

Mindekirken COMMUNICATOR

A Monthly Newsletter of the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church - ELCA



Santa Lucia Pageant



This year's Santa Lucia Pageant will be held during the **11am service on Sunday, December 8**. Our Lucia and her attendants will tell this treasured story through song, and will serve the traditional saffron buns, *lussekatter*, at kirkekaffe following the service.







Christmas Eve at Mindekirken — Julaften lysmesse

God jul! Join us at 4pm on Tuesday, December 24 for a special Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, or julaften lysmesse in Norwegian.

PASTOR'S HILSEN

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON



I must confess that I feel as if Christmas is coming faster and faster. And not because I just have been to the Philippines, where they start

the Christmas season with the BER months, so from SeptemBER 1 Christmas is inevitably there.

But one wise guy said, of course our time is passing faster and faster the older you become. For a four year old one year is 25% of his life, for an 80 year old its only one eightieth part of life.

But whether you are 4 or 80, the Christmas season should mean something important and *magisk* to you. Of course part of the *magisk* is all the family parties that will come.

But hopefully the real Christmas story in itself should also remind you about something magical, that our Savior is coming to our world.

When I was in Norway in November, I noticed that the City Mission in Oslo reminded people about the fact that not everybody is looking forward to Christmas. In broken families it might be other emotions that are stronger. And many have like myself lost a dear one during this last year. Then you might need some entra care and empathy for Christmas. After all, is not that what Christmas really means? To share and spread the love that Jesus brought by his coming.

May you have a blessed Christmas season!

- Pastor Gunnar

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

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



ihelpfriendship is the Mission of the Month for December. Pastor Gunnar founded and oversees a humanitarian aid organization in Bohol, Philippines which has a profound impact on improving lives. Mindekirken the ihelpfriendship is main supporter of (https://www.ihelpfriendship.net/) and our contributions are crucial for meals, education, medicine, and mental health support. Sadly, Kristoffer Stene, co-founder of ihelpfriendship, passed away on October 30. He was a close friend of Pastor Gunnar. In honor of Kristoffer and for the benefit of the people in need on Bohol, please give generously to Mindekirken Mission of the Month on our website or earmark your offering. Tusen takk!

- Wendi S.

UPCOMING EVENT

On Sunday, December 1st, there will be a special kirke kaffe. Pastor Gunnar will give a brief update about ihelpfriendship, our December Mission of the Month.





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FROM THE PRESIDENT

God Jul — Merry Christmas!





This was the last Christmas all six of us would celebrate together at our home, we knew as Rabben, located the island Frei, near the city of Kristiansund. The following March, our Dad, Harry, along with my sister, Vigdis, boarded the ship Stavangerfjord for the long journey to Minneapolis. I can remember Christmas 1960 like all the other previous Christmases "back home": Lillejulaften (little Christmas eve) was full of activity, from wrapping gifts to decorating the tree with real

candles, the heart baskets we had made at school, flags, garlands (both had to hang vertically and "just right"), and treasured ornaments.

At 5:00, all church bells would "ring Christmas in"; Dinner could be served afterwards; menu always the same: Ribbe (most similar to spare ribs (and pictured here)), gravy, surkål (sauerkraut), boiled white potatoes, erterstuing (mushed peas) and lingonberries. Dessert would be riskrem.

Like all children, the suspense of when "santa" would arrive with a *julegave*; some years prior I had recognized Santa's watch, as just like dad wore...There were never visitors on Christmas Eve, or Christmas Day. Visiting back and forth started "andredag", the 2nd day, as now we were officially in *romjul*, that time between Christmas and New Year.



The children's romjul favorite was Juletrefest held at school or Bedehuset, the church prayer house. A time to meet neighbors and friends, sing and walk around the Christmas tree, followed by cookies and open-faced sandwiches with brown or yellow cheese. Very much the same as we celebrate at Mindekirken.

The next time all 6 of us would celebrate Christmas together was in 1962, at our new home on 34th and Park Avenue in Minneapolis.

Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas!!

- Kirsti (Kris) Grodahl Mindekirken Congregation President

DEACON'S REPORT

Home groups will be planning their early spring gatherings. If you are not a member of one of the four groups and would like to join, please call the church office for details. We have enjoyed the opportunities to meet others within the church and look forward to future events.

One of our new members requested that we have a "name tag Sunday." This was used at a church she previously attended and felt it was a great way to place names with faces. We plan to institute this on the last Sunday of each month.

Friendship Church

The church council approved becoming a "Friendship Church" with a congregation in Norway. Jorunn Raddum's congregation in Arendal is excited to join us in a friendship relationship. The purpose of this concept is for the establishment of a relationship with a Norwegian congregation, to share ideas, experiences and opportunities for possible future collaborations. Our first exchanges will revolve around music. Jorunn is planning to have her congregation's choir sing a piece for us and provide an overview of what her church is doing in preparation for Christmas. John De Haan will be preparing a piece to be sung by our choir so they can gain an appreciation for our musical traditions. I am sure the Norwegians will be excited to see our love for Lutefisk and the large dinner that celebrates the tradition.

- Submitted by Nancy Watkins

NORDIC TIDBITS

Every Christmas, Lutheran colleges in the United States present extravagant festival concerts that involve a good proportion of their students in musical programs that thrill audiences of thousands. We can credit F. Melius Christiansen of St. Olaf for making these events what they have become. As a composer, he wrote anthems for German chorales, English hymns, and Scandinavian spiritual songs that now are musts in the repertoire of the concerts—none greater than Beautiful Savior. That signature anthem of Concordia and St. Olaf was originally a Danish Christmas carol—Deilig er Jorden—by Ingemann, one of the most important hymns of the season in the Nordic countries. Its melody is the one for Beautiful Savior. As people understood less Norwegian, Christiansen began using the translation of a German text Schönster Herr Jesus, to the tune. Now the concerts often feature sumptuous feasts with a decided Scandinavian taste along with several signature Scandinavian hymns in the concerts. This year's concerts will occur in the Twin Cities, across Minnesota, and beyond in December. Many will also be broadcast on TV, radio, and online.

For almost all Christians who celebrate Christmas, family rituals have been established that children come to love and demand every year. The rituals of when one opens presents, when one has the big meal, and what the menu is have bound families together over generations. Norwegian developed a rich tradition in that regard. Christmas Eve was the big event with its trimming of the Christmas tree—when mother teaches the children about the meaning of the event—as per the stanza in Jeg er så glad hver julekveld; the menu differs in various regions—some Norwegians traditionally eat oyster stew, others pinøkjott,--smoked lamb ribs; others spareribs, and lutefisk, along with the trimmings—julekake, lefse, rutabaga, rice pudding, and goodies like fattigman, krumkake, spritz cookies, etc. Many families have big family days when they make lefse together. Some celebrate Little Christmas Eve on December 23, others remember the Second Day Christmas as a time of visiting the neighbors for julebukking—Christmas revels. Whatever they are, they are precious and fundamental to keeping the family together and raising up children who know their heritage. This Christmas it would be a fine thing to share with your grandchildren or children stories about these customs and pass them on.

- submitted by Gracia Grindal

VOLUNTEER



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

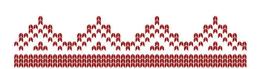
Interested in volunteering but don't know where to start? Want to join a fabulous crew of volunteers like these bunad-clad servers of the 70's?

Please submit the form at mindekirken.org/about-us or contact us:

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

Interested in volunteering during a Sunday worship service? Please visit :

tinyurl.com/mindekirkensunday or scan the QR code below to sign up for a slot. No need to log in, just click "sign up" next to the available job.





TRUSTEES REPORT

Thanks to Curt Aaseng and Tom Lanman for removing the fans in the sanctuary, and for Curt patching the walls. They are not needed after the mini-split units were installed.

Trustees approved moving camera due to the ship installation and installing an additional backup camera.

Changes were made to the devices used for recording services which should correct some of the issues we have had recently. Thanks to John Lind who worked on this problem.

The fellowship hall audio/visual project will be completed before year end. This project will upgrade the speakers, as there are many dead spots now. It will also replace the current projector and provide cameras for recording the programming, mostly to be paid from Tuesday Open House funds (money that bequeathed to them).

If you are interested in becoming a trustee, or filling the open position of church treasurer contact Kris Grodahl or me.

- Submitted by Nancy Olson, Trustee Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT

As we did last year a letter will be sent, jointly with the Mindekirken Foundation, asking for your consideration in year end giving and pledging for 2025. We are a small church with big programs. We will be celebrating, all year 2025, the 200th anniversary of the Restauration. Some of these programs will be bringing in special people or groups. If you contribute \$1000 or more to the 2025 Bicentennial Fund, your name will be on a plaque for recognition. We are still looking for a treasurer.

- Submitted by Nancy Olson, acting treasurer along with Jennifer Thue

FOUNDATION REPORT

The Mindekirken Foundation Board met October 30, 2024. The financials and market outlook were presented by John Steinke, GS Investments and Adrian Wear, Foundation Treasurer. As of end of 3rd quarter - September 30, 2024 the foundation had a value of \$1,588,177.25.

As year end approaches, we again thank our donors for their generosity throughout 2024. The grants given to Mindekirken are vital to fund special projects and maintain our beautiful church. Please consider a year end donation to the Mindekirken Foundation.

- Submitted by Cindy Hatlevik

BICENTENNIAL REPORT

The Bicentennial committee of Mindekirken has been planning for over a year for the 200th anniversary of organized immigration to the United States. The year or so of celebration has already been launched with the hanging of a model of Restaurationen, the ship that carried the first group of immigrants to America from Stavanger in 1825. The year will officially begin with a service of celebration. ELCA Bishop Emeritus Mark Hanson preaching. While we observe the usual events of the year, like Syttende Mai, Fastlavns Sunday, the Hauge Lectures, Olsok and Reformation and All Saints Sundays, Lucia and Christmas, they will be enhanced by concerts and lectures uniquely planned for the year. See below the schedule of events we have planned especially for the year. Tuesday Open House is also planning to feature one theme a month at least on the topic. It will be an exciting and educational time as we learn what the pioneers did, encouraged by their faith, to further their faith and pass it on to generations. Mindekirken was built not only to minister to the young immigrants coming from Norway in the 1920s, but also to remember and honor the faith of the thousands of pioneers from Norway who did so much to establish churches and educational institutions that continue to teach the faith and nurture the next generations in a rich culture.

- Submitted by Gracia Grindal

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RECENT RECAP

It has been a busy fall at Mindekirken! Here's a little bit of what we've been up to lately...

On Sunday, October 27 we were visited by the Minnesota Boychoir, and their beautiful music was a treat!





On Sunday, November 10, Mindekirken joined our friends at the Latvian Church of Minneapolis-St. Paul! On Saturday, November 2 we hosted our annual Treasure Chest Sale. Thanks to our incredible team of volunteers for pulling off another successful sale, and thank you to everyone who came and shopped! See you next year!









On Saturday, November 23 we hosted our fall Lutefisk dinner. Throughout the day, we served lutefisk to more than 450 hungry diners across three seatings! If you weren't able to join us (or simply can't get enough lutefisk in your life), fear not — on Saturday, March 29 2025, the Norwegian Glee Club will be hosting a lutefisk dinner at Mindekirken!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Please join us in celebrating on Sunday, December 29 to honor our December birthdays. If you have a birthday that's not listed, please notify the office so we can acknowledge your birthday.

12/1 Tim Peterson

12/11 Rickie Engh 12/13 Wendi Storl

12/3 Runar Andersen 12/4 Ingrid Stephens 12/13 Wendi Storhoff 12/15 Gunnar Kristiansen

12/4 Heidi Breivik

12/23 Shirley Evenstad

12/7 Jacob Markus

12/27 Adam Jacobs/Stromme

12/9 Karen Cardwell

12/29 Kristi Synsteby

12/9 Ingrid Johansen

12/29 Ann Slettum





SUNDAYS' 10:00 HOUR

- December 1 -

Sunday Forum: Our Sunday Forum for December will simply be joyful singing together to your requested advent and Christmas hymns. Please join us!

There will not be any other 10am events during the month of December. Please check back in the January Communicator about our 10am events.

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Nordic Choirs Julekonsert Sunday, Dec 15th, 4:00 pm

Come and enjoy an afternoon filled with festive choral music! Alongside our very own Mindekirken Choir, you'll be treated to performances by the American Swedish Institute Cloudberries, the Norwegian Glee Club, and the American Swedish Institute Male Chorus.

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

Save the date! The Mindekirken Foundation Julebord is scheduled for Sunday, January 5th at 1pm.

A traditional Norwegian buffet dinner will be served at 1pm in the Norway House event center with intermission entertainment at Mindekirken. The Mindekirken Foundation Julebord has set the standard in delicious Norwegian Christmas food and beautiful decor.

Cost: \$130 per person. Reservations are required.







Book Talk — Mission to Oslo Tuesday, December 17 at 1:00 pm

Former ambassador to Norway, Tom Loftus, will be giving a talk and selling his book. The memoir covers his time as ambassador from 1993 to 1997, and features stories of the Norwegian royal family, a fledgling Russian democracy, the Winter Olympics, and more!

The Gregorian Singers: Scandinavian Christmas Concert Friday, Dec 13, 7:30 pm

The Gregorian Singers present a concert of Scandinavian Christmas favorites, along with lesser-known surprises.

Juletrefest



Join us on Saturday, December 28 at 2 pm for some family-friendly Christmas fun! We'll celebrate as we sing traditional Norwegian Christmas carols while walking and dancing around the Christmas tree.

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

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. Please come and support your choir!

SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL MEETING 2025

Mark your calendars! The Mindekirken congregation's annual meeting will take place on Sunday, February 9th.

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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.



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



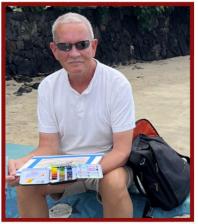
December 3 Everything you ever needed to know about trolls, and then some! Presenter: Synneva Bratland

You may have heard of ugly trolls living under bridges, enchanting huldra who lure men with their beauty, or nisser in the barn at Christmas, but where do these trolls come from? Why do Norwegians talk about them so much? And who are Thomas Dambo and his trolls? Synneva, volunteer coordinator and language instructor at Mindekirken, will drag us down into the world of trolls in Norwegian and Norwegian-American history and culture through music, art, film, storytelling, and more!



December 10Nordic
Presenter: Pastor Gunnar Kristiansen

Pastor Gunnar Kristiansen from Mindekirken will be the speaker for this week's TOH, with the topic yet to be determined.



December 17
Joy of Painting
Presenter: Steve Broin

Steve loves to travel and draw. He is happiest when doing both at the same time. It may be the influence of Viking genes, which he thinks is urging him to be both adventurous and to discover beautiful places around the world. There has alway been an interest in art. However, he did not start painting in earnest until 15 years ago while living on the little Mexican island of Isla Mujeres. Once he started, he never stopped. This year, he realized a life-long dream to travel around the world on a beautiful ship with a new tuxedo. His goal was to make paintings on location in each of the ports. At the end of the journey, a book was published. The presentation will be sharing some of the places and paintings from that voyage, as well as from visits to Norway.

December 24 & 31

TOH on winter break — happy holidays!



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.

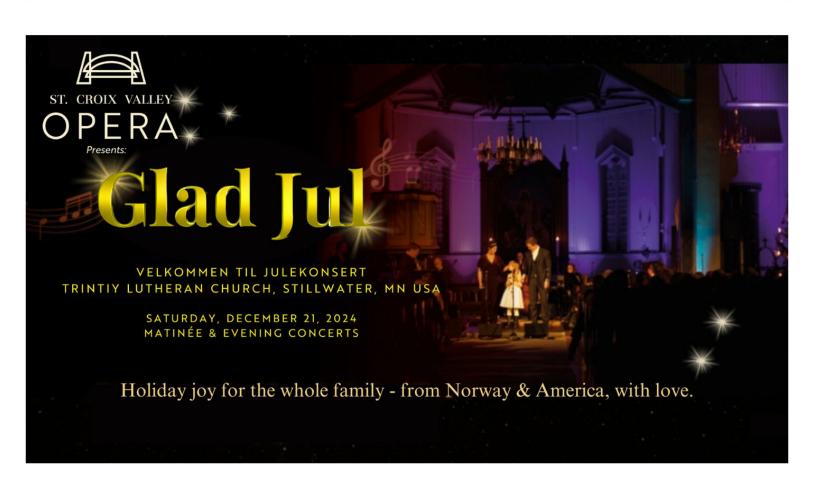
2024/2025 Term Start Dates:

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!





FOUNDATION JULEBORD

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

Julebord 2025

A festive day with delicious food, fellowship, and music.

Sponsored by Klubb 500 for the benefit of Mindekirken Foundation

Sunday, January 5, 2025 (Noon (Norway Flouse doors open

\$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 (press 8)
Or
email julebord@mindekirken.org

Final date for reservations — December 29, 2024
Please send your check payable to:
Mindekirken Foundation (with Julebord written in memo)
Please also include the names of those in your party
924 E 21st St, Minneapolis MN 55404-2952
Or

Pay on-line at www.mindekirken.org
To reserve and purchase 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.

Julebord Schedule

Noon – Norway House doors open for registration
Social Gathering time/Non-Host Cash Bar
Visit Gingerbread Wonderland
12:30 Velkommen til bords – seating begins
1:00 Smorgasbord
2:00 (approx.) – Musical Interlude in Mindekirken Sanctuary
and Door Prizes

Takk for Maten

3:00 (approx.) - Dessert Parade and Kaffebord at Norway House

Julebord Menu

Småreller/Appelizers

Sild – Pickled Herring
Gravlaks – Cold Cured Salmon
Spekmat – Cured Meats
Eggerøre - Scrambled Eggs
Flatbrød - Norwegian Flatbread

Hovedreite - Main Course

Laks med Dillkrem – Wild Alaskan Salmon served with Dill Sauce

Medisterkaker med Saus - Norwegian Pork Meatballs with Gravy

Augurksalat – Marinated Cucumber Salad Ristede Gulrøtter – Roasted Carrots Rødkål - Sweet and Sour Braised Red Cabbage

Kålrabistappe - Mashed Rutabaga Ertestuing - Stewed Green Peas

Nypoteter med Persille - Baby Red Potatoes with Fresh Parsley

Tyttebærsaus Flatbrød - Norwegian Lingonberry Sauce Flatbread

Potetlefse - Traditional soft Norwegian Flatbread made with Potatoes

Riskrem med Rød Saus - Cold Rice Pudding Served with

Berry Sauce and

Krumkake, served tableside

Kakeprosesjon - Parade of the Cakes A Mindekirken Tradition

Dessertbord – Dessert Table *Karamellpudding* - Crème Caramel, also known as Flan

Kransekaker - Delicate Cake of Almond Cookie Rings
Marsipankaker - Sponge Cake Filled with Raspberry
Whipped Cream Wrapped in Marzipan
Melfri Sjokoladekake - Chocolate Flourless Cake

Kaffe - Coffee • Te - Tea

Alkoholfri Musserende Juice - Alcohol-free Sparkling

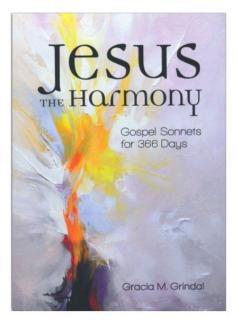
Juice

Cash Bar Tilgjengelig – Non-host Cash Bar Available
Catering Av/Catering By – Chef Francisco
Elmo Catering

Velkommen Til Bords!

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SPONSORS



This will make a good Christmas present: A daily devotional book for the year, 366 poems on the life of Jesus from his birth to his resurrection. In reading the story of Jesus' life and reflecting on it in the poems, plus by reading the suggested Bible passages, one gets a sense for the way in which Jesus is the fulfillment of the law and prophets. Available at FortressPress.com or amazon.com, as either a print or electronic book.



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

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Toby Hillmann
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Tom Peterson
Doug Watkins

DeaconsLaurie Agrimson
Erik Pratt
Lynndelle Pratt
Wendi Storhoff

→ 11 ⊢

December 2024

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

Return Service Requested

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- December 1 -

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

- December 8 -

No 9 am service
11 am Norwegian Service with Santa Lucia Pageant

- December 15 -

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

- December 22 -

9 am English Service with Communion 11 am Bilingual Family Service

- December 24 -

4 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - Julaften lysmesse

- December 29 -

No 9 am Service 11 am Bilingual Family Service

SUNDAYS AT 10

- December 1 -

Sunday Forum: Our Sunday Forum for December will simply be joyful singing together to your requested advent and Christmas hymns. Please join us!

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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 the office for any address changes or requests.