



Mindekirken COMMUNICATOR

2025 February
Issue 248#

A Monthly Newsletter of the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church - ELCA



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

HOPE



I think that we can all agree that hope is a very important word in our life. We put our hope in almost everything.

And all these hopes are based on earthly matters, often conditions that we cannot control.

With our heavenly hope it is different. As it is said in Hebrews, chapter 11: Now faith is the assurance of things HOPED FOR!

So our Christian hope is based on an assurance, that what we hope for here actually WILL happen! We will actually experience our resurrection when God calls us to wake up from our eternal sleep, we will see Jesus in his kingdom. And we will experience an eternity where the word hope is erased. Because everything we hoped for is already fulfilled!

If it is a very bad day weather-wise, we hope for better weather tomorrow. If one of our dear ones gets sick, we hope that he or she will recover soon. So in many ways those four letters (HOPE), are very important in our life. And when we look at what condition our world is in right now, we really hope for an improvement soon.

- 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.



MISSION OF THE MONTH

Community Emergency Service (CES) is the Mission of the Month for February. Located directly in our neighborhood, Community Emergency Service transforms lives by serving neighbors, sharing resources, and becoming community. CES meets hunger where it is a critical need, on client's food shelves with home delivery to the homebound and Meals on Wheels to seniors. For more information on the impact of CES, see <https://cesmn.org/> Thank you for donating generously to Mindekirken Mission of the Month through your Mindekirken offering for the well-being of our immediate neighbors.

- Wendi S.



COMMUNITY
EMERGENCY
SERVICE

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.

NORDIC NOTES

KYNDELSMESSE/KYNDELMESS/THE PRESENTATION/GROUNDHOG DAY

Few people today know that Groundhog Day, February 2, has deeply Christian roots. It is one of the oldest Christian festivals, remembering the day, 40 days after the birth of Jesus, that Joseph and Mary went to the temple to present Jesus and herself to the priest, to mark the day of her purification—when women were welcomed back into the temple and regular life. Because they were poor they brought two doves as a sacrifice. It is the day that Simeon, the old priest, rejoiced to see Jesus because he knew he was the Messiah. Over time the day became a big celebration in Christian traditions. It was midway between the solstice and the beginning of spring. Many regarded it as the last day of the Christmas festivities so ate the last of the Christmas foods. Farmers regarded it as the beginning of a new growing season and began making preparations to sow their fields. Candles were also an important part of the festivals. Sometimes a candelabra of seven candles were lit. A superstition grew that if it was a sunny day, there would be more winter, if not, the winter would be shorter. Thus Groundhog Day which began in Pennsylvania among German immigrants. While that is a far stretch from the presentation of Mary, the movie Groundhog Day has deeply religious message: until one reforms one's behavior and sees that one is not the center of the universe life will cease and one will be forced to repeat the same hellish day over and over again. Only until the main character sees the error of his ways and repents does life continue! The church in its wisdom used many things in nature and tradition to give weight and moment to the daily round of time during the year. Make some rice pudding for your family, especially the kids, and remember Mary, Joseph and Jesus in the temple! Then ask about whether the groundhog saw its shadow!

The church also used the story of Mary's forty days confinement as a practice for all women after they gave birth. During the forty days, she was to rest and stay away from gatherings and was not allowed to come to church. In England the time was called the gander month because it was the time when the husband served the wife so she could rest. After forty days, in Norway, the new mother would gather outside the church with her friends, dressed in her finest, usually the bunad she wore at her confirmation, wedding, and churching. At the appropriate time the pastor would lead her and her friends into the church where she would be purified and brought back into normal society. The practice, called churching, endured a long time; the Episcopal church has continued the practice, and there was a hymn in the Norwegian hymnal written by Birgitte Boye (1742-1824), the first great Danish woman hymn writer, who was for certain the first woman to write a hymn about giving birth for her "churching."

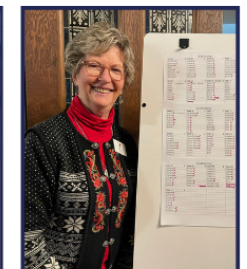
- Gracia Grindal

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

BICENTENNIAL REPORT

The Bicentennial celebration began on January 5, 2025, at a worship service featuring Bishop emeritus Mark Hanson as the preacher. Hanson, the son of the evangelist Oscar C. Hanson of the ELC, is probably the most well-known Norwegian American church official of his generation. He served first as bishop of St. Paul, then as head bishop of the ELCA, and while holding that office he led the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). In addition, his father helped found the American Lutheran Church in Oslo. Mark, who was a teenager at the time, lived in Oslo while his father built the congregation.

Now the Tuesday Open House programs will reflect on the immigration and topics surrounding it. Marilyn Sorensen, the leader of the program, has planned a rich selection of lectures that will treat the immigration.

Our next big event for the bicentennial will be the Hauge lecture on April 26 at 1:30 in the sanctuary. Our speaker will be Pastor Brian Lunn of the Upsala Lutheran church in Uppsala MN. He learned Norwegian to be able to read the history of the Norwegian Lutherans and especially the work and place of Hauge. Last year he published a book of translations on Hauge: A Godly Contemplation: Prayers and Meditations by Hans Nielsen Hauge. Please plan to attend. On March 22 the Venner luncheon will be entertained by the pastor featuring the songs of Eyvind Skeie, Norway's most prolific hymn writer. It should be a fun afternoon!

- Gracia Grindal

THE MINDEKIRKEN BAND



It's really on time to present our Mindekirken band. It's Hui Chen, piano, Maggie Burr here as soloist, Ariel Wilberg is the other soloist. And Laurie Agrimson, violin, Kevin Miller bass guitar. And Gunnar, our pastor on guitar. So much fun to play together!

- Pastor Gunnar



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

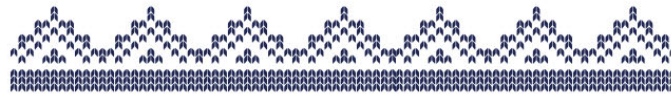
Do you have photos from events in Mindekirken's history, especially prior to 2000? The Art & Exhibits committee would be glad to get a digital copy. We would be willing to make high quality digital copies for you if you can bring the photos to church. We are planning a number of future exhibits in which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

- Arts & Exhibits Committee

TRUSTEES REPORT

I said that last month would be my last report, as I have moved on to Treasurer. I want to update you on a project that was still in the works. The audio visual project for the fellowship hall which we had hoped would be completed by year end, ran into a number of roadblocks, which began with the person that was going to install it leaving the company. A person was found to complete the project, but initially he thought we may have an asbestors problem, to we had to stop to do some testing, which I am happy to report turned out to be negative. The worker then was injured, which caused another delay. I am anticipating that by the time you read this in February that the project and training of staff will be completed.

- Nancy Olson, Retired Trustee Chair



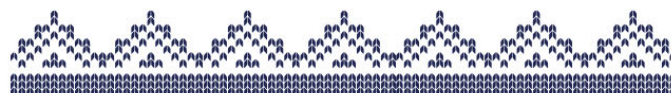
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The executive committee, composed of the officers, and the heads of trustees and deacons, meets once a month to review issues and pass some of them on to the full Council and then the congregation if that is warranted. One pesky problem is determining the number of members we have. Given the changes in communication, phones, internet, mail, all of which have issues, we decided to send out a post card asking people to respond to a few questions, such as do you need prayer or pastoral care, etc.

Then we looked forward to the next year and the celebrations of the Bicentennial. Our kickoff was fairly well attended, and we were thankful for that. We are now looking forward to several events on our schedule, the Venner Luncheon, March 22, the Hauge Lecture, April 26 with a festive luncheon and then, of course, Syttende Mai.

We are also happy to report that the installing of speakers and video cameras for the Fellowship Hall is progressing nicely. These are mostly housekeeping details that are necessary for us to complete. Most important, however, is the conversation about options for calling a new pastor after Pastor Gunnar leaves at the end of this year. We are discussing several options which the Council will address in the next week. It will then present a conversation guide to aid in the discussion at its congregational annual meeting on February 9. We look forward to all of you attending and helping with that discussion.

- Gracia Grindal, Vice President



TREASURER REPORT

Thank you for your pledges and year end gifts. This church could not operate without the generosity of members and supporters.

I am beginning to work on the budget for 2025 to be presented at the annual meeting, being held on February 9 at 11:00. We are only holding one worship service that day at 10:00. I hope that you will be able to attend. We will not be able to conduct business unless we have a quorum.

- Nancy Olson, Treasurer

RECENT RECAP

After a busy holiday season, things quieted down a bit in January at Mindekirken. In addition to our weekly services and TOH programs, here's some of what we've been up to...

MINDEKIRKEN CHOIR SANG AT ORCHESTRA HALL

The Mindekirken Choir was honored to participate as part of the Minnesota Orchestra's Nordic Soundscapes Festival.

Head to Mindekirken's Facebook page to find the full video of the choir singing "Vak over dette huset" by Robert Coates.



photo by Bob Rorke

AN EXTRA THANKS!

Thanks to Henrikssen family, Kim Berg, Bob Worrall, and anyone else who helped decorate for Christmas.

Special thanks to Bob for taking on the arduous task of removing the Christmas tree!



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

JULEBORD 2025

A Mindekirken Foundation Fundraiser

Thank you to all that attended the Julebord this year on Sunday January 5 at Norway House.

We had 95 guests that enjoyed the Julebord, then went to the church to be entertained by the church band. Some won door prizes. Back to Norway House where a cake parade was held and then the cakes and desserts were served.

Thank you to the my fellow committee members – Martha Balfanz, Marit Kringstad, Kathy Manderscheid, Margy Peterson, and Nancy Watkins.

Thank you to the church band – Gunnar Kristiansen, Laurie Agrimson, Maggie Burr, Hui Chen, and Kevin Miller.

Thank you to Art Bjorngjeld and Char Bostrom for the welcoming music and cake parade music.

Thank you to Rebecca Jorgenson Sundquist who was the master of ceremonies and toastmaster.

- Nancy Olson, Julebord Chair



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, scan QR code or visit mindekirken.org

No internet? Call the office (612) 874-0716 and press 8 for the reservation line



SAVE THE DATE: VENNER LUNCHEON

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.

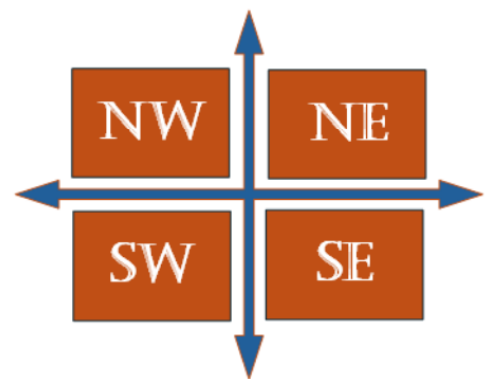
2025 ANNUAL MEETING

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

HOME GROUPS

Did you know that you are already part of a Mindekirken Home Group? Our groups are divided by Twin Cities geography based on the quadrant you live in using Highway 94 East and West intersecting with Highway 35W to inform you of your location.

Home groups will be meeting next on Sunday, February 23. Registration ahead of time is required. If you are interested in attending, please let the church office know or sign up during Kirkekaffe on Sundays.



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.

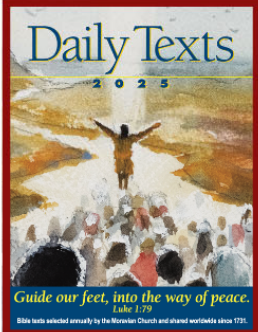
RESERVATIONS
 To make a reservation, please send an email to reservations@mindekirken.org or call (612) 874-0716 option 8



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

February 4

The Daily Text | Presenter: Pastor Phil Blom



The Moravian Reformation established the daily text as their source of motivation and inspiration. That inspired them to come to the New World, naming their new home in Pennsylvania, Bethlehem. They would become slaves in order to stand with those enslaved. They joined the Cherokee in their Trail of Tears.

Their reformation predated our Lutheran Reformation by 100 years and served as an inspiration for Luther. Reformer Jon Huss was burned at the stake for the same reasons Luther was a wanted man.

The key expression of their Reformation, the Daily Text continues to inspire, exceeding the membership of the Moravian's and is translated into 50 languages. In learning the story of the Moravian Reformation we will discover its source of inspiration for our lives today.

February 11

Fiddling and Storytelling | Presenter: Robert "Bud" Larsen



Bud Larsen built his first Hardanger fiddle when he was in 7th grade. It can take several hundred hours to build a fiddle. Larsen believes anyone with enough patience and will can build one.

He learned the craft from Gunnar Helland, a member of the Helland fiddle maker family from Norway who ran a violin shop in Fargo, ND. Bud has built more than 40 fiddles during his career. Not only does he build them, he has repaired more than 100. Larsen currently lives in Brainerd, MN. However, he works with apprentices in the Fargo-Moorhead area to restore folk instruments that for generations were gathering dust in attics and closets across the Midwest.

Unfortunately Bud Larsen lost his collection of 200 fiddles and luthier tools, their dog and two cats when his home burned in January, 2024.

February 18

The Life and Legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer | Presenter: John Matthews

Since his untimely death by hanging at the hands of the Nazis in April 1945, pastor, theologian and conspirator Dietrich Bonhoeffer has continued to inspire people through his writings and responsible actions. Earlier a committed pacifist, Bonhoeffer joined the circle of those in the conspiracy to assassinate Hitler, in the realization that the only way to end the genocide of millions was by removing the Führer.

Come and hear Pastor John Matthews convey the essence and dynamics of Bonhoeffer's life, death, and witness.



February 25

Choosing the Wesleyan Path: Norwegians and Methodism | Presenter: Thelma Boeder

Methodism in America evolved with several ethnic flavors – including Norwegian. By the mid-19th century Methodist "traveling preachers" were enthusiastically following John Wesley's injunction to "spread scriptural holiness across the land for the transformation of the world."

We will explore their work among Norwegians in the Upper Midwest, particularly in Minnesota, with side trips to Norway and other parts. See also the article in February's Norwegian/American newspaper telling of one family's Methodist roots in Norway and Minneapolis.





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!**



The North Troll
Downsizing and Cleanout Services

5516 31st Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55417-2068

Charlotte Breivik
612.408.7449

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 expanded 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. *This class will not be held in February because of the change in schedule to accommodate the Annual Meeting*

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!

- February 2 -

Sunday Forum:

“Catechism 101” by Gracia Grindal

Have you ever wondered what makes Christianity “Christianity” or what the basic points of Christianity are? If so, please join us for this refresher class on the essential elements of Christian teaching.

- February 16 -

Introduction to the Norwegian Service:

“The Immigrants’ Church Service”

As part of our bicentennial celebration of Norwegian immigration, we will be exploring the church service that 19th century immigrants experienced. What did they say? What did they sing? What was the feel of the service? These questions and more will be addressed by Gracia Grindal.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

We will have cake at kirkekaffe on Sunday, February 23 to honor our February birthdays. Please join us in celebrating! If you have a birthday that's not listed, please notify the office so we can acknowledge your birthday.

2/21 Kristin Kellaher

2/22 Tove Corbett

2/23 Sofie Urberg Carlson

2/25 Anne Marie Bakke

2/26 Astrid Featt

2/28 Kathy Stevens

2/28 Theodore Anderson

2/28 Philip Blom

2/1 Joyce Muhl

2/3 Donadee Peterson

2/5 Joseph Grodahl

2/6 Kari Fosse

2/7 Bob Worrall

2/7 Crystal Backus

2/7 Elizabeth Sorenson Brodden

2/10 Carolyn Farley

2/12 Jason Tang

2/12 Leif Erickson

2/15 Deborah Benson

2/17 Danny Urban

2/19 Jacob Holck

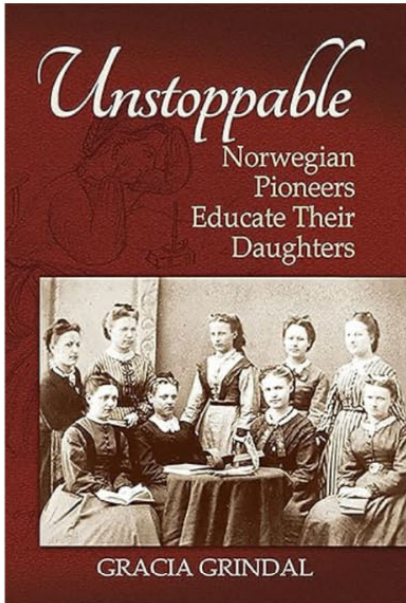
2/20 Curtis Aaseng

2/20 Linda Stordalen

2/20 Eldbjorg Skare



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.

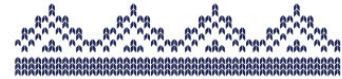


Gracia Grindal

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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*

Trustees

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Tom Lanman
Tom Peterson
Doug Watkins

Deacons

Laurie Agrimson
Erik Pratt
Lynndelle Pratt
Wendi Storhoff

FEBRUARY 2025

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

Return Service Requested

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- February 2 -

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

- February 9 -

No 9 am service

10 am Norwegian Service

11 am Annual Meeting

- February 16 -

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

- February 23 -

No 9 am service

11 am Bilingual Family Service

SUNDAYS AT 10

- February 2 -

Sunday Forum: "Catechism 101" by Gracia Grindal

- February 9 -

There will be no 10am offering today.

Please join us at the annual meeting at noon!

Norskeklubben: For more information, visit mnlcp.org

- February 16 -

Introduction to the Norwegian Service:

"The Immigrants' Church Service"

As part of our bicentennial celebration of Norwegian immigration, we will be exploring the church service that 19th century immigrants experienced. What did they say? What did they sing? What was the feel of the service? These questions and more will be addressed by Gracia Grindal.

- February 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

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