

Mindekirken COMMUNICATOR

A Monthly Newsletter of the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church - ELCA



Venner Luncheon

Saturday, March 22 , 11am–1pm

All are welcome to enjoy a concert by our very own Mindekirken Band followed by a delicious luncheon.

This event is free to attend, but donations to our church ship/Bicentennial "2025 Fund" are much appreciated

Norwegian Glee Club Lutefisk Dinner

Saturday, March 29, 12–3pm

Open Seating from 12-3 pm Walk-ins welcome- no card payments at the door, cash or check only \$27 (\$13 ages 7-12, free ages 6 & under)

Buffet-style, featuring: Lutefisk, meatballs, coleslaw, lefse, potatoes, coffee & dessert



PASTOR'S HILSEN

HOW CAN WE AVOID BEING CYNICAL IN TODAY'S SOCIETY?



a bit odd that is this the headline of my article this time. Well. today I have written a sermon where Jesus tells us to

bear fruit. And all of a sudden I was reminded about the novel of Dostoyevsky, called the Idiot. And it was actually a young prince, Mysikin, who was called the Idiot by people around him. Why? Because he felt empathy with everybody, he felt compassion with the poor and was really sorry if he watched someone suffer.

If such a compassionate person is called the Idiot in a society, what does that tell about the rest of us? Have we become so cynical that we don't have any compassion left?

And yes, it is easy to become cynical today. Politicians hardly ever keep their promises, scams meet you everywhere, people steal other's identity to be able to fool you.

Maybe you find it Jesus is telling us to bear fruit. To be able to do that, we have to get rid of our cynical attitude. I myself try to live according to what is called relational ethics, first presented by the Danish philosopher Løgstrup. Where he ask us to live according to what he calls spontaneous life utterances. Which are among others, mercy, hope, basic trust. Løgstrup says that trust should never need a reason, it is mistrust that needs a reason. Well, I think most of us are mistrusting everybody that we don't know really well.

> What about trying Løgstrups' recipe for a while? I have done that, even when I meet drug addicts. And yes, I have been disappointed from time to time. But much more often I have seen a little everyday miracle, when that person is being completely honest to me, simply because he or she does not want to lose my trust in them.

> Just try to live according spontaneous life utterings for a while. You might be surprised!

> > - 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. 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



Connect with a Child (https://connectwithachild.org/) is a holistic care program in Kenya that provides education and support primarily to orphaned children. Mindekirken was blessed with a visit and concert by students in their Hakuna Matata choir just a few years ago. Our Mission of the Month gifts will support the well-being and future of Kenyan youth. Thank you for your generous Mindekirken Mission of the Month donations to our global and local organizations in need.

- Wendi S.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Executive Committee listened closely at the Annual Meeting of the congregation on February 9. We were thankful to God for the good spirit and the lively participation in the conversation. We made the quorum of 35 and proceeded with a discussion of several issues: the budget, questions about the relationship of the Council to the staff and pastor, refining the job description for the Volunteer Coordinator, and finally, the issue of calling a new pastor. Since Pastor Gunnar is planning to leave at the end of the year before his visa runs out, we need to begin the process immediately. The discussion will be continued at a meeting of the congregation on Sunday March 16, at 1:00 after church in the Fellowship Hall. Erik Pratt has consented to lead the discussion so all opinions and ideas will be heard. There are two options with permutations in between—one, calling a full-time pastor from Norway; or two, calling an American administrative pastor or layperson, at 75%, who is well acquainted with the Norwegian Lutheran tradition, and bringing in Norwegian pastors for brief three-month terms. There are many possibilities in between the two extremes which our mutual conversations may discover. There are several realities that the congregation will have to face: the shortage of pastors both in Norway and in America. Plus finding someone with facility in Norwegian who is American may be difficult. Come prepared to think together with your fellow members. This is a challenge we must meet with prayer and mutual support.

- Gracia Grindal, Vice President

NORDIC NOTES



March 2 is Fastelavns Sunday. That is the Sunday before Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5. The tradition is associated with Shrovetide, or Mardi Gras, the days before the Lenten fast. The tradition is marked with fastelavnsboller, cream filled buns. The tradition developed in Lutheran Scandinavia, something like Shrovetide and became a special time for kids, rather like Halloween. In early celebrations, they cut branches off flowering bushes and used them to beat their parents (gently!). The parents would lightly beat their children to beat the sin out of them before Easter. This is no longer the practice. Some remnants of the tradition continue with people picking branches from flowering bushes to put in water, so they flower by Easter. The branches we use on Fastelavns Sunday in church are bright harbingers of spring which should be here in six weeks. Find some spirea branches

or something similar in the snow right now, cut off several of them and put them in water in a warm place and make fastelavnsboller for your family! See a recipe by Jennifer Thue, for this treat in our Cookbook, p. 110.

- Gracia Grindal

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













UPCOMING HAUGE LECTURE

Hans Nielsen Hauge—The Heart of His Message: Hans Nielsen Hauge is one of the most famous men ever to claim Norway as his home. But what did he teach? Why were so many gripped by his message? Was he legalistic, like many of those later called Haugeans were reputed to be? Come and hear about the heart of the man who awakened Norway.

The Annual Hauge lecture at Mindekirken will be given by Pastor Brian Lunn. Lunn graduated with a Master of Divinity degree from the Free Lutheran Seminary, 2020 and is now serving the Word of Life Free Lutheran Church in Upsala, MN. He has been

President of the Georg Sverdrup Society since 2021 and taught Hebrew at the Free Lutheran Seminary in Plymouth, MN. He owns the Pontoppidan Press which has published its first book A Godly Contemplation: Prayers and Meditations by Hans Nielsen Hauge. He continues to translate Danish and Norwegian sermons by pastors who influenced Hauge and Georg Sverdrup, the long time president of Augsburg Seminary. Brian is married to Leeanna with five children: Erik, Caedmon, Linnea, Haakon, Oscar, and another due May 23rd. His books will be on sale at the lecture.

Ham Nislem Hauge (1771-1824) was the spirmul awakener of Norway. His practising ministry look him all to provide in Gest Word to wis node for Christ, and so cruck the lose of those bet noutbed. The writing in this volume introduce the reader to his synthesis of the Christian life.

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Pontoppidan Pene



- Gracia Grindal

IN REMEMBERENCE

MARY JOHNSON

April 9, 1930 -February 12, 2025

Mary Kristiansen Johnson (94) of Edina, was born & raised in Oslo, Norway. passed She away peacefully away 2/12/2025. She owned "Scandia Imports" for 45 years with her husband was Jim. Mary the recipient of both the King Olav Medal of Honor & Norwegian Home Guard Medal of Merit.

Mary was also crowned Mrs. MN in 1982 & MN Mother of the Year in 1984. Her 3 children, 5 grandchildren, & 11 great-grandchildren were her biggest joy & pride with Jim by her side.

Please join us for a Celebration of Life Service 3/15/25 at 11:00 am (Visitation 10:00 am), followed by lunch at 12 pm. Memorials preferred to Mindekirken for the Mary Johnson Memorial Fund.

ARTS & EXHIBITS

NEW EXHIBIT

Come visit our new exhibit, "Mindekirken's History: Why does Mindekirken Exist?" This exhibit explores various perspectives of key individuals around 1922 that were for and against the formation of a church dedicated to continuing the use of Norwegian. This exhibit is on the wall at the bottom of the steps going down to the basement.





CALL FOR PHOTOS

Do you have photos from events in Mindekirken's history, especially prior to 2000? The Art & Exhibits committee would be glad to get a digital copy. We would be willing to make high quality digital copies for you if you can bring the photos to church. We are planning a number of future exhibits in which we need historical pictures. Please contact the church office if you are able to help us with this.

- Arts & Exhibits Committee

TRUSTEES REPORT

At the annual meeting February 9, a new trustee was voted in Bob Worrall, along with the current existing trustees Toby Hillmann, Tom Peterson and Doug Watkins. They will be meeting in February to determine who will be the new chair. We thank Tom Lanman retiring trustee for his years of service.

We still are on track to have the Fellowship Hall audio visual installation and training to be completed by the end of February.

- Nancy Olson, Former Trustee Chair

MINDEKIRKEN FOUNDATION



The Mindekirken Foundation Board met February 12, 2025. The financials and market outlook were presented by John Steinke, GS Investments and Adrian Wear, Foundation Treasurer. As of end of 4th quarter - December 31, 2024 the foundation had a value of \$1,809,619.

Your Foundation dollars have been hard at work! In 2024, Mindekirken received an astounding \$49,507.93 that paid for important building repairs and improvements including roof repairs, lighting, a/c and audio/visual equipment. And most recently, the installation of the ship Restauration replica in the sanctuary.

Do you have a special occasion coming up? Consider giving a donation to the Mindekirken Foundation in honor of a birthday or anniversary. Thank you for your support and continued generosity!

- Cindy Hatlevikk

TREASURER REPORT

At the annual meeting held on February 9 th the financials for the 2024 year and the annual budget for 2025 was reviewed and approved. You can review the numbers in the annual report, which was given out at the meeting. If you were unable to attend the meeting, you may pick up a copy in the church office. Digital copies of the annual report is not available.

A report was made and included in the annual report by the treasurer detailing assumptions that were used in the budget process.

We will be engaging an accounting firm to perform an audit of the church's financial records. The last audit was completed in 2018.

Thank you for your continued giving to support the church. As we have stated many times, we are a small church with big programs. We could not exist without your support. Please consider a gift to the church in these early months of the year, our operating expenses are year round.

We also have a special fund to celebrate the 2025 bicentennial year – the first organized migration of Norwegians to North America. There will be many programs to commemorate this historic year. Donors contributing \$1,000 or more will have their names engraved on a plaque in the church, with the copy of the Restauration Slooper installed in the sanctuary to signify the importance of the 1825 event.

- Nancy Olson, Treasurer

RECENT RECAP

BUD LARSEN AT TUESDAY OPEN HOUSE

Our TOH speaker on Tuesday, February 11 was maker and player of Hardanger fiddles, Bud Larsen. A full Fellowship Hall was treated to a wonderful tapestry of songs and stories. Tusen takk, Bud!









ANNUAL MEETING 2025

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2025 Mindekirken Congregation Annual Meeting, held on Sunday, February 9.

Thank you for attending, and for making your voice heard in our congregation!



photo by Amy Coppersmith of congregation during Queen Sonja's visit in 2022

MINDEKIRKEN WEEKLY



Want even 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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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



3/2 Elizabeth Cardwell

3/3 Sherman Shand

3/5 Hunter Berg

3/6 Berit Marie Aus

3/6 Becca Richardson Holland

3/7 Karin Holt

3/8 Astrid Urberg Carlson

3/19 Harald Bakke

3/21 Mary Ellen Knatterud

3/21 Barbara Severson

3/22 Dick Enstad

3/25 Peter Anderson

3/26 Jorunn Henrikssen

3/26 Jorn Sindre Remmem

3/30 Bette Buckman Braem

3/31 Kristofer Coffman





UPCOMING EVENTS



Lutefisk Dinner Spring 2025 Presented by The Norwegian Glee Club of Minneapolis Saturday, March 29





Open Seating from 12-3 pm.

If we are at capacity, you will be able to wait in the sanctuary until seats become available.

Walk-ins welcome- no card payments at the door, cash or check only
\$27 (\$13 ages 7-12, free ages 6 & under)

Buffet style, featuring: Lutefisk, meatballs, coleslaw, lefse, potatoes, coffee & dessert

For tickets, visit mindekirken.org

No internet? Call the office (612) 874-0716

and press 8 for the reservation line



VENNER LUNCHEON 2025

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 22! Please enjoy an 11am concert by the Mindekirken Band followed by a luncheon. Free, donations to Mindekirken's church ship appreciated. Reservations required: Visit mindekirken.org No internet? Call the office at (612) 874-0716 and select option 8.

PASTORAL CALL MEETING

Join us after kirkekaffe at 1:00 PM on Sunday, March 16 for a meeting to discuss multiple proposals for how best to go about next pastor to Mindekirken.

traditions hope belonging fear safety courage faith

America

Sorges

Culture friends family roots

joy home risk
adventure identity

danger

Migrations: Songs and stories about people on the move

Join us on **Sunday March 23 from 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM** for a concert presented by the Edvard Grieg Society of Minnesota. With Dan Dressen, tenor; Sonja Thompson, piano; Stephanie Arado, violin; Laura Sewell, cello. Freewill donation.









FASTELAVNSBOLLER

Join us on Sunday, March 2 and celebrate fastelavn with delicious fastelavnsboller! And if you can't join us — or are looking for a new treat to bake this winter — try out the recipe at home:

Jennifer Thue

FASTELAVNSBOLLER * (Cardamom Buns)

½ c. butter, melted 1% c. milk 1 pkg. yeast

2½ c. flour ½ c. sugar ½ tsp. salt ½ tsp. cardamom ½ tsp. baking powder

1 egg, beaten whipped cream strawberry jam powdered sugar Mix the melted butter and milk in a bowl; the mixture should be about 100° F. Stir in the yeast. Mix in the flour, sugar, salt, cardamom and baking powder. Knead together until you get a firm dough. Cover it with plastic and let the dough rise in a warm place until doubled in size. Divide into 16 pieces and place on parchment paper or a greased baking sheet. Cover and let rise another 25 minutes. Preheat oven to 425° F. Brush with beaten egg. Bake for approximately 10 minutes. Cool on a rack. When ready to serve, cut the buns into two. Fill with whipped cream mixed with strawberry jam. Dust with powdered sugar.

Note: Traditionally served during Fastelavn (Shrovetide, in Engliish) which is the three days leading up to Lent.





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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

March 4

Community Emergency Services | Presenter: Jamie Dolynchuk, President of CES



Founded in 1971 by Pastor William Berg, CES originally functioned as an outreach of Augustana Lutheran Church to offer critical aid to Minneapolis residents. Decades later, it stands as a fully independent, expanded nonprofit with the largest Meals on Wheels program in the state.

Based in the most ethnically diverse neighborhood in Minneapolis, CES staff and volunteers are on the frontlines of providing food, hope, and compassion to our multi-generational, multi-cultural, low-income clientele. We strive to serve our neighbors in need without distinction or test, with dignity and understanding.

March 11

Sing-a-long | Presenter: Tom Erickson



Tom Erickson grew up in Norwegian Twin Valley, Minnesota. He started playing in a band while in high school going from the basketball court to the band. His band was always an avocation.

He was employed in Cenex management in greater Minnesota and was moved to corporate for thirty years until retirement. At that time he gave up music but formed a band at retirement until becoming a solo act a few years ago.

Erickson was born and raised in a small town in northwestern Minnesota, grew up in a musical family. His father played violin and his mother also played a saw on occasion.

He features a lot of old-time music and sing-a-longs with the audience.

March 18

Reading About Immigrants and Immigration | Presenter: Annette Atkins



So many books about immigration — Norwegian and otherwise! For Norwegian-Americans including Rolvaags's Giants in the Earth is central. Why, I wonder, when even Rolvaag wrote others. Annette will talk about telling stories about our past — literary and otherwise. She also wonders if persons in the audience have stories to tell.

Annette Atkins is the granddaughter of Agita Julianna Sivertson (named after the Queen, she liked to say). She is author of several books including "Creating Minnesota."

She is a historian who promotes the history of a region and its citizens by documenting, researching, interpreting, and speaking about the people, places, and events that have created the fabric of an area. Atkins' advocacy for local history is unparalleled. Annette is a board of the Norwegian American Historical Association and a Professor Emeritus from St. Johns University.

March 25

Story of Family Immigration | Presenter: Tricia Velure & Tom Sandel



Tricia Velure and Tom Sansei are local presenters of a book called <u>Dust Yourself Off</u>. This book tells the story of Tom's Mother who was an immigrant from Norway and a North Dakota farmer, who in the 1940s and 1950s dusted herself off many times. If you like inspiring stories of an everyday woman who gets whispered about at ladies' aid lunches or a good love story gets you every time, you will want to hear the story. Tricia and Tom will discuss how this book came to be written and why it was important to Tom to share his mother's story.

______ 8 ______



Join us on a language adventure!

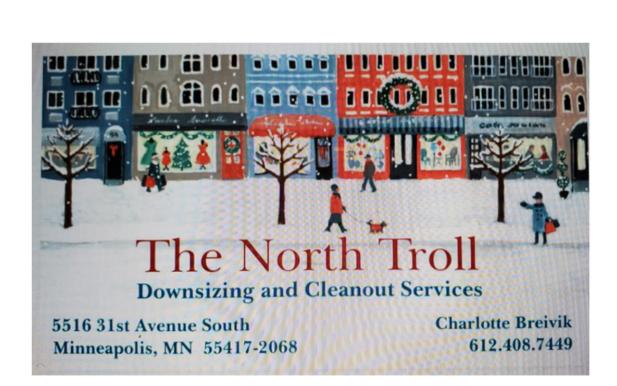
Language classes meet for 2 hours a week for 10 weeks. We offer three 10-week terms per year.

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!**



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!

- March 2 Sunday Forum: "The Peace House Community on Portland Ave." by Marti Maltby

This Forum will be presented by Marti Maltby, Director of Peace House Communicty (PHC) on Portland Ave. Peace House will be Mindekirken's Mission of the Month in April. This will be the first time for it to be in our "MOM" rotation, so to help us learn about

this organization, Mr. Maltby will disucss the work they do to provide a safe and peaceful place for homeless adults in our neighborhood.



- March 9 -Norwegian Language: "Understanding the language of Norwegian hymns"



This class will explore texts of hymns that we sing for words and phrases that are not as commonly known by modern Norwegian speakers and students. Our class will be led by Gracia Grindal, our resident expert

in Norwegian hymns, who has translated into English two hymnals of Norwegian hymns. This class is open to all. No registration needed.

- March 16 -

Introduction to the Norwegian Service: "Gaining Familiarity with our Norwegian Church Service"



We believe that our 11am Norwegian service is a very unique and special time that cannot be found anywhere in the country. Yet we know that it might feel intimidating and unfamiliar to many people. March's Introduction to the Norwegian Service will focus on the basics to help you feel like you can participate in our

service to enjoy and appreciate it, rather than feeling intimidated by its strangeness. We will run through the order of the service, introduce common words and phrases, review that Sunday's hymns and answer questions you might have. Led by Erik Pratt.

- March 23 -

Mindekirken Tour:

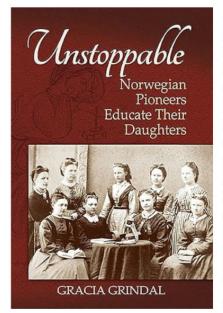
"Why I love giving tours of Mindekirken" by Erik Pratt

After giving tours at church for over two years now, I'm finally finding my voice around communicating the story of Mindekirken. I like to channel the perspectives of the original members who began our congregation in 1922. For this, I have Gracia Grindal and her book, "Against the Current", to thank for helping form my understanding of those times. I especially enjoy the moment when we enter the Sanctuary on the tour route and try to experience the moment when those original members first

entered the beautiful space. I hope you will join us on our next tour on March 23 at 10am with one of our church member guides. Our guides are also available for prearranged group tours by calling the office.



SPONSORS





Gracia Grindal

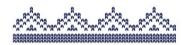
As the Bicentennial begins, there are books on the immigrants that tell their stories, many forgotten today. This book studies how the founders of Luther College worked to educate both young men and David women. Preus, president of the American Lutheran Church said. Unstoppable is an invaluable addition 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.

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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Marilyn Sorensen: Tuesday Open House

Coordinator

tuesdayopenhouse@mindekirken.org

Mindekirken 2025 Congregational Council

Executive Committee

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

President Nancy Sand Olson, Treasurer ice President Nancy Watkins, Deacons Chair Secretary Toby Hillmann, Trustees Chair Gunnar Kristiansen, Pastor

Trustees
Toby Hillmann
Tom Peterson
Doug Watkins
Bob Worrall

DeaconsLaurie Agrimson
Michael Harty
Wendi Storhoff
Nancy Watkins

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MARCH 2025

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

Return Service Requested

MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- March 2 -

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

- March 9 -

9 am English Service 11 am Norwegian Service

- March 16 -

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

- March 23 -

9 am English Service 11 am Norwegian Service

- March 30 -

No 9 am service No 10 am programming 11 am Bilingual Family Service

SUNDAYS AT 10

- March 2 -

Sunday Forum: "The Peace House Community on Portland Ave." by Marti Maltby

- March 9 -

Norwegian Language:

"Understanding the language of Norwegian hymns" **Norskeklubben:** For more information, visit mnlcp.org

- March 16 -

Introduction to the Norwegian Service:

"Gaining Familiarity with our Norwegian Church Service"

- March 23 -

Mindekirken Tour: All are welcome for our monthly tour of the church, where we explore Mindekirken's history, building and artwork.

Norskeklubben: For more information, visit mnlcp.org

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.