



Mindekirken COMMUNICATOR

A Monthly Newsletter of the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church - ELCA

2025 January
Issue 247#

Godt nyttår! Happy New Year!

Welcome to
2025!

Join us all year as Mindekirken—together with organizations across the United States, Canada, and Norway—commemorates 200 years of organized Norwegian migration to North America.



NORWAY
& NORTH
AMERICA

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

TEMPUS FUGIT



This Latin saying is my greeting for this new year, *tempus fugit*, time flies. Is not that what we all learn sooner or later in our life?

My own grandmother had an expression that I probably did not fully understand when I was just a kid, but now I really grasp it. She used to say, wherever she planned to go, If God wants, *hvis Gud vil*, then I will go if God wants me to go. And when her husband, my grandfather, drowned at sea only 64 years old, her prayer was, through tears though, teach me to count my days. And I give you God thanks for every day that my beloved husband was together with me.

I wonder how many of us have that pious attitude today? That our life is granted us by God, and that one day He will call us back to Him?

Maybe both life and death can be easier if we just learn to pray: Teach me God to count my days, so that I can have wisdom in my heart. What wisdom? Maybe that life is the most precious gift of all, so let us celebrate every single day!

- Pastor Gunnar

When you are in my age, past 70, you wonder not only, how come the last month passed almost without me noticing, but even the last year did the same.

So what should we learn from this? Maybe that time, even if it is almost airy, something we cannot grasp, so should we still grasp every single day and realize how valuable it is? Because it will never come back.

No wonder then that it says in the Bible, teach me to count my days, so that I can have wisdom in my heart.



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.

HYMN BLOG BY GRACIA GRINDAL

Hymnfortheday.com is Gracia Grindal's blog on hymns and the text for the coming Sunday. It 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.

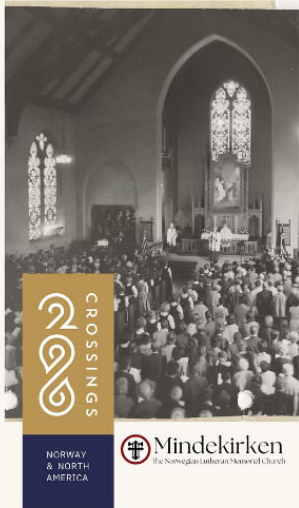
MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery is the Mission of the Month for January. The Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery (<https://www.crisisnursery.org/>) 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 to Mindekirken Mission of the Month on our website or in your offering. *Tusen takk* for your ongoing support of Mission of the Month!

- Wendi S.



BICENTENNIAL REPORT



The time has finally arrived! The celebration of the bicentennial of the first organized group of Norwegian immigrants will be celebrated all this year. We will begin it with a service on January 5, with Mark Hanson, bishop emeritus of the ELCA, and a service planned to remember the pioneers. We kicked off the year with the hanging of the beautiful copy of the slooper Restaurationen in the sanctuary. Now we are beginning the actual year with a service of thanksgiving for the immigrants who came to this country over the years and built a community of Norwegian Americans that made a difference to the cultures of the upper Midwest, especially in their establishment of congregations from Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, the Dakotas, Montana and all the way to the West Coast. Mindekirken was established both to serve Norwegian immigrants still streaming into the city in the 1920s and to honor the faith of the immigrants who made such a difference. After building their own homes, they built small churches and then schools, like Luther, Augsburg, St. Olaf, Augustana, Concordia and Pacific Lutheran, to say nothing of the many academies where they trained young people to become teachers in the schools. They established orphanages, the Homme home in Wittenberg WI, or the one in Lambertton MN which became Bethesda Homes, and founded homes for the aged, like Lyngblomsten Retirement center and Ebenezer Home Society, along with hospitals, like Deaconess and Fairview in the Twin Cities, Deaconess in Brooklyn and Chicago and many other hospitals across the country. They built Augsburg Publishing House which printed materials that taught the faith to their children and became the second largest customer of the Minneapolis Post Office. We are grateful heirs to these efforts among many that leave us marveling at their energy and foresight.

This year we will mark our heritage with services, concerts, readings, lectures and many other events that will teach people about their accomplishments and bring us together as we celebrate the gifts all of the country received from these sturdy and pious people. Look on this page for a schedule of events we have planned for your edification. It promises to be a wonderful year.

- Submitted by Gracia Grindal

MINDEKIRKEN'S BAKING TEAM

Throughout the year countless cookies and other baking products are produced at Mindekirken. In the first picture, you can see the baking team making wonderful *Lussekatter* before our Lucia pageant. In the two other pictures you can see the baking team before our Christmas Cookies Sale. They did a great job, but nevertheless all the cookies were sold out in 40 minutes!! So maybe we need an even bigger team next year?



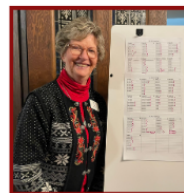
Anyway, thank you so much to all who made these events a great success!

- Pastor Gunnar

VOLUNTEER

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. No need to log in, just click "sign up" next to the available job.



Want to volunteer but don't know where to start? Submit the form at mindekirken.org/about-us or contact:

Volunteer Coordinator, Synneva Bratland:
 volunteercoord@mindekirken.org
 Church Office: (612) 874-0716

TRUSTEES REPORT

This will be my last Trustee report. As many of you may know we have been without a Treasurer this past year. Jennifer Thue and I have been the backup, but as we approach the new year, the Council determined that we cannot go another year, without someone in this position. The council voted me in effective immediately, so that I can start working on the budget for 2025 and the annual reports. I had expected to finish out 2025 with the trustees and retire from council responsibilities. I have committed to 2025 in the treasurer position, if I am nominated at the annual meeting.

As of this writing I anticipate that the camera that was approved will be installed before year end. This will further enhance our weekly church service recordings.

We had hoped to have the fellowship hall audio visual project installed by year end. Unfortunately, the person that was going to do the project left the company. I just met with the person that I have been working with, and the person's that he found to complete it. Now waiting for a date, which will depend on their schedule and the date that the equipment will be in. The Tuesday Open House program was given a generous bequest which will cover most of the cost.

The flashing that came loose on the sanctuary roof this spring was repaired as well as some of the worst areas on the roof from hail damage last year. The rest of the roof will be completed in the spring.

I want to thank the trustees that I have worked with these past two years, Toby Hillmann, Tom Lanman, Tom Peterson, and Doug Watkins. It takes a village!

If you are interested in becoming a trustee, contact Kris Grodahl.

- Submitted by Nancy Olson, Retired Trustee Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT

In December, a joint letter was sent to members and associates of the Mindekirken Church as well as Foundation members asking you to make a pledge and or donation to the church and a donation to the foundation. This church could not survive without your ongoing support, which is greatly appreciated.

In January I will begin getting the financial reports ready for the annual meeting and planning the budget for 2025.

- Submitted by Nancy Olson, Treasurer

NORDIC NOTES

THE KLOKKER/CANTOR

Before the Reformation, the office of klokker, or cantor, served a minor clerical role in the church. After the Reformation, the klokker continued to serve as the song leader during the service. Since there were no organs or instrument in the churches in the country, his voice led the singing. He would pick the tunes for the hymn texts printed without notes in the hymnals of the day. He would usually pick folk tunes, often from the area in which the church was situated. That meant for most Norwegians that the hymns went particularly deep into their souls. The tunes even made texts from other countries, especially those from Denmark, especially those of Hans Adolph Brorson who wrote Behold as Host, Thy Little Ones Dear Lord are we, and many more, seem authentically Norwegian. The klokker usually served as cantor, teacher of confirmation and helper in the service. The office survives today even at Mindekirken when a lay reader begins the service with the "klokker's prayer" which goes way back to 1685 and the service put together by Thomas Hansen Kingo, bishop of Fyn, Denmark. The klokker's central role is portrayed in the painting by Adolph Tiedman of the klokker teaching confirmation to the children after the church service, one of his classic paintings of the peasants in Telemark.

- submitted by Gracia Grindal

RECENT AWARDS

Multiple members of our community have recently received awards for their work and dedication to the Norwegian-American community, including their work at Mindekirken. We are so grateful for everything they have done for Mindekirken and the greater Norwegian-American community. Please join us in celebrating these incredible women and all they have accomplished!

Marilyn Sorensen – Norway House Going Viking Award – 2024

Marilyn received this award at the *Vinterfest* held on December 4 at Norway House.

Marilyn Sorensen has been sharing information about Norwegian heritage and community building for many years. This provided the framework for an interesting life's journey. She started by gaining a background in regular and special education together with experience working in six different fields. Then she combined this with an interest in travel to numerous world destinations.



Marilyn was instrumental in starting up and working with many organizations regarding Norwegian genealogy, under the Bygdelagenes Fellesraad umbrella. She has also been coordinating the Tuesday Open House program at Mindekirken for many years. Marilyn has been and is truly an advocate of Norwegian heritage and community building!!

Congratulations Marilyn!

- submitted by Nancy Olson

Leslee Lane Hoyum – Patriots Hall of Fame Award



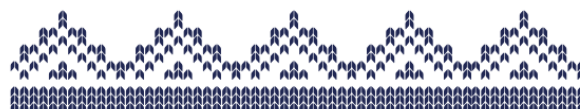
On Friday December 13, Leslee Lane Hoyum was inducted into the Patriots Hall of Fame. It was a pleasant surprise to her, as she had no idea that she was nominated. She found out that an old school friend nominated her. The ceremony was held at Camden High School (formerly known as Patrick Henry).



In her acceptance speech she credited her early volunteer work, starting at age 10, as the beginning of a life long commitment to volunteerism and leadership. Leslee's first board appointment began at the age 13. She had a long life serving in many Norwegian organizations, including Son's of Norway Foundation, Ski for Light, Norwegian American Historical Association and was one of the founders of Lakselaget (that provides scholarships for Norwegian studies).

Congratulations Leslee!

- submitted by Nancy Olson



RECENT RECAP

It was a very busy December here at Mindekirken! Here's a little bit of what we've been up to...

BAKE SALE

Thank all the bakers, volunteers, and those that made a donation to make the bake sale a success. And thank you to everyone who came to the sale to buy cookies, cakes, books, knitwear, and other treasures!

- from *Alle Kvinner:*
Charlotte Breivik
and Mary Martin



Bake sale photos by Sharon Wong

SANTA LUCIA PAGEANT

"Everybody sings in English. Singing in Norwegian is very special!" This is something that I've told the wonderful kids performing in our Lucia pageant. I believe it 100%. It is a joy to have directed this pageant now for my third year and to be a part of the community of children, parents and volunteers that make the pageant happen. I want to recognize and thank Krista Schweppe and Rebecca Randen, who were our two Coordinators for this year. This was Rebecca's first year in that role. I appreciate all the work they did to make all the rehearsals run so smoothly. They did an especially great job of engaging the parents and grandparents in various planning activities, such as helping with the gowns and making *Lussekatter*. Thank you to all the parents



for your commitment to Lucia. And finally, thank you to the children for your smiles and enthusiasm for singing in Norwegian and telling the stories of Lucia and Christmas.

- Erik Pratt, Lucia Pageant Director



Lucia photos by Ashley & Kyle Moe

NORDIC CHOIRS JULEKONSERT

Congratulations to the Mindekirken Choir, Kvinnekor, the American Swedish Institute Cloudberrries, the Norwegian Glee Club, and the American Swedish Institute Male Chorus on a beautiful concert!

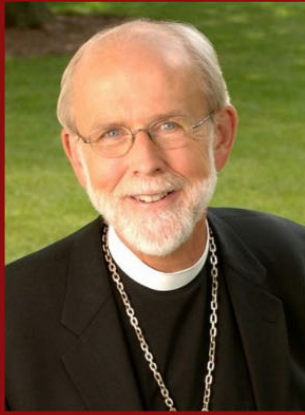


JULAFTEN LYSMESSE

Tusen takk to all who attended our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, or *julaften lysmesse* in Norwegian, and a special thanks to all of the musicians for such a beautiful prelude concert.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Sunday Service with Bishop Emeritus Mark Hanson Sunday, January 5th at 11:00 am

On the first Sunday of the year as we officially begin the bicentennial year with a visit from Mark Hanson, bishop emeritus of the ELCA. Please join us for this special service as we remember the earliest Norwegian migrants and their legacy.



Mindekirken Choir at Orchestra Hall Saturday, Jan 18th, 6:15 pm



photo by George Heinrich

The Mindekirken Choir has been asked to sing a pre-concert performance at Orchestra Hall on January 18 from 6:15-6:45. The performance will directly precede the Minnesota Orchestra's concert, which is a part of their Nordic Soundscapes Festival. Please come and support your choir!

SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL MEETING 2025

Mark your calendars! The Mindekirken congregation's 2025 annual meeting will take place on Sunday, February 9th, at 11 am. *There will only be one service at 10 am that Sunday.*

Mindekirken Foundation Julebord Sunday, January 5th at 1:00 pm

A reminder that the Mindekirken Foundation Julebord is scheduled for Sunday, January 5th at 1pm. Doors open at noon for social hour, and seating begins at 12:30 pm.



Norskeklubben



After our winter break, Norskeklubben will meet again on Sunday, January 12 from 10 am to noon!

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 bottom of all pages at mindekirken.org

HOME GROUPS

Did you know that you are part of a Mindekirken home group? Our home groups are divided up by Twin Cities geography, so no matter where you live, there is a home group to be part of. Our home groups will start 2025 on the same day in February. Please be watching for the date in our next Communicator. You can sign up to attend your next group on Sundays during kirkekafe, or contact the church office.

TUESDAY OPEN HOUSE

Schedule

10:30 a.m.	Doors open
11-11:30	Lunch served
11:45	Announcements & Brief
12-1	Devotion Program

Arrive early to find a seat, enjoy coffee, and socialize before lunch starts. A donation of \$10 is requested at the entrance to the Fellowship Hall.



RESERVATIONS
To make a reservation, please send an email to reservations@mindekirken.org or call (612) 874-0716 option 8

WEATHER CANCELLATION: In case of a snow event, check www.mindekirken.org or call the office for updates before coming

TOH is celebrating the 103rd birthday of Mindekirken!

Mindekirken as a congregation began in 1922. In 1925 the church will be 103 years old and has had a very interesting journey. Many events will be held this year celebrating the Bicentennial for the first organized group to emigrate from Norway as well as the 103rd Birthday for Mindekirken. A long time project for TOH has been to honor the January 9, 1922 beginning of the church. TOH has done many interesting and helpful things with the funds including some things we use every TOH event. Plans are in process to improve the sound system in the Fellowship Hall and that is paid for from a special bequest to TOH. A need that has been identified is an improved lighting system. This is a valid project for the 2025 Birthday Fund. At our first meeting in January we will celebrate the 103rd Birthday of Mindekirken and begin collecting for this year's Birthday Fund. TOH can be proud of our gifts to the Church and how all have benefitted.

January 7

Norwegian American Church History — What it Built | Presenter: Gracia Grindal

The place of the church in the lives of the immigrants from Norway is today an unknown story. Mindekirken was built to honor the faith of the pioneers. At that time the many accomplishments of the Norwegian Lutheran immigrants were evident to everyone. The lecture will review the faith many of the Norwegian immigrants came with and what they did to teach that faith tradition as they built a Norwegian American culture in the upper Midwest.



January 14

Traveling in Wonder | Presenter: Autumn Carolynn

Traveling in Wonder: 30 Countries in 30 Years will be a presentation on travel throughout the Nordic countries. Relive the wanderlust through her experiences in Scandinavia and enjoy a presentation built for the Scandi lover at heart. Autumn Carolynn has been a flight attendant, travel agent, travel design manager, and is now a travel photographer. She started traveling when she was 22, with the goal of traveling to 30 countries by the time she turned 30. She is the author of Traveling in Wonder: A Travel Photographer's Tales of Wanderlust. Autumn is an award-winning photographer. Her work is displayed across multiple galleries and sold in stores and museums in the Midwest.



January 21

Life Lessons Working at a Nursing Home | Presenter: Don Knudson

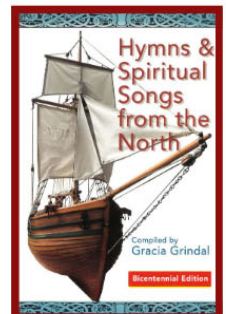
As mature adults, we have had many experiences that have taught us valuable lessons. As a chaplain at Ebenezer Care Center in Minneapolis (started by Norwegians), Don will share "life lessons" garnered from the people he got to know and love. Some stories will make you laugh and others may make you cry. You will be reminded of your own experiences and wonder what life still has to teach you. Originally from South Dakota, Don was ordained and called to serve congregations in North Dakota and northwestern MN. In mid-life he received training to become a Professional Chaplain. And as you can see from his "mug shot" he loves lutefisk!



January 28

Norwegian American Church History and the Songs it Sang | Presenter: Gracia Grindal

Norwegian immigrants brought with them several Norwegian hymnals that had the hymns they had used at home and would use in America. It was a rich treasury supplemented by several hymnals made by the immigrant churches here in America. When the Lutherans in America began doing joint hymnals, many of treasured Norwegian hymns were dropped because they did not appeal to the Eastern Lutherans editors. The bicentennial hymnal we did represents some of the most beloved hymns, forgotten here but still lively in Norway, so those wanting to remember their forebears' faith have a resource in English. The session will involve singing and talk about the hymns in the new hymnal, some new from Norway, and beloved.





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 www.mnlcp.org - **Velkommen til oss!**



MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA

Listen / Escape

**NORDIC SOUNDSCAPES
FESTIVAL**

Jan 10-18

Tickets at minnesotaorchestra.org/nordic

SUNDAYS' 10:00 HOUR

Please join us on Sundays during the 10am hour – the “in between” hour – between the English and Norwegian services.

We are changing our 10am format a little in 2025. Our tour will now be held on the fourth Sundays and our Norwegian pronunciation will be expand into several types of Norwegian classes held monthly.

First Sundays of the Month: The first Sunday of each month will continue to be the Sunday Forum, with a guest speaker or program.

Second Sundays of the Month: The second Sundays of the month will now be a Norwegian class. We have new concepts for Norwegian classes that we will be introducing. They are designed to provide something for all levels of Norwegian abilities.

Third Sundays of the Month: Introduction to the Norwegian church service. This class is to help build familiarity of the Norwegian 11am Gudstjeneste. The class covers everything from pronunciation and translations to theology and Norwegian church history.

Fourth Sundays of the Month: Mindekirken Tours. Our tour guides delve into the history of Mindekirken while discussing the building and art found in the building.

We hope to see you on Sundays at 10am!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Please join us in celebrating our January birthdays! If you have a birthday that's not listed, please notify the office so we can acknowledge your birthday.

12/1 Tim Peterson	1/15 Paul Bakke
12/3 Runar Andersen	1/15 Anne Johnson
12/4 Ingrid Stephens	1/17 Lowell Edlund
12/4 Heidi Breivik	1/19 Joni Leithe
1/3 Laurie Agrimson	1/21 Roald Fosse
1/6 Robert Hanson	1/22 Bradley Urberg Carlson
1/7 Toby Hillman	1/23 Sherry Johnson
1/9 Marlys Thorsgaard	1/29 Nancy Sand Olson
1/9 Kathy Manderscheid	1/30 Steven Swenson
1/10 Nancy Watkins	1/31 Sandra Andersen
1/10 David Holland	12/9 Karen Cardwell
1/14 Fay Sandven	12/9 Ingrid Johansen



- January 5 -

Sunday Forum: Our Immigrant Stories

To mark the start of the Bicentennial of Norwegian Immigration, our first Sunday Forum of the year will be about Our Immigrant Stories. Please come to the forum to share about the immigrants most important to you.

Maybe you would like to share about your Norwegian ancestors, or ancestors from another country. Perhaps you want to honor someone important in your life who came here from another country. Your immigrant story does not need to be about Norway. It can be about whoever the important people to you who came to the U.S. Your story doesn't even have to be about an ancestor. Feel free to bring a photo or memento. We will have a table in front of the church by the Lysglobe for people to set your photos on. If you would like to come and just listen, you are also welcome to do that.



*Hemmingine Reiten,
Great grandmother
of Erik Pratt*

- January 12 -

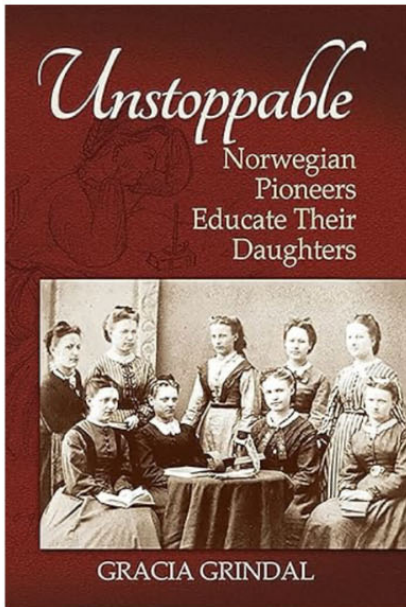
Sunday Morning Norwegian Class: How do you say "Tie Your Shoe" på Norsk? Norwegian for parents



Have you ever wanted to use Norwegian with your kids? So much of what we say to our kids at home are phrases that are used over-and-over every day. But how would you ever know what these phrases are in Norwegian? This class

is for parents (and grandparents) who want to learn phrases you can apply to your household. The class will follow the needs of you, our participants, who will ask our native Norwegian instructors how to say the phrases you want to learn. So come bring a list of the things you want to say at home for our fun and lively discussion of Norwegian for parents.

SPONSORS



As the Bicentennial begins, there are books on the immigrants that tell their stories, many forgotten today. This book studies how the founders of Luther College worked to educate both young men and women. David Preus, late president of the American Lutheran Church said, "Unstoppable is an invaluable addition to U.S. immigrant history. Numerous letters from pioneer pastor s wives are a primary source of information. These talented women covered all facets of the Norwegian-American immigrant lives in their letters and sketches... I was absorbed by the book from beginning to end!"

Available at Fortress Press, on Amazon, Barnes and Noble websites, among others.



Gracia Grindal

Become a Communicator Sponsor!

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.

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Mindekirken 2024 Congregational Council

Executive Committee

Kirsti Grodahl, *President*
 Gracia Grindal, *Vice President*
 Jennifer Thue, *Secretary*

Nancy Sand Olson, *Treasurer*
 Nancy Watkins, *Deacons Chair*
 Gunnar Kristiansen, *Pastor*

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 Tom Lanman
 Tom Peterson
 Doug Watkins

Deacons

Laurie Agrimson
 Erik Pratt
 Lyndelle Pratt
 Wendi Storhoff

January 2025

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

Return Service Requested

JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- January 5 -

No 9 am service

11 am Norwegian Service with Communion:
Opening Service of the Bicentennial Year with
Guest Rev. Mark Hanson

- January 12 -

9 am English Service
11 am Norwegian Service

- January 19 -

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

- January 26 -

No 9 am service
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. The Communicator is also available on our website, along with past editions. Please also contact the office for any address changes or requests.

SUNDAYS AT 10

- January 5 -

Sunday Forum: Our Immigrant Stories

- January 12 -

Sunday Morning Norwegian Class: How do you say "Tie Your Shoe" på Norsk? Norwegian for parents
Norskeklubben: Would your children like to learn Norwegian? Norskeklubben is a free Norwegian class for children ages 5-12. For more information and registration, visit mnlcp.org

- January 19 -

Introduction to the Norwegian church service: This class is to help build familiarity of the Norwegian 11am Gudstjeneste. The class covers everything from pronunciation and translations to theology and Norwegian church history.

- January 26 -

Mindekirken Tour: Our tour guides delve into the history of Mindekirken while discussing the building and art found in the building.
Norskeklubben: For more information, visit mnlcp.org