



Mindekirken COMMUNICATOR

2024 January
Issue 237#

A Monthly Newsletter of the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church - ELCA



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

Sunday, 7 January 2024
Noon - Norway House

\$130 per person - reservations required.
All proceeds benefit the Mindekirken Foundation.

For more information and tickets, visit www.mindekirken.org (click Events)
Final date for ticket sales is December 29-- please inquire with office after this date for availability



Lunch at Norway House
Photo by Kim Albert



Gingerbread Wonderland
at Norway House



Left Doug & Nancy Watkins' granddaughters, Greta & Rose in the Santa Lucia Pageant. Greta was baptized in a private ceremony later that day; Right Kirkestua - a festive corner of Mindekirken where the Watkins family gathered to celebrate Greta's baptism with special cake and coffee.



Special guests from out of state visiting bestemor Jana Anderson for the Santa Lucia Pageant

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



It is difficult to grasp, but we are already in a new year! I think that our years pass by faster and faster as we grow older.

Maybe it is true what a man once said: Well, he said, to a two year old kid a year is 50% of his life span, so a very huge part of his life. To an 80 year old person it is only a fragment of his life, so it feels much faster.

I don't know if this is the correct explanation, but it feels quite right to me.

Anyway, the Bible is often mentioning time. Most specific in the Old Testament when it says that there is a time for everything. A time to seed and a time to harvest, a time to live and a time to die.

As long as we live, we should use our time to seed. In our time it is a challenge to make people aware of the Christian faith, since there are so many

distractions. Hundreds of TV-channels and social platforms are competing to get our attention, and the message about Jesus can easily drown in all these other messages.

But nevertheless that is our task. Luther once said, proclaim the gospel, and if necessary, with words. Which means that with our attitude and our acts to people around us, we will show that Jesus and his love is a part of us. And deeds and acts of love are more needed in our world today that ever. We don't have to look far to realize that. People are in despair so many places in our world. And we do not have to go far to realize that. We can only take a walk on Franklin, near our church, and we will see people who are in need of help.

Can we make this new year a year of compassion and empathy? Then the gospel will be spread even if we don't say a single word!

- Pastor Gunnar Kristiansen

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.

CONFIRMATION CLASS



On Wednesday December 6, the confirmation class visited Mary Johnson, who is one of our members living in an assisted living place.

Doug Watkins from the deacons was also present and brought Christmas cookies, to Mary's delight.

She told our confirmation class about her life, and her confirmation about 79 years ago. And also about her faith. We all celebrated communion together with her. Our confirmands expressed that her story made a great impact on them.

Thanks Mary for a wonderful visit with you!

- Gunnar



We had a visitor from the Philippines on Sunday, December 17. Especially nice since we had a project from the Philippines as our Mission of the Month for December (ihelpfriendship)!

- Gunnar

MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery began in 1983 and remains committed to strengthening families in our community in order to end child abuse and neglect. They answer approximately 4,000 crisis calls annually and shelter up to 20 children per day, providing over 5,000 nights of care during the course of the year to children aged newborn through six. Donate on our website or in your offering. Tusen takk for your ongoing support of Mission of the Month!



- Wendi S.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year to all!

Your Mindekirken Church Council has been busy, in so many ways, to represent you in 2023. We are committed to continue our efforts to grow the Congregation by inviting friends and visitors to consider joining our church. We ask all of you to join in the effort. As you all know, us "Norwegians" need to be invited. Just think, if we all invite one person to join Mindekirken during 2024, this could make such a positive impact. We are particularly engaged in finding ways to attract more young families.

We are so grateful to all of you who have served our church during 2023, from Staff, Council, Program Leaders of Tuesday Open House, Leif Eriksson Festival, Santa Lucia, Lutefisk dinners, Venner luncheon, Norwegian Language Program (MNLCP), Alle Kvinner (Treasure Chest, Rømmegrøt luncheons, Bake Sale, etc), Church Kitchen and to all the volunteers who stepped up to make all these programs and events function. Then a special thank you to all of you who attend these programs and events. None of it happens on its own, of course. During first quarter of 2024 you will be contacted by our interim Program and Volunteer Coordinator to ask you to prayerfully consider becoming a volunteer here at Mindekirken. Adding to our volunteer pool will assist those managing all of our Programs and Events. We have been described as "A small church with HUGE programming". All of us can be proud!

Wishing all of you a Very Happy New Year 2024. VELKOMMEN til MINDEKIRKEN!!!

- Kirsti Grodahl, Congregation President



Admiring the Juletre in Fellowship Hall, thanks to Bob Worrall, Kim Berg, and Nancy Watkins for setup & decorations

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

From your VP and Bicentennial Chair:

As you enjoy the wonderful time of Christmas and the special days between Christmas and New Year, (romjul) I wish you the best of Christmas joy. Even in the down time, however, your officers and council will be busy planning for both the annual meeting of the congregation and the New Year. Tuesday Open House, one of the great strengths of the congregation, will be featuring lectures monthly as we get ready to mark the bicentennial of Norwegian immigration to the US in 1825.

The Bicentennial Committee of Mindekirken is discussing plans for the celebrations during the year 2025. There will be exciting events all through the year. Mindekirken will kick off that celebration with the hanging of the Kirkeskip carved by Hans Sandom. It will resemble the Restauration, the ship that brought the immigrants to America. Hans is a well-known and gifted wood carver. He has taught many how to carve and has done many beautiful carvings of his own. He inherited the tools of Leif Melgaard, the master carver who carved the wood on the altar, pulpit and altar picture frame in Mindekirken. We are thrilled that he would do this for us.

The church ship is an old symbol for the Christian life. Many churches in the Nordic countries have one. It usually hangs near the entry to the nave—the Latin name for the sanctuary—meaning ship. It symbolizes the Christian's life, from one's entry into the church through baptism, and then proceeding toward the altar, as an emblem of our Christian life. We meet many storms on our way, and the ship holds us, like Noah's ark kept the family of Noah safe.

As the year progresses you will hear more from us on the reasons for our celebrations as we teach about the place of faith in the immigrants' life and work, and then more about the actual events of the year 2025. Meanwhile, Happy New Year!

- Gracia Grindal

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: DOUG & NANCY WATKINS

They met during a Norwegian class at Augsburg College with Liv Dahl (a member of Mindekirken) as their professor. They're recently retired: Nancy was neonatal nurse practitioner for 27 years at Children's Hospital and Doug was a family doctor specializing in Geriatrics. They both serve on Council and are very involved on committees with tasks keeping our church running.

"It's been 40 years of laughter", shares Nancy. Their home is just north of St Cloud, but they also spend time at their Cabin (aka "The Black Hole") near Tower on Lake Vermillion.



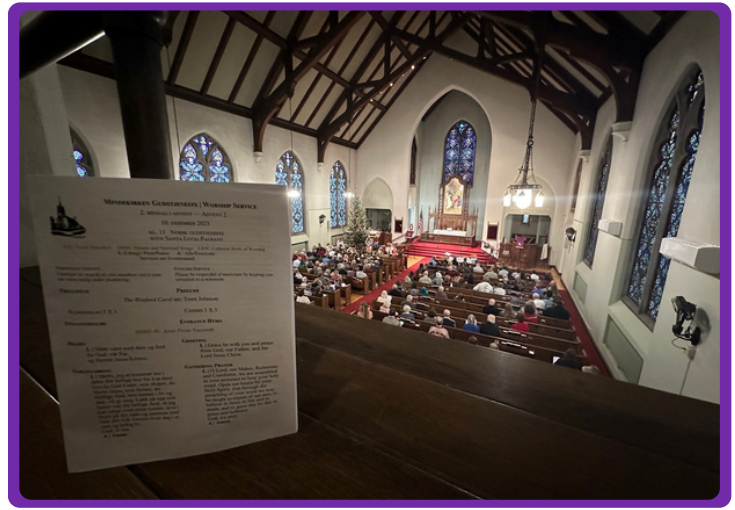
TRUSTEE REPORT

Launching the Next Century Fund – Update

We were pleased to reach our goal of \$100,00 in September. The current donations and pledges total is \$103,990. Total amount pledged is \$73,285 with a balance of \$33,100.

Expenses:
Mailing: \$2,453
Salary: \$1,017

We had anticipated to have this process completed by year end. Due to availability and capacity, limited hours were spent in 2023. We have reset and anticipate we will be in a position to hire by the beginning of April.



The trustees have had a busy year, which was reported in previous articles this year. We have a number of projects that are in the works and will bring you up to date in the February Communicator. Please look for information regarding training in CPR and the use of the Defibrillator that we hope to offer in the first quarter.

We wish you all a Happy New Year!

- Nancy Olson, Trustee Chair

TREASURER'S CORNER

Dear Mindekirken Community,

2023 is over now and what a year it has been! We have seen a lot of activity in our church, with a lot of good things being done, and we thank you for your active participation through it all!

We also expect a lot of good things to come in 2024, too. To start the year off, our Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, February 4 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Please be sure to attend so as to find out what the past, present, and future will look like at Mindekirken, and to vote on important matters.

It's not too late to make a New Year's Resolution! Among the various goals you have for the year ahead, please make giving to Mindekirken a top priority so that we may be able to accomplish many great things through our Lord Jesus Christ within our church and in the community. Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/mindekirkenpledge> to make your giving pledge and donate today!

May this upcoming year be our best one yet, and may God bless you as you continue to love, give, and serve one another.

Sincerely,
Adrian Wear, Mindekirken Treasurer

NORWEGIAN BRIDAL CROWN



Photo by Leslee Hoyum

Bridal crowns have been worn in Norway since the late 14th century, but bridal headwear can be traced to Roman times when brides wore flower wreaths. Silver is often used in Norway because it was believed to protect the bride from an evil eye or abduction by trolls. Furthermore, small spoon-shaped bangles dangle from the crown. When the bride moves, the spoons make music, which is also considered a safeguard against unholy spirits. As in most Christian cultures, the crown symbolizes the Virgin Mary, who represents purity and chastity. It also incorporates symbols signifying fertility and good luck.

Bridal crowns vary from district to district. The church's crown goes well with all Norwegian bunads and American wedding dresses and veils.

If you are interested in using the crown, call the church office at 612-874-0716 or email office@mindekirken.org

Generously donated by Anne-Grethe Roesholdt Cook, Marshfield, Wisconsin, who was born and raised in Moss, Norway

TUSEN TAKK!

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Norwegian Cookie Bake Sale a success - the Saturday baking group, the office staff and all the many volunteers who worked for several days setting up. Thank you also to the many people who came to make purchases.

- Mary and Charlotte



Thank you to all my Lucia workers who helped with making lussekatter and did the kirkekafe for Lucia Sunday! We served about 200 people.

Saturday, my bun-rollers were: Lisbet and Kristian Ronning, Molly Sanders, Andrew Dean and Andy Kuether. Cathy Aaseng was the dough-maker and baker of the 250 lussekatter. Curt Aaseng helped.

Sunday, Cathy Aaseng was in charge, with Leslie Oliver's help, along with Curt Aaseng. John and Kristi Lind unexpectedly jumped in to dishwash and clean up. Maggie Burr printed bun recipes, and helped in other ways. Pastor Gunnar made sure everyone felt welcome. Eric Pratt, Krista Schweppe and Ruth Murray helped.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH! TUSEN HJERTELIG TAKK!

- Sharon Aaseng



Mindekirken Norwegian Language & Culture Program

Our winter session kicks off on January 8. 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 TURNS 30

2024 will be a unique year for TOH. In 1994 Tuesday Open House began as a fellowship organization for Mindekirken members to have an opportunity to know each other better. Gradually, the program has expanded to a ministerial outreach program for persons throughout the Metropolitan area who are interested in Norwegian culture including folk art, historic and contemporary Norwegian music, Norwegian literature, and theology/faith/life. A Norwegian style lunch is served and then we have an interesting presentation based on the interest areas. The timing in the middle of the day is popular for our audience.

Thank you to all participants and to the wonderful volunteers we have had over the years. Mindekirken is pleased that this program is well attended as it meets the needs of many who are life long learners. We must now think about how to celebrate this milestone.

Mindekirken is also 102 this year in January, 2024

A special project of Tuesday Open House began years ago by one of our members, Mike Edwins. Participants were enjoying our program and wanted to say thank you to Mindekirken for it. We began collecting to provide a birthday gift to the church each year that was something needed and not planned for. The item chosen would be useful to TOH and also to the church. A couple examples are the repair of the Fellowship Hall stained glass windows and the automatic projection screen used often in the Fellowship Hall. This year, we are thinking that TOH should work to provide enough funds to put our name on the new ship plaque that will be hung in the Sanctuary. Ships are a tradition in Norwegian Churches and Mindekirken is in the process of having a special one carved to be mounted in the Sanctuary. More will be learned about this during 2024.

TUESDAY OPEN HOUSE

WELCOME 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.

January 2

No Program

January 9

The Place of the church in the life of Norwegian Immigrants to America

Presenter: Gracia Grindal

It was said that the Norwegian immigrants built their homes and then their churches, almost before they did anything else. This lecture will tell that story and the reason why Mindekirken was built to remember those people and how their faith informed much of their lives.

Photo by Louise Lystig Fritchie



January 16

Sounds of the Iron Age

Presenter: Kari Tauring

There was no word for music in Old Norse...so what did the "Viking Era" sound like? Nordic folk musician and scholar Kari Tauring has been in Denmark and Norway studying ancient instruments: bone flute, willow flute, billy goat horn, cow horn, and birch bark lur along with herding songs. Some scholars believe that herding songs and calls are an unbroken tradition in Norway since sheep, goats, and cows were brought there in the Bronze Age. She will play the flutes she made and share the songs and stories she learned as an apprentice through the Viking Connection program May and June 2023.

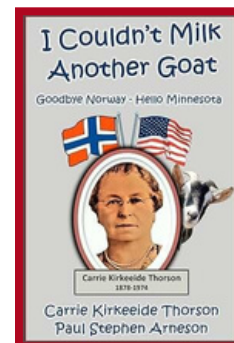


January 23

I Couldn't Milk Another Goat: Goodbye Norway/Hello Minnesota

Presenter: Paul Arneson

Don't take the title too seriously. My Grandmother, Carrie Kirkeeide Thorson, loved Norway. But when she was thinking of a title for the book she was writing, her humor kicked in. She did hate milking goats on the Norwegian farm, but she left for Minnesota in 1903 for a lot of other reasons. I helped her finish her book. She made it so easy. Few people are as diligent about keeping a journal as she was. She documented almost everything she did until she passed at age 96. Her life was very full...including singing for Norwegian composer Edvard Greig, acting as a chambermaid for Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm, and watching Minneapolis bloom. It's all in her book. I think you'll enjoy hearing more of this great lady's life.



January 30

Life in an American Concentration Camp: The Japanese-American Experience During WWII

Presenter: Sally Sudo

Hear a first-hand account of what it was like for Japanese-Americans who were interred in concentration camps in the US. Sally was born in Seattle, WA. President Roosevelt issued an executive order on February, 19, 1942, which removed all persons of Japanese ancestry from their homes and placed them in prison camps. Her family was moved from their home to the Puyallup Assembly Center in Washington State, and then to the Minidoka concentration camp in Idaho, where they spent 3 1/2 years. As a child Sally was imprisoned for 3 1/2 years. In August, 1945, her family relocated to Minneapolis. Since retiring from teaching in the Minneapolis Public Schools, she has been devoted to educating the public about the injustices suffered by Americans of Japanese ancestry during WWII, so history will not repeat itself. Sally will share her compelling and remarkable story. She is an excellent speaker.



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*A love story set in the late 1890's
in Duluth Minnesota between
an orphan, Nikolina, and a
wealthy Norwegian lumber
baron, Anders Solheim.*



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Mindekirken 2023 Congregational Council

Executive Committee

Kris Grodahl, *President*
Gracia Grindal, *Vice President*
Kari Urberg Carlson, *Secretary*
Gunnar Kristiansen, *Pastor*

Adrian Wear, *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
Kim Berg

January 2024

The Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church
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JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- January 7 -

11 am Norwegian Service with Communion

- January 14 -

11 am Norwegian Service

- January 21 -

11 am Norwegian Service with Communion

- January 28 -

11 am Bilingual Family Service

SUNDAYS AT 10

- January 7 -

Sunday Forum: "Christmas and the Spiritual Messages in Nordic Fairy Tales" by Pr. Kristiansen.

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

- January 14 -

Mindekirken Tour for Everyone: A monthly tour of Mindekirken covering church history, the building, and artwork.

- January 21 -

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

- January 28 -

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

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

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.

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