



Mindekirken COMMUNICATOR

2023 December
Issue 236#

A Monthly Newsletter of the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church - ELCA



BAKE SALE

Saturday December 2 // 10 am - 2 pm

Norwegian specialty cookies:
Rosettes, sandbakkelse, brunkaker, krumkaker, etc.

Cafeteria serving warm *Rømmegrøt* (cream porridge with sugar and cinnamon) includes coffee and a slice of *Julekake* (Christmas fruit bread) 10:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Book sale & Raffle

Norwegian chocolates and candies

Gift items & cookbooks

No reservations necessary
Cafeteria seating, 1st come 1st served

NORDIC CHOIRS JULEKONSERT

Sunday December 17 // 2 pm

Mindekirken will again be host to Twin Cities area Nordic Choirs in our annual Julekonsert on December 17 at 2pm.

In addition to our own Mindekirken Choir, the **American Swedish Institute Cloudberrries**, **Norwegian Glee Club**, **American Swedish Institute Male Chorus**, and the **Suomi Finland 100 Chorus** will be participating.

Festive treats will be served after the beautiful music program.



SANTA LUCIA PAGEANT

Sunday December 10
11 am Service

The Lucia Pageant is a Norwegian (and Swedish) tradition of music and readings by youth, that celebrates light and hope during the darkest time of the year. It is performed as part of the 11 a.m. Norwegian Worship Service.

Also join us for Santa Lucia Coffee and lussekatter buns in Fellowship Hall at noon, following the service.



JULETRFEST

Saturday December 30
2 pm

Join us for a fun time of singing traditional Norwegian Christmas carols while walking around the Christmas tree. Cookies and special treats for the children will be provided. Please feel free to bring Christmas cookies to share. FREE!

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



WHAT IS CHRISTMAS REALLY?

Somebody once said that Christmas is like a doughnut, there is nothing in the center, only around it.

And if we look into what the Christmas has become for many people, we might agree that there is something in that saying.

Because to many people, Christmas has become more like a family feast, where you finally have time to celebrate and be together.

Well, what is wrong with that, you might ask. And my answer would be, nothing. But the center of our Christmas should still be the celebration of the coming of Jesus Christ. If we look into the word Christmas itself, it says Christ's Mass, He is the one who should be in the center of our holidays.

A missionary who had been living in Japan told this interesting story. For many years Christmas was not

observed there. But then shop-owners and big shopping-centers discovered the potential in this big holiday, and they started to advertise for Christmas gifts, decorations and so on, with a great success. This missionary invited a Japanese friend for Christmas eve, this friend was a shop owner who had a very busy time before Christmas, selling all these products. They celebrated a Christmas service together, and then a Christmas dinner. I am surprised, the Japanese shop-owner said, I did not know that you Christians also celebrate Christmas! Well, let us hope that it will never become like that here, that most people do not at all know why we celebrate Christmas. But to make sure that does not happen, we should do what is said in this nice Christmas spiritual. Go tell it on the mountain! Let the world know that Jesus, our Savior is coming to our world, and that is the true reason why we celebrate Christmas!

- Pastor Gunnar

MISSION OF THE MONTH

During the month of December, many of us are bombarded with giving "opportunities" and it is sometimes challenging to make decisions about which charitable organizations to support. We are thankful for the impact you have made with directed contributions to the Mission of the Month program at Mindekirken in 2023.

Here is a message from Pastor Gunnar regarding our **December Mission, ihelpfriendship**, and the situation in Bohol, Philippines: "The food

situation is still very challenging on Bohol, and elsewhere in the Philippines. The Covid restrictions have lasted much longer there than in most countries. So many families who have a little kiosk or a small part of their house where they have sold a few things to survive, have been forced to close their little business. And with no government support, that means starvation. One of ihelpfriendship's main projects right now is to have feeding programs for kids. The pictures here are from our last food program in the last part of October. 1dollar can feed 4 kids in our feedings, so every single dollar will help."

ihelpfriendship: Gunnar Kristiansen



Tusen takk for keeping ihelpfriendship in mind for your December giving. Have a blessed holiday season.

- 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: pastor@mindekirken.org. All requests will remain confidential.

YOUNG ADULT FORUM



Again we can see how these (relatively) young people are having such a great time together. This meeting was November 6, and the menu was lasagna, ice cream and game night. And we have 6 members now but it's still room for more people. Just contact Mindekirken office to get some info about the coming events.

- Gunnar



In the spirit of Norway's Christmas tradition, please join us for
The Mindekirken Foundation

Julebord 2024

A festive day with delicious food, fellowship, and music.
Sponsored by Klubb 500 for the benefit of Mindekirken Foundation

Sunday, January 7th, 2024 at Noon

Noon – Norway House doors open for registration

Social Gathering time/Non-Host Cash Bar

Visit Gingerbread Wonderland

1:30 Velkommen til bords - seating begins

2:00 p.m. Smorgasbord

3 p.m. (approx.) – Musical Interlude in Mindekirken Sanctuary and Door Prizes

4 p.m. (approx.) – Dessert Parade and Kaffebord at Norway House

\$130 per person – reservations required

All proceeds benefit Mindekirken Foundation

(\$65 of the ticket price is tax deductible)

Donations and Sponsorships welcome!

For further information, contact the church office (612) 874-0716 (Line 8)

Or email julebord@mindekirken.org

Final date for reservations – December 29, 2023

Please send your check payable to:

Mindekirken Foundation (with Julebord written in memo)

924 E 21st St, Minneapolis MN 55404-2952

Or Pay on-line at www.mindekirken.org

To reserve an ENTIRE table of 8 please specify the table HOST name and submit
all reservations together.

Attire: A perfect opportunity to wear your Bunad, Norwegian sweater, or other
festive wear.

Ticket price also includes complimentary admission to Gingerbread display

Free Parking

MINDEKIRKEN FOUNDATION REPORT

The foundation held a meeting on October 25, with Magne Hatlevik presiding. The financials were presented by the Steinke's, from GS Investments and by Peter Storvik, the treasurer. As of 10/22/23 the balance is \$1,248,672.

A grant requested by the trustees for plantings on the east side of the church was approved for \$659.61. The Julebord, was discussed by Marit Kringstad, the chair of the Foundation fundraiser scheduled for January 7, 2023.

A fundraising letter was discussed and will be going out soon.



MINDEKIRKEN HOME GROUPS

The Mindekirken Home Groups Committee is updating the directory information and reaching out to members and associate members of Mindekirken. There have been so many changes in family lives because of the COVID pandemic. We would like to hear from you and find out if you have an interest in attending a dinner that consists of other Mindekirken families that live closer to where you live? The thought is to create smaller home groups that would meet closer to your home in one of the quadrants that divide the cities North and South by Interstate 94 and East and West with Highway 35.

The groups will be given a devotional focus provided by Pastor Gunnar, perhaps sing a few hymns, and have conversation sharing our lives, concerns, and interests. This will also be an effort to localize needs within each community including those that may be homebound, so the members of the home groups can reach out to those that live closer to them. This is a concerted effort to have fellowship closer to your home and get to know and celebrate our Mindekirken community. We are hoping to have these potluck-style dinners take place 3 times a year.

If you have an interest to take part in this or have more questions, please call the Mindekirken office at 612- 874-0716 and leave a message with your name and number or sign up for your quadrant on the Mindekirken Website at mindekirken.org, and we will have leaders within those communities call you and provide you with more information.

TRUSTEE REPORT

We are glad to have Maggie, our office admin, back effective November 1. Terry Parker can now go back to her building responsibilities. She is working on a long list of maintenance items that need to be taken care of around the church. With an almost hundred year old building there is always something to be done or followed up on. She has started with a couple of handymen to tackle the list.

We recently received the report from the insurance adjuster, which indicated there was only a small amount of damage from the August hail storm, a little over \$1,000 worth, which is way below our \$5,000. deductible.

We are currently getting cost estimates for adding mini splits (air conditioning/heating units) for the fellowship hall and the sanctuary office. We are also looking into a loop system for the Fellowship Hall which will improve the ability to hear the speakers for people that wear hearing aids.

Please also stay tuned for more information regarding AED/CPR training, sometime in January.

The technology committee continues to look for improvements, such as a cloud based domain control to replace the current server that is at the end of it's life.

We are still looking to hire one more building attendant. Please contact terry@mindekirken.org if interested.

Thanks to Charlotte Breivik and committee for successful Treasure Chest Sale this year. We are still finalizing the final numbers and will be analyzing where we can make improvements for next year.

- Nancy Olson, Trustee Chair

Treasure Chest Sale 2023

THANK YOU to all who generously donated items, the many workers who made the Treasure Chest Sale a success, and finally, to the shoppers who attended. We'll see you next year!

- Charlotte Breivik

SUNDAYS 10:00 HOUR

Please join us for the "in between" hour on Sundays at 10am

Sunday, December 3, 10am

Sunday Forum: This month's Sunday Forum will be "Norwegian Christmas Hymns" by Gracia Grindal. Prof. Grindal will discuss the origin of beloved Norwegian Christmas hymns. (The Sunday Forum series is presented on the first Sunday of each month.)

Sunday, December 10, 10am

Mindekirken Tour for Everyone: On our special Santa Lucia Sunday, please join us ahead of time for our monthly tour of Mindekirken. The tour covers church history, the building and artwork. Visitors, guests and long-time members will all find this an informative presentation. (Tours are provided on the second Sunday of each month.)

Sunday, December 17, 10am

Introduction to Worship in Norwegian: Please join us for our monthly class 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 dive into the history and changes to the worship setting over the years. (The Intro. to Worship in Norwegian class is provided on the third Sunday of each month.)

Norske Klubben: Would your children like to learn Norwegian? Norske Klubben is a free Norwegian class for children ages 5-12. Registration required at <https://mnlcp.org/>.

Sunday, December 24, 10am

No 10am events on Christmas Eve. (Our next Norwegian Pronunciation Practice class will be on the fourth Sunday in January.)

Learn Norwegian this winter!



Winter registration opens December 1, 2023.

Classes run from January 8 - March 16, 2024.



VIL DU LÆRE NORSK?

Our fall session is winding down and we are excitedly making plans for our winter session, which will kick off on January 8th. Connect with us, learn more about our program and register for classes at www.mnlcp.org - **Velkommen til oss!**

 www.mnlcp.org 

TUESDAY OPEN HOUSE

Wecome to TOH!

Please make an advance registration by visiting the TOH section on mindekirken.org, 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.

December 5

Ringin in Christmas with the GraceNotes Trio

Connie, Pat, and Diane have been singing and laughing for over 740 shows during the last 23 years. They are looking forward to a return engagement at Mindekirken's Tuesday Open House. These women are all members of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Burnsville.

Please join the Grace Notes for their Christmas show filled with laughter, singalongs, bell ringing, and three-part harmony. They will weave their way through wonderful Christmas classics and share some of the stories behind the music, and, of course, they will honor their Norwegian heritage.



December 12

Faith and Christmas and More in Nordic Fairy Tales Presenter: Pastor Gunnar Kristiansen

Gunnar Kristiansen will give a presentation about Nordic fairy tales, their connection to Christmas and also their spiritual message. Both Hans Christian Andersen's and Asbjørnsen and Moe's fairy tales will be included.

Photo: Amy Coppersmith



December 19

Trains, Planes, and Kaffeprat: Reflections with Charlotte Breivik Presenter: Charlotte Breivik

Our very own husmor, Charlotte Breivik, will share many reflections from her life. From a childhood with her immigrant parents, to frequent train trips to North Dakota, to personal reflections on life's ups and downs, and of course sharing on her boundless creativity and energy in creating hospitality for our Mindekirken community.



December 26

No Program


LIBRARY NEWS

In October the library committee made a trip to Northfield to visit the Norwegian American Historical Association to see their new archive rooms. It will be very nice for people to research their holdings. Another reason for visiting was to bring two types of material that should be preserved in their archive. One set of materials was important documents from a Sons of Norway organization. The second set was four archive boxes of special books sorted from the books donated to Mindekirken that were published by NAHA or books related to historical information about Norwegian American colleges or other relevant topics.

Then in November the Library Committee had a huge book sale at the Treasure chest event. In the process we sold over 12 large boxes of books. The bargain was to purchase books by the bag full either \$5.00 or \$10.00. Bags could have as many books that would fit in either size. Folk had a lot of fun picking out books.

- Mary Martin and Marilyn Sorensen

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MINDEKIRKEN STAFF

<p>PASTOR Gunnar Kristiansen pastor@mindekirken.org</p> <p>MUSIC STAFF John De Haan: Choir/Music Director dehaa006@umn.edu</p> <p>Steven Liening: Organist organist@mindekirken.org</p>	<p>OFFICE STAFF Maggie Burr: Office Administrator office@mindekirken.org</p> <p>Terry Parker: Facility Coordinator terry@mindekirken.org</p> <p>Herbert Nelson: Bookkeeper bookkeeper@mindekirken.org</p> <p>Joe Grødahl: Events Coordinator jgrodahl@gmail.com</p>	<p>PROGRAMS Krista Schweppe: MNLCP Administrator norsk@mnlcp.org</p> <p>Marilyn Sorensen: Tuesday Open House Coordinator TOH@mindekirken.org</p> <p>Charlotte Breivik: Husmor (Kitchen Coordinator) charlotte@mindekirken.org</p>
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Mindekirken 2023 Congregational Council

Executive Committee			Trustees	Deacons
Kris Grodahl, <i>President</i>	Adrian Wear, <i>Treasurer</i>	Toby Hillmann	Laurie Agrimson	Erik Pratt
Gracia Grindal, <i>Vice President</i>	Nancy Sand Olson, <i>Trustees Chair</i>	Tom Lanman	Lyndelle Pratt	Wendi Storhoff
Kari Urberg Carlson, <i>Secretary</i>	Nancy Watkins, <i>Deacons Chair</i>	Tom Peterson	Wendi Storhoff	Kim Berg
Gunnar Kristiansen, <i>Pastor</i>		Doug Watkins		

December 2023

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

Return Service Requested

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- December 3 -

11 am Norwegian Service with Communion

- December 10 -

11 am Norwegian Service

- December 17 -

11 am Norwegian Service with Communion

- December 24 -

4 pm Bilingual Christmas Eve Service

- December 31 -

11 am Bilingual Family Service

SUNDAYS AT 10

- December 3 -

Sunday Forum: "Norwegian Christmas Hymns" by Gracia Grindal. Prof. Grindal will discuss the origin of beloved Norwegian Christmas hymns. (The Sunday Forum series is presented on the first Sunday of each month.)

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- December 24 -

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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.