skating, skiing and ice fishing. I am not one of those who

love the winter.

Maybe because I have stayed several years in a subtropical climate, in the Philippines, it is like my body cannot take the cold anymore.

So let the spring come, and also the summer, those two seasons are the most wonderful seasons of the year to me.

And I guess, also to a lot of other people.

Also in our Christian life, spring is a wonderful metaphor. Because spring is Easter time, when death had to give in, because life was stronger. Jesus showed us that through his

death and his resurrection. So no wonder why so many of the hymns for this time of the year are mentioning the spring and summer as a metaphor for the eternal spring and summer we will experience when we will live forever together with our maker and redeemer.

There is a Christian musical from Norway that deals with this, Visst skal våren komme ( certainly spring will come). The wonderful songs there tells us about this, and the whole musical is filled with hope, and also with gratitude, knowing that death will never have the last word for one who believes in Jesus.

So maybe this time can be wonderful in more than one way: We can celebrate that spring once again is here. And we can also celebrate we can hope for an eternal spring and summer in the kingdom of God when our life here has come to and end.

Happy springtime!  
- Gunnar

## HYMN BLOG BY GRACIA GRINDAL

Gracia Grindal's [Hymnfortheday.com](http://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

**Feed My Starving Children** ([www.fmssc.org](http://www.fmssc.org)) Looking for a hands-on volunteer activity? Feed My Starving Children has continuous food packing shifts in Eagan, Coon Rapids and Chanhassen plus local pop-up opportunities.

We can also provide one mealpack per every thirty cents donated through your offering to the dedicated Mindekirken Mission of the Month fund. Tusen takk!

- 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: [1gunnarkristiansen@gmail.com](mailto:1gunnarkristiansen@gmail.com). All requests will remain confidential.

## SPOTLIGHT ON SUNDAY'S 10 AM HOUR SUNDAY FORUM

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.

Please join us on April 7 when our Sunday forum will continue our 2024 focus on hymns. This forum will be special – less lecture, more sharing and singing. Tell us what your favorite hymns are. Ask questions about hymns to our resident expert, Gracia Grindal. Learn about our efforts in 2024 to nominate and vote on Mindekirken's favorite hymns.



< 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 >



## FROM THE PRESIDENT



By the time you receive the April Communicator it is possible Easter Sunday has already been celebrated. If not, wishing you all Happy Easter and then perhaps you still might also be able to obtain a ticket to the Easter brunch in Fellowship hall. We are grateful to Charlotte, Mary and volunteers who all make such events so festive. Many years have gone by since last we gathered after Easter church service for an authentic "norsk påskefrokost".

Our request to become a Friendship Church with Pastor Jorunn Raddum's home church in Arendal, the Trinity Church (trefoldighetskirken), has been officially approved by their Church Council. It is now time for us to acknowledge to them this new friendship. Jorunn will be substituting for Pastor Gunnar here at Mindekirken during September and November. During her stay we will schedule a time to converse with her about our new Friendship church in Arendal.

During the early part of March, our neighborhood experienced increased violence one day. This was NOT OK with our good neighbors who live here in Ventura Village. They have become even more engaged to protect their peace and quiet where they live and raise their children.

We, along with Norway House, wish to support neighbors in ways we are able. However, it's our neighbors themselves who will be working directly with their elected officials whose attention they now have.

We have a wonderful group of neighbors around Mindekirken; several have become our good friends and look out for us and for our property.

The Edvard Grieg Society of Minnesota (a 501c3 organization) has become a regular participant in the Musical life here at Mindekirken. Their concerts will primarily be held at our church. They will use our address. We are very enthused about this new relationship with EGSMN. Let's support them when concerts are held here.

Our Church Council met in Fellowship Hall on Saturday the 16th of March for our annual Mini-retreat. Ever since introduction of Zoom meetings we have not met in person but once a year. Always plenty of topics for discussion. This year we welcomed back to Council, Jennifer Thue, serving as our Secretary.

Shortly before the meeting we had learned the good news that Gunnar had been approved for the second half of his 5-year visa. We had called him to Mindekirken on 1 September 2021 for a period of 3 years; except the visa is only granted for 2 ½ years. Following is a message from Gunnar himself:

" The Council at Mindekirken has started the process where we discuss how we should call pastors in the future. In October, 2022, when Norway's presiding bishop Tveit visited our church, he said we cannot expect pastors from Norway in the coming years, as they are also experiencing a shortage of pastors. This matter will be discussed in the coming months and we want all our members and friends to take part in this process....Gunnar.."

*...continued on next page*



## FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED

Mark your calendars for 7 July 2024. That day we will have a special guest from Norway. President of the Storting (parliament), Masud Gharakhani was born in Tehran, Iran. The family emigrated to Norway when Masud was just 5 years old. He will join us for church service and kirkekaffe. We very much look forward to welcoming him!

Managed by Nancy Sand Olson, candidates are now being interviewed for our available position as Programs and Volunteer Coordinator.

Soon you will see photos on the large TV screen being installed in our main lobby. In the beginning there will mostly be photos of church members, both past and present, as well as other historic photos from in and around Mindekirken. Thank you to Erik Pratt and his team members on the Arts and Exhibits committee!

GOD PÅSKE!!!

*Best regards from,  
Kirsti (Kris) Grodahl, President  
Mindekirken Congregation*

## HOME GROUPS

February 18 was the inaugural event of Mindekirken's home groups. There were a total of 27 participants organized within four quadrants of the Twin Cities. Three groups gathered at the homes of their quadrant's host for a shared meal while one group met at a restaurant. The meals of each group varied. There were traditional Lutheran potlucks though one group branched out and shared an Italian themed meal. The response from group participants was overwhelmingly positive. Many commented that it was so nice to get to know other members of the church in an informal setting. Conversations varied. Participants shared their backgrounds, why they joined Mindekirken and its significance in their lives. There were devotions and of course no gathering would be complete without sharing a variety of funny stories. One quadrant found they had an abundance of musicians who either played an instrument(s) or sang. Their activity consisted of gathering around the piano for a good old hymn sing along, even dividing into parts! Laurie Agrimson, the NE quadrant host, summed up her feelings about their gathering. "It reminded me of my younger years with all the family around....singing the table grace which I first heard as a child." For her, gathering with friends from Mindekirken felt like a family.

A big thank you, mange takk, is extended to our hosts Kim Berg, Nancy Watkins, Inger Stenseth, Laurie Agrimson and Wendi Storhoff for making this first gathering a success. Information regarding the next meetings and how you can become part of one of the groups can be obtained by contacting the church office.



Northwest Quadrant: Leaders Kim Berg & Nancy Watkins



Southeast Quadrant: Leader Wendi Storhoff



Southwest Quadrant: Leaders Kris Grodahl & Inger Stenseth

Northeast Quadrant: Leaders Laurie Agrimson & Lynndelle Pratt

## FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Mindekirken Foundation Annual membership meeting will be held on **Sunday, April 7, 2024** at 12:30pm in the Mindekirken Fellowship Hall.

Foundation members include all Mindekirken Full members, Associate members and Mindekirken Foundation Friends (those who have contributed \$500 or more to the Foundation).



## 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"

## TRUSTEES REPORT

Updates on the projects:

- Mini-splits have been installed in the Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, Hall, and Sacristy, along with temperature controls for those in Sanctuary.
- Police-issued No Trespassing signage was installed, to ensure we have no "campers" on property.
- Cameras and smoke alarms installed.
- De-Fib installed.
- Survey that was done for Tuesday Open House attendees outcome was that we pursue upgrading audio/sound system, camera before looking at Loop (hearing aid enhancement) system. In the process of exploring those options.
- Working on determining company to install *Restauration* ship that is being built by Hans Sandom. In conjunction with that, LED lighting for front of church and microsound enhancement for performers.
- Working on enhancing lighting on the outside of buildings.
- Reviewing candidates for Program and Volunteer Coordinator, which may be picked by the time of time of this publication.
- Starting the planning for Syttende Mai, which will be held on Sunday, May 19 this year.
- March Communicator lists other projects in the works for this year.
- We are looking for donors to support the security person we have hired for events and Tuesday Open House this year. If you would like to make a special donation include that in your direction with the donation.

- Submitted by Nancy Olson, Chair of Trustees



## Mindekirken Norwegian Language & Culture Program

### VIL DU LÆRE NORSK?

Our spring session is just getting underway, but it isn't too late to join a class! Connect with us, learn more about our program and register for classes at <http://www.mnlcp.org>  
**Velkommen til oss!**

#### 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 also kept a private diary, which offers an intimate, humanizing, and sometimes unflattering glimpse into the man behind the myth.

In this course participants will read and discuss Roald Amundsen's private diary. The diary itself is in Norwegian, and the instructor will provide English translations.

**Mondays | 6:00pm- 8:00pm (CT)**  
March 25th - June 3rd  
**Instructor:** Eirill Alvilde Falck

#### Side om Side- Part 1 | IN PERSON

This beloved sitcom has been on air since 2013 and captures suburban family life in a relatable way, albeit undeniably Norwegian.

In this course participants will watch & discuss the 20-minute episodes of seasons 1-4. This NRK Television Program is available online in the US without subscription.

**Thursdays | 6:15pm-8:15pm (CT)**  
March 28th - May 30th  
**Instructor:** Ethan Bjelland



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



# TUESDAY OPEN HOUSE

## Welcome 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.

## April 2

### Magnus and Gina Unbeaten by the North Dakota Prairie

**Presenter: Kim Donaldson**

Kim Donaldson is a storyteller interested in Genealogy, History, Photography and Travel since a young girl. She has been archiving vintage photography and old family stories for years. After the death of her father 6 years ago, writing has been a vehicle to help move forward from grief. It has been good medicine. Kim has had a 20-year career as a retail department store executive; completed freelance writing; and helped other families research and find their roots! Kim is a graduate of James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Magnus and Gina: Unbeaten by the North Dakota Prairie is a nonprofit philanthropy project for the National Association of the Deaf. Kim is the great granddaughter of Magnus and Gina.



## April 9

### Mass for the Nameless

**Presenter: Ellen Hofsø**

The Norwegian author Ellen Hofsø will visit TOH April 9. She has written nine fiction books about Sami life in Scandinavia and her books are very popular. Her last book, *Messe for de navnløse* (A Mass for the Nameless), was inspired by a mass that Pastor Gunnar Kristiansen had in 2004 on a cemetery in Gildeeskål Norway for all the nameless Sami who were buried in an unmarked mass grave. The presentation will be held in a style that is called Bokbad (book bath) in Norway, where Ellen Hofsø and Gunnar will have a dialogue about this book.



## April 16

### 7th Inning Stretch

**Presenter: Steve Larson**

Steve will give a unique, nostalgic audio/visual presentation where 'cardboard comes to life' through stories and songs, utilizing Steve's extensive sports card collection. Join us for an entertaining trip down 'memory lane' emphasizing baseball, while embracing many facets of life. Steve Larson is a public speaker and entertainer. He grew up in Thief River Falls, MN and graduated from Bemidji State University. He was a sportscaster for 10 years and owned a photography studio for 33 years in Grafton, ND. He portrayed Buddy Holly in the group 'Rock 'N Roll Heaven.' He has been married to his high school sweetheart for 49 years. He has 3 children and 8 grandchildren. Steve lives in Tonka Bay on Lake Minnetonka. Wear your favorite team's baseball gear for TOH!!! Take me out to the ballgame!



## April 23

### Cookbooks and Quilts Can Be Family History Too

**Presenter: Mary Rosendahl**

Families gather, food is served, and memories are created. Creating a family keepsake cookbook can capture the people, places, and emotions surrounding family gatherings. Quilts are another way to capture family history by transferring photos and documents to fabric, or through applique of significant family pictures.

Mary Rosendahl is a food scientist, quilter, and a certified autobiography instructor who enjoys marrying her interests in food, and quilting with family history to help others create family keepsakes.



## April 30

### Antarctica Peninsula

**Presenter: Karen Weiberg**

A casual conversation led to a trip of a lifetime to Buenos Aires and Ushuaia, Argentina and onto the MS Fridtjof Nansen ship to sail to the Antarctic peninsula. TV has brought wildlife from all over the world into our living rooms, but there are no words to describe seeing wildlife in its natural habitat. My goal was to see penguins and whales. However, if we happened to see bird species and seals, that would be terrific, too. In my presentation, I will share about the hearty explorers of Antarctica, those who skied to get to the South Pole: Roald Amundsen, Ann Bancroft and Liv Arnesen. I will also touch on how countries work together to preserve the continent of Antarctica.



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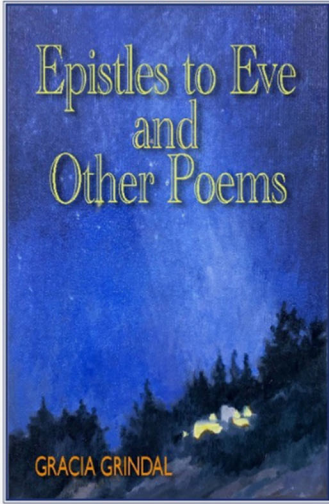
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## MINDEKIRKEN STAFF

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Marilyn Sorensen: Tuesday Open House  
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[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  
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Doug Watkins

### Deacons

Laurie Agrimson  
Erik Pratt  
Lynndelle Pratt  
Wendi Storhoff

# April 2024

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

**Return Service Requested**

## APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**- April 7 -**

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

**- April 14 -**

9 am English Service  
11 am Norwegian Service

**- April 21 -**

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

**- April 28 -**

11 am Bilingual Family Service

### 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](mailto:office@mindekirken.org). The Communicator is also available on our website, along with past editions.

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

## SUNDAYS AT 10

**- April 7 -**

**Sunday Forum:** "Your Favorite Hymns" with Gracia Grindal. This forum is part of our 2024 focus on hymns. We will be voting on Mindekirken's Favorite Hymns later this year.

**Norskeklubben:** A free Norwegian class for children ages 5-12. More info at [www.mnlcp.org](http://www.mnlcp.org)

**- April 14 -**

**Mindekirken Tour for Everyone:** The tour covers church history, the building and artwork. Visitors, guests and long-time members will all find this enjoyable and informative.

**- April 21 -**

**Introduction to Worship in Norwegian:** Designed to help visitors and members alike better understand and participate in our Norwegian worship services. This class will introduce participants to key Norwegian words, concepts, and music used in the services, as well as delve into the history and changes to worship services over the years. Each class is different, so past participants will continue to find this informative.

**Norskeklubben:** A free Norwegian class for children ages 5-12.

**- April 28 -**

**Norwegian Pronunciation Practice:** Specifically designed to help non-native Norwegian speakers with their pronunciation skills. In this class, you will receive lessons in pronunciation and learn skills that you can immediately apply in the 11am church service. All skill levels are welcome. The class is free. No registration is required.