



# Kviteseid Voice

Kviteseid Lutheran Church

October 2023

Volume 33 | Number 10

## Greetings from Pastor Kristine Isder

### Meanings of “grace”:

Something we say before a meal.

A pleasing or attractive quality. Elegance or beauty of manner, motion or action.

In the Lutheran church, we talk a lot about grace.

What is this “grace” we talk about in church? “Grace” is the free, unmerited, unearned love and forgiveness of God.

We can’t earn God’s grace, because we can’t earn anything that is free. We don’t deserve God’s forgiveness.

We believe that we are saved by grace through faith. Our good works won’t earn our salvation.

I tell the confirmation students that if they don’t remember

anything else from confirmation, to remember this: There is nothing we can do to make God love us more. There is nothing we can do to make God love us less. That’s grace.

In October we celebrate Reformation Day and remember Martin Luther’s contributions to the church. Martin Luther was born in Germany in 1483. He entered the monastery to study for the priesthood. He wore himself out with prayer and fasting and wore out his superiors with his excessive and endless confessions.

But even these superhuman efforts did not bring peace to his tormented soul. He wanted to earn God’s love but was tormented by the sense that he could never be good enough.

Eventually it was these words from Romans that brought comfort to him. *“For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.”* (Romans 3:27-28)

This verse from Romans was foundational for Luther’s work. It reminds us that grace and justification come from God, not from our “work.”

We are saved by grace, not by our works. There is nothing we can do to make God love us more or anything we can do to make God love us less.

None of our works will earn us acceptance with God and entrance into heaven.

That only comes as a free gift from God, apart from all of our religious dedication.

*continued on page 3*

# STEWARDSHIP

## Contributions, Gifts, Memorials & Worship



### FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Fund  
2023 Financial Responsibilities  
\$246,213

Checking Register  
for the General Fund

8/1/23 balance: \$4,503  
August income: \$15,701  
August expenses: \$21,182  
Cashflow loan: \$7,000  
8/31/23 balance: \$6,022

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Cashflow loan to date: \$7,000

### Worship Offerings & Attendance



August 27	\$835	36
September 3	\$380	82
<i>- Lakeside Worship</i>		
<i>Loose offering to area</i>		
<i>Food Shelves</i>	\$321.80	
September 10	\$1,657	89
<i>- God's Work. Our Hands.</i>		
<i>and Rally Sunday</i>		
September 17	\$1,135	51
September 24	\$1,936	74

Online Giving ...



Visit our website at  
[milanslutheranchurch.com](http://milanslutheranchurch.com)



None to Report



# PRAYERS

We offer up prayers for ...

**This section removed for member privacy.**



# LOCAL NEWS

## Pastor, Staff & Officers

### Greetings from Pastor Kristine

*continued from page 1*

As we read in Ephesians, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

How do we live in response to the grace God has shown us? We show the love of Christ to our neighbor.

As Martin Luther wrote, “The whole being of any Christian is faith and love. Faith brings the person to God, love brings the person to people.”

We don't earn God's love; we respond to it.

*Thanks be to God!*

### Rite of Confirmation Enrollment

During worship on September 24, the eighth graders were formally enrolled into confirmation. Mason Erp, Sophie Hewitt, Carter Moen, Parker Spray and Eva Trager are ready to begin learning and affirming the faith in which they were baptized.



We don't change  
**THE MESSAGE;**  
the message  
**CHANGES US.**



**PASTOR APPRECIATION  
Month**

### THANK YOU

#### **PASTOR KRISTINE**

for letting God use you to lead and guide our church. Your caring heart and sincere devotion are an inspiration and a blessing to each one of us. Thanks for all the ways you make a difference in our church and community.



## 2023 Kviteseid Staff & Officers



### Office Staff

**Pastor Kristine Isder**  
pastor@milanslutheranchurch.com

**Parish Assistant:**  
**Theresa Erickson**  
office@milanslutheranchurch.com

### Building Staff

**Custodian: David Thompson**  
**Organist: Judi Bohm**

### Volunteer Leadership

**Sunday School Choir Dir:**  
**Jessica Trager**

**Sunday School Supt.:**  
**Talia Schuerman**

**Contributions Secretaries:**  
**Heidi Hanson**  
**Luther Opjorden**

### Church Officers

**President: Tom Moe**  
**Vice Pres: Paul Tostenson**  
**Secretary: Gwen Olson**  
**Treasurer: Josh Moen**

### Board of Deacons

**Rich Isder, Char Strand, Jon Hanson, Stacey Lea, Cindy Kanten**

### Board of Trustees

**Erik Boraas, Brandon Ascheman, Bryan Schuerman, Cory Heinrich, Ray Trager**

### Board of Education

**Holly Kanten, Jenna Norby, Sue Streed, Emily Heinrich, Tiffany Moen**

### Helping Hands Board

**President: Nancy Schneck**  
**Vice President: Sue Vetter**  
**Secretary: Cathy Olson**  
**Treasurer: Theresa Erickson**  
**Sue Streed, Ronae Rose, Karla Schwendemann, Naomi Streed, Char Johnson**

# WORSHIP NEWS

## October Schedules



### Acolytes

- 1 - Alexandra Joyce
- 8 - Matthew Schuerman
- 15 - Mason Erp
- 22 - Sophie Hewitt
- 29 - Carter Moen

### Deacon Communion Setup

- 1 - Stacy Lea
- 8 - Jon Hanson

### Lectors

- 1 - Sherry Norby
- 8 - Judy Thompson
- 15 - Sherry Norby
- 22 - Heidi Hanson
- 29 - Rob Schwendemann

### Media Operators

- 1 - Scarlett Trager
- 8 - Paul Tostenson
- 15 - Isaac Hanson
- 22 - Matthew Schuerman
- 29 - Tom Moe

### Video Recorders

- 1 - Theresa Erickson
- 8 - Rich Isder
- 15 - Theresa Erickson
- 22 - Jon Hanson
- 29 - Theresa Erickson

*Schedules are also available online at [milanslutheranchurch.com](http://milanslutheranchurch.com)*

**Reminder:** It is your responsibility to find a replacement if you are unable to be there the day you are scheduled.



Sunday, October 29  
10:30 a.m.  
Worship Service

WEAR RED!

### TWC Bible Study

TWC (Together with Christ) Bible study will meet Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.



### Group 3

Captain - Bryan Schuerman  
289-3127

Paul Belseth  
Wade Kittelson  
Bruce Loose  
Tim Streed  
Paul Tostenson

### Looking Ahead

Sunday, November 5

All Saints Sunday

We will remember those who have died and recognize those who have been baptized in the last year.

New Member Welcome

*Interested in becoming a member of Kviteseid?*

Talk to Pastor Kristine. We will be welcoming new members on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve Worship

Evening Candlelight Service with communion at 6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day Worship

Morning Service with communion at 9:00 a.m.

### Church Board Meetings

Wednesday,  
October 18



Deacons meet at 6:00 p.m.  
Trustees meet at 7:00 p.m.



# LOCAL NEWS

## Sunday School

### Bible Reading Plans

*Booklets are available at church with these Bible reading plans plus a Bible time line.*



#### **Readings for October to read the Bible in a year Chronologically**

Oct 1	Luke 1; John 1:1-14	Oct 8	John 5	Oct 19	Matthew 15; Mark 7
Oct 2	Matthew 1; Luke 2:1-38	Oct 9	Matthew 12:1-21; Mark 3; Luke 6	Oct 20	Matthew 16; Mark 8; Luke 9:18-27
Oct 3	Matthew 2; Luke 2:39-52	Oct 10	Matthew 5-7	Oct 21	Matthew 17; Mark 9; Luke 9:28-62
Oct 4	Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3	Oct 11	Matthew 8:1-13; Luke 7	Oct 22	Matthew 18
Oct 5	Matthew 4; Luke 4-5; John 1:15-51	Oct 12	Matthew 11	Oct 23	John 7-8
Oct 6	John 2-4	Oct 13	Matthew 12:22-50	Oct 24	John 9:1-10:21
Oct 7	Mark 2	Oct 14	Matthew 13; Luke 8	Oct 25	Luke 10-11; John 10:22-42
		Oct 15	Matthew 8:14-34; Mark 4-5	Oct 26	Luke 12-13
		Oct 16	Matthew 9-10	Oct 27	Luke 14-15
		Oct 17	Matthew 14; Mark 6; Luke 9:1-17	Oct 28	Luke 16-17:10
		Oct 18	John 6	Oct 29	John 11
				Oct 30	Luke 17:11-18:14
				Oct 31	Matthew 19; Mark 10

### Rally Sunday

**September 10, 2023  
Balloon Release**



### RALLY SUNDAY BALLOON FOUND



Hello from Eagan, MN! We found Alexandra Joyce's Sunday School Rally Day balloon today, September 10<sup>th</sup> (the day you released them) at around 5:00 p.m. at the bottom of our steps to our deck when we took the dogs outside. It could have been there longer for all we know. Still, that's pretty good time to travel some 150 miles!

The balloon had popped and was in tatters but the ribbon and Alexandra's card were still, of course, attached. The card reminded my wife and I of Jesus's love. We, too, are Believers in Christ and appreciate the reminder that, despite what life throws at us, we can rely on Jesus's love to guide us. Our prayers will be with Alexandra as she adjusts to the new school year. Love in Christ...Steve & Debbie



**Superintendent:** Talia Schuerman

**Teachers:** Michelle Ascheman  
Emily Heinrich  
Tiffany Moen  
Jenna Norby  
Hillary Spray  
Sue Streed

**Music:** Jessica Trager

**Helper:** Scarlett Trager

**September 24, 2023**



# LOCAL NEWS

## Helping Hands

### Helping Hands

Summer is over...Fall is here...Enjoy, enjoy the beautiful colors!

Thank you to all who participated in God's Work, Our Hands Rally Sunday! It was truly a celebration! For those who couldn't make it, please put it on your calendar for next year. It is a thrill to see the Sunday School kids release their balloons and so fun to hear where they may land! It is, in a nutshell, a great way to celebrate our faith by helping others. A really good feeling! Some cleaned yards around town, tied a quilt, assembled layettes, rolled bandages, colored pictures, assembled military boxes and some enjoyed each others company over a cup of coffee! Thank you to those of the Helping Hands Board and others who helped served lunch to all. Thank you to Thrivent for providing the funds for the meal.

Thank you to Service Group 2 and chairpersons, Randy/Connie Fragodt, Paul/Patee Spray, Andrew/Andrea Westra, for decorating the Sanctuary for the Fall Season. It is a reminder of all that we should be thankful for, not only this season, but all seasons.

Watch for details for All Saints and New Member Sunday, November 5. We will celebrate the saints of the past year and new members to our congregation with a Fall Festival Potluck dinner. Service Group 4 will do the serving. Thank you to them.

The Annual Board meeting of the Helping Hands Board will be Wednesday, November 8 at 5:30. If you have any ideas or suggestions for this group, please feel free to contact one of the board members. If anyone is interested in becoming a board member, please contact Nancy Schneck. Thank you to the current Helping Hands Board members! You do a great job and provide a wonderful service for our congregation.

Enjoy the beautiful fall! It is fleeting!

### National Youth Gathering 2024

The next ELCA Youth Gathering will take place July 16-20, 2024, in New Orleans, LA. There will be daily events to participate in: from learning workshops to a day of service in the city of New Orleans to worship every evening.

The Gathering is for youth grades 8-12 (in the fall of 2023 school year).

More information can be found on the ELCA Gathering Website, [www.elca.org/gathering](http://www.elca.org/gathering).

Interested in attending? Talk to Pastor Kristine.



### Church Supper

Our annual church supper will not be held again this year. In past years, our annual supper has raised between \$2,500 and \$4,500 for our church, depending on expenses and turnout.

The church council is asking members to give a contribution to help offset this lack of income. On average, a couple would have spent about \$25 for the meal, not to mention all the time spent and donations of food. Many people commented "I would rather just write a check."

In the month of October, please consider giving a financial gift in lieu of the church supper. Donations can be sent to the church or put in the offering plate marked "church supper." Thank you!

*If someone would like to lead a church meal, talk to a council member. It can be any type of meal.*

### Coffee Fellowship

Join us for coffee and fellowship before worship Sunday mornings in the narthex starting at 9:45 a.m. Please sign up to bring and serve goodies to enjoy along with the coffee. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex. The ushers will make the coffee.

# FUNERAL

SERVICE GROUPS

**Serving the next funeral will be Group 1.**

Service Group 1 chairpersons are:

Cory & Emily Heinrich	320-815-8320
Greg & Sherry Norby	734-4873
Bob & Jen Tostenson	269-8185



# LOCAL NEWS

## Kviteseid Events

### “God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday

On Sunday, September 10, we worked on service projects after church. Many people of all ages participated – from age 3 to 80 plus!

Projects completed: yard clean up for a community member, one quilt tied, one fleece blanket tied, 16 military boxes packed, 40 layettes assembled, and 240 cloth bandages rolled.

People of all ages worked together and enjoyed fellowship!

Everyone gathered together afterwards for lunch, thanks to a Thrivent grant.

Thank you to everyone who participated and did God’s Work with Their Hands!



### Lakeside Worship

September 3, 2023



### Synod News

#### 2023 Synod Junior High Youth Gathering

At the Willmar Conference Center in Willmar November 17-18 or November 18-19 (student choice of day). All students in 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to attend.

The theme is “Where God Guides, God Provides” based on Isaiah 58:11

The event includes youth led mass gatherings including singing, growing in faith, student faith talks, building relationships and hanging out with other youth from our very own synod. There is also nightlife featuring swimming, games, food, dancing, service project and more.

Speakers are Rachel Kurtz and Pastor Jodi Houge.

More information: <https://swmnelca.org/2023/09/13/2023-junior-high-youth-gathering/>

#### South Africa Visitors

The SWMN Synod is hosting four guests from our Companion Synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa-South Eastern Diocese for a two-week visit beginning September 23.

In October, a small group from our synod will visit our partners in South Africa.

Please keep our visitors from the ELCSA-SED and outgoing group from the SW MN Synod in your prayers as they prepare, travel, and build new and nurture existing relationships among our church bodies and members.

#### Synod Minister

Pastor Naomi Mahler of the synod staff is on medical leave following recurrence of cancer. She was the synod staff person who related to our conference. Bishop Dee Pederson will now connect with our conference.

#### Equipping Congregations Day

Saturday December 2 at Vinje Lutheran Church in Willmar. The theme is “Living the Word Today”.

# LOCAL NEWS

## Letters of Thanks

### Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped with and/or donated items or money for the military boxes packed on God's Work, Our Hands Sunday.

- Judi B. and Nancy S.



Kviteseid Lutheran Church,  
Together, we are neighbors helping neighbors. Thank you for your generous gift to support the services of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS). From adoption and foster care to shelter and safety for youth experiencing homeless to support for people with disabilities to nutritious, home-delivered meals for older adults, LSS impacts 1 in every 65 Minnesotans.

With gratitude,

- Lutheran Social Service

Thank you Kviteseid Lutheran Church (and area churches) for your recent charitable gift of \$107.30. Your support and generosity enable us to serve many individuals in our local area. We are grateful for your kindness and your continued support.

- Chippewa County Food Shelf



### SERVICE WORK GROUP 2

Please meet after church on Sunday,  
**October 8**  
to help with the fall decorating



## BABY SHOWER

for

**Ashly Eilers**

and

**Bryce Tongen**



Saturday, October 21

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Kviteseid Fellowship Hall

All are Invited

**This section removed for member privacy.**



Kviteeid Lutheran Church  
PO Box 31  
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[www.milanslutheranchurch.com](http://www.milanslutheranchurch.com)

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# KVITSEID LUTHERAN CHURCH

## **Sunday Schedule**

- ✠ Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. ✠
- ✠ Coffee Fellowship at 9:45 a.m. ✠
- ✠ Worship at 10:30 a.m. ✠
- ✠ Online Worship at 10:30 a.m. ✠

Church Office Phone: 320-734-4455 ✠ [www.milanslutheranchurch.com](http://www.milanslutheranchurch.com)



**Pastor Kristine Isder**  
Parsonage phone: 320-734-4667  
[pastor@milanslutheranchurch.com](mailto:pastor@milanslutheranchurch.com)

**Parish Assistant - Theresa Erickson**  
[office@milanslutheranchurch.com](mailto:office@milanslutheranchurch.com)

