



Kviteseid Voice

Kviteseid Lutheran Church
January 2024
Volume 34 | Number 1

Greetings from Pastor Kristine Isder

Be Kind

“Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind; and the third is to be kind.” (Henry James)

Definitions of “kind”: of a sympathetic or helpful nature; friendly, gentle, tenderhearted, generous; having or showing a friendly, generous and considerate nature.

It seems that the world could use more kindness to others.

Small acts of kindness can make a difference in the lives of others.

We might feel overwhelmed by issues in the world such as war and terror, natural disasters, climate change and sicknesses. We may not be in a place of power to do anything about these big issues, but we can deal with these issues one person at a time.

We can’t change the world, but we can change someone’s day.

By spreading kindness, we can make the world a better place. We have the chance to hold the paintbrush and beautify the world around us.

“Kindness is like snow – it beautifies everything it covers.”
Kahlil Gibran

Quotes by Jesus about kindness in the Bible:

“In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 7:12)

“Do to others as you would have them do to you.” (Luke 6:31)

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.” (Ephesians 4:31-32)

“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” (Colossians 3:12-14)

continued on page 3

STEWARDSHIP

Contributions, Gifts, Memorials & Worship



FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Fund
2023 Financial Responsibilities
\$246,213

Checking Register
for the General Fund

11/1/23 balance: \$24,519
November income: \$16,972
November expenses: \$20,020
Cashflow loan (paid back): \$7,000
11/30/23 balance: \$14,472

Worship Offerings & Attendance



December 3	\$2,660	61
December 10	\$1,040	34
December 17	\$2,122	135
- Sunday School Christmas Program		
December 24	\$2,096	145
- Christmas Eve		
December 25	\$1,725	44
- Christmas Day		

Online Giving ...



Visit our website at
milanslutheranchurch.com



Undesignated
In memory of
Orval & Avis
Olson

Happy New Year P Happy New Year

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

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.” (Galatians 5:22-23)

Popular sayings about kindness:

“When you are kind to others, it not only changes you, it changes the world.” Harold Kushner

“Kindness is realizing that we’re all in this together.”

“In a world where you can be anything, be kind.”

“Kindness is spreading sunshine into other people’s lives regardless of the weather.”

Spread kindness when you see the opportunity.

“I shall pass through this world

but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do, let me do it now: let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.” — Etienne de Grellet

Need a motto or resolution for the New Year? How about: “spread kindness and show kindness to others.” Or simply, “Be Kind.”

It’s what Jesus wants us to do.

Happy New Year!

Church Supper Update

No church supper was held in 2023. Members were asked to give a monetary donation in lieu of the supper. Total received this year was \$2,240. **Thank you!**

WELCOME 2024

Financial

Thank you for your financial support of the church.



Contributions may be dropped off or mailed to the church office if you are unable to make it to worship.



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: Sherry Norby
Treasurer: Josh Moen

Board of Deacons

Rich Isder, Char Strand,
Jon Hanson, Cindy Kanten,
Andrea Westra

Board of Trustees

Erik Boraas, Brandon
Ascherman, Bryan
Schuerman, Cory Heinrich,
Ray Trager

Board of Education

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

January Schedules and Events



Acolytes

- 7- Eva Trager
- 14- Alexandra Joyce
- 21- Charlie Hanson
- 28- Matthew Schuerman

Lectors

- 7- Rob Schwendemann
- 14- Jen Tostenson
- 21- Rich Isder
- 28- Connie Fragodt

Media Operators

- 7- Carter Moen
- 14- Isaac Hanson
- 21- Matthew Schuerman
- 28- Tom Moe

Deacon Communion Setup

- 7- Char Strand
- 14- Rich Isder

Video Recorders

- 7- Rich Isder
- 14- Theresa Erickson
- 21- Jon Hanson
- 28- Rich Isder

Schedules are also available online at milanslutheranchurch.com

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

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 21
9:00 a.m.



Fellowship Hall

Please have all reports in to the church office by Friday, January 5th.

Board Meetings

Wednesday, January 17



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



Group 7

Captain - Ken Lee
320-226-3970

Robert Blom
Josh Moen
Matt Norby
Paul Spray
Andy Streed

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.



Cancellations

Although worship will rarely be canceled, please use your own judgment before traveling in to church on those questionable days. Weather related announcements can be heard on KDMA 1460 AM or KLQP 92.1 FM. It will also be posted on the Kviteseid website (www.milanslutheranchurch.com) home page and on Kviteseid's Facebook page.



TWC Bible Study

Wednesday,
January 10
1:30 p.m.



Meet in the Fellowship Hall

Looking Ahead

ASH FEBRUARY
WEDNESDAY -14-

LOCAL NEWS

January

CHIMES

Do you hear what I hear?
The chimes, the chimes,
High above the church,
Are playing hymns once more
From Kviteseid o'er the town
(and beyond).

Said the church to Ottertail,
Thank you for your help
To bring the music back
With your boom truck
As high as the sky.
With a boom as high as the tower.

THANK YOU

to Ottertail Power and employees
for contributing their boom truck
to install the new speakers for
the chimes.



Lectors Needed

Would you be willing to give just an hour of your time 4 – 5 times a year? We are in need of more lectors. In the last 7 years, we have lost at least 11 of our lectors (for a variety of reasons) and only gained 2. With the available lectors we have now, everyone is scheduled about 5 times a year – if we get a few more volunteers, that number will be even lower. Not here all year? No problem, we can work with that. And there's no cold reading - the readings are sent to you several days in advance so you have time to go over them. If you're interested in being added to the schedule starting in 2024 or just have questions, please let Heidi Hanson know by calling or texting 320-226-0682 or by emailing heidihanson72@outlook.com.



Volunteers



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

*Looking for ways
to help out the
church?*

*There are many
opportunities.*

Visitation ministry.

- Contact Char Strand.

Ushers.

- Contact Tom Moe.

Funeral ushers.

- Contact Pastor Kristine.

Lectors.

- Contact Heidi Hanson.

Media.

- Contact Judi Bohm.

Video team.

- Contact Pastor Kristine.

Helping Hands.

- Contact Nancy Schneck.



Red Cross Bloodmobile

will be here on

Tuesday, January 30th
from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For more information or
to make an appointment,
call 1-800-RED CROSS
(1-800-733-2767) or visit
www.RedCrossBlood.org

LOCAL NEWS

Helping Hands and Youth

Helping Hands

Christmas is here and we are blessed with the birth of the newborn king! Make it a New Year filled with faith, love and blessings to all!

Thank you very much to Group 3 for decorating for Christmas! There was so much cooperation from many people, but a shout out to the older Sunday School kids for getting the decorations down from up top! So very helpful! Shout out to the guys who came to help, Rob Schwendemann, Robert Enevoldsen, Ray Trager and Tom Moe. Again, couldn't be done without the taller and stronger of the species! And shout out to the Eva and Huxton Trager for decorating the tree. Kids are so helpful too! Thank you to the gals who did much work as well! Thank you so much! Thank you to all who help take it down in January and get it back upstairs too!

The Helping Hands Board made and delivered chicken salad and egg salad croissants to Apple Ridge on December 10 to enhance their resident and family Christmas party. Merry Christmas to all of them.

Quilting is on the calendar for January. Due to early Ash Wednesday, vacation for stitchers and the Bloodmobile, the schedule has been amended to January 22, 25,

29 and February 1. The last one may be canceled due to the Bloodmobile and a day may be added to the front end. Watch for details in Sunday bulletins. Thank you all who participate in making the quilts. They are loved. We will be quilting again in July. Come for fun, lively conversation and working on a very worthy mission.

The last 13 quilts were delivered to Bridging this past weekend. They were so happy to get them. Bridging in the two city locations serve about 120 families each week. Unbelievable! How fortunate we are to be able to help that mission!

The Helping Hands will be serving Lenten suppers February 14 (Ash Wednesday) and 28. There are several Wednesday nights open for those who would like to help with that mission. Check with the church office about availability of dates.

Thank you to all who have agreed to be group chairpersons for the coming year. We appreciate you sharing your time and talent for this mission. The new Service books will come out the end of January. When you get them, your journey starts. Thank you very much to those who served as chairpersons this past year. Your time and ability was very much appreciated!

Blessing to all in this coming New Year!

Youth

Making Gifts for Shut-Ins



Helping with Christmas Decorations



F

FUNERAL

SERVICE GROUPS

Serving the next funeral will be Group 3.

Service Group 3 chairpersons are:

Theresa Erickson	734-4879
Rob & Karla Schwendemann	320-226-3700
Ray & Jessica Trager	320-309-4467

LOCAL NEWS

Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday School Christmas Program

December 17, 2023

“The Letters of Christmas”



THANK YOU
Sunday School

Epiphany

“Our Source of Light”

January 6 marks the day of Epiphany, when the wise men (who were Gentiles) came to worship Jesus and bring him gifts. During the church-year season of Epiphany, we remember that God’s Son is the Light of the whole world.

Ponder the gifts of Epiphany with these two reflections, written centuries apart:

Your light, dear God, surpasses all other light, because all light comes from you. Your fire surpasses all fire, because your fire

alone burns without destroying. The flames of your fire reach into the soul, consuming the sin and selfishness that lie there. But far from damaging the soul, your fire sets it ablaze with love. What moved you to enlighten me with your truth? The fire of your love was the reason. You loved me so much that you could not bear to see me confused and perplexed. Can I ever repay the burning love which you have given me? No, because I have nothing of my own to give. Yet you assure me that the love which you put into my soul is repayment enough. You desire only the joy of seeing me receiving your gift. What

more perfect Father could there be!

—Catherine of Siena (c. 1347-1380)

Epiphany beckons us to come to the light of Jesus Christ. Epiphany calls us to stare into that light until our inner darkness is fully expunged. Epiphany then sends us out into a dark and weary world as women and men with shining faces, until we say with the apostle Paul,

“It is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” [see 2 Corinthians 4:6].

—Jason Gaboury, campus minister in New York City



LOCAL NEWS

Faith in Action



Activities at Kviteseid in the Last Month

- New chime speakers installed
Dec. 4
- Military boxes packed Dec. 12
(16 boxes)
- Sunday school Christmas
program Dec. 17
- Sunday school made Christmas
craft to give to shut-ins
- Worship
- Online worship services
- Sunday School
- Confirmation Classes
- Bible Study
- Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service
- Christmas Day Candlelight
Service
- Services at Apple Ridge and
Appleton Care Center
- Donations made:
 - Endowment Fund \$12,000
 - Together With Christ Bible
Study \$650 to ELCA Good
Gifts
 - Helping Hands \$2,400

Thank You

Thank you for thinking of me
at Thanksgiving.
- Delores Running



Thank you to the Kviteseid
Kids for the gift.
- Janet Tostenson

Thank you for the Christmas
greetings and treats that were
shared with us this Christmas sea-
son.

- Pastor Kristine and Rich



Thank you to everyone who
donated items or helped with the
packing of the military boxes.

- The Military Box Committee



On behalf of Lutheran Cam-
pus Ministry-Morris, thank you
for your gift to support our min-
istry for students who attend the
University of Minnesota, Morris.
Thank you for your generous
support; for supporting Lutheran
Campus Ministry-Morris both
prayerfully and financially.

Your support helps us to cre-
ate a “home away from home”
for students at the University of
Minnesota, Morris. Through your
generosity, we are able to pro-
vide meals to students, host fel-
lowship events, and complete
service projects. We are grateful
for your partnership in ministry.

- Lutheran Campus Ministry,
University of Minnesota, Morris



Thank you for your recent
charitable gift of \$78.00 given
through offerings at your recent
Lakeside Worship. Your support
and generosity enables us to
serve many individuals in our
local area. We are grateful for
your kindness and your contin-
ued support.

- Swift County Food Shelf

**This
section
removed
for
member
privacy.**

LOCAL NEWS

December Church Council Meeting

Kviteeid Lutheran Church Council Minutes December 20, 2023

Meeting was called to order by President Tom Moe at 7:45 p.m.

Members in attendance: Tom Moe, Brandon Ascheman, Bryan Schuerman, Cory Heinrich, Ray Trager, Rich Isder, Char Strand, Jon Hanson, Cindy Kanten, Andrea Westra, Pastor Kristine Isder

Devotions: None

Secretary Report: Minutes from September Council were reviewed.

Treasurers Report: None

Deacons Report: Char Strand- Regular worship has been held with communion being offered two Sundays each month. We discussed and encouraged promotion of the National Youth Gathering which will be held next summer. Pastor Kristine, Rich, and Char attended the Equipping Congregations event put on by the synod on December 2 at Vinje Lutheran Church in Willmar.

Trustees Report: Cory Heinrich- The chimes have been repaired and are being enjoyed by many again. They have met to work on the budget for 2024. A new shed has been brought in for storage and is all set up. They are still working on water mitigation in the church basement.

Board of Education Report: None

Pastor's Report: Pastor Kristine

Attendance: from 34 to 115 (Christmas Program). Online worship is 100-200 per Sunday.

Sunday School Christmas program was held December 17 during worship. It was a very good program.

Christmas Eve: No worship service will be held the morning of Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve service will be at 6:30 at Kviteeid and 4:30 at Big Bend.

Christmas Day: We will have a service at 9:00 with candle lighting.

Sunday School: The kids made Christmas crafts to give to shut ins during December. They are also collecting items for the food shelf.

Micronesians: They will be using our building after our service on Christmas Eve and again on Christmas Day.

Projector: It quit working on October 1. A spare bulb has made it usable, but it is not as bright. Pastor is looking at options for the future.

Confirmation Class: 10 students, 7 from Kviteeid, 3 from Big Bend

Pastor meetings: zoom and in-person meetings

Synod: Pastor, Rich, and Char attended Equipping Congregations Day in Willmar on December 2. Good information.

Covid-19 precautions: We are still using hand sanitizer before communion and will continue to do so.

Motion by Brandon Ascheman, second Bryan Schuerman to approve reports as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: Cory Heinrich showed Myers Electric and Ottertail personnel around the building for the purpose of the emergency shelter and backup generator. They will be working on more specifics.

New Business: Motion by Char Strand to appoint Sherry Norby to the position of Council Secretary from now until the annual meeting on January 21. Second by Cindy Kanten. Approved.

Motion by Ray Traeger to appoint Andrea Westra to the board of deacons from now until the annual meeting on January 21. Second by Jon Hanson. Approved.

Big Bend Lenten Services: Big Bend will host Fat Tuesday/Ash Wednesday on February 13 and also the service on Wednesday, February 21. The remaining Lenten services will be held at Kviteeid.

Big Bend Agreement: The original agreement said that they would meet once each year to discuss how the agreement is working. The members of the original group were to be included in the meeting. This will be looked into and followed up on to schedule a meeting, perhaps following a Lenten service.



Annual Meeting: It will be held on January 21 at 9:00. President Tom Moe will be responsible for the rolls/donuts.

Other: The trustees brought up that it would be helpful to have performance reviews available when working on the budget. At this point there is nothing in place. Clear job descriptions would be a starting place. This will take some time to develop.

Food Shelf: Talia Schuerman is looking into the possibility of starting a food pantry/shelf in the town of Milan. She met with the deacons and a good brainstorming session was held.

Next meeting: March 20, 2024 after Lenten service

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Strand, Acting Secretary
(for Sherry Norby)

LOCAL NEWS

Southwest Minnesota Synod

ELCA News

The Lutheran magazine, now Living Lutheran, printed its final issue in December 2023 and has moved fully online.

The Churchwide Organization will not stop telling stories of this church. Living Lutheran has transitioned to a full online storytelling engine featuring new ways of reaching people, providing a more economical and far-reaching approach to engage with a broader audience.

The cost of printing a magazine—including paper, ink and postage prices—has steadily increased, making it difficult to financially support a print edition. Being good stewards of the generous support given to the church is of the utmost importance to the staff.

The ELCA and its predecessor church bodies have been printing periodicals since 1831, when The Lutheran Observer first started. Spreading the gospel and sharing the stories of our church have always been at the foundation of who we are as Christians and Lutherans.

The sharing and spreading of the good news will continue with videos, audio stories, podcasts, and more with the potential for greater engagement with Lutherans and non-Lutherans alike. More online content will provide more options for telling the stories of the ELCA.

You can check it out at LivingLutheran.org.

Synod News

We all are **one in mission**; we all are one in call, our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all. A single great commission compels us from above **to plan and work together** that all may know Christ's love. (ELW 576)

Dear friends in Christ,

We all are one in mission. **GOD's mission**, that is! God's mission of rec-

onciling the whole world to God in Christ. From small congregations on the prairie to large congregations in cities (and everything in between), we live out the Matthew 28 Great Commission together as the Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA. **Thank you** for the financial gifts you share as Mission Support to sustain our shared ministries.

"Mission Support" is not "missionary sponsorship" - although you could think of it that way, and part of it does that! Mission Support is the portion of offerings that ELCA congregations share with synods and then synods share through the churchwide organization to unite us in God's life-giving work. Mission Support sustains the ministries of the synod and partners close to home, across the ELCA, and around the world. As we look to 2024, there are vital opportunities ahead. Changes and challenges? Of course. That is the nature of life. So, Mission Support will come back to equip your congregation to share Life in Jesus as it:

Expands leaders' capacity to guide congregations. Still emerging from the pandemic, lay leaders, pastors, and deacons are all experimenting and adapting to consider what ministry looks like in this new time.

- If you have attended a training for lay or rostered leaders, consulted with synod staff about a call process or conflict, participated in synod assembly or fall theological conference, or benefited from the work of Luther Seminary or The Continuous Growth Pathway.... Mission Support makes these ministries possible.

Grows the faith of youth. The most frequent concern we hear from congregations is about supporting youth & families and the leaders who work with them.

- If your congregation sends young people & adults to the Jr. & Sr. High Youth Gatherings, National Youth Gathering, or connects youth leaders through the Youth Ministry net-

work.... These ministries in the synod and beyond happen because of your Mission Support.

Invests in evangelism, outreach, and partnerships. New mission congregations are supported by ELCA grants, and area partnerships are convened by Director for Evangelical Mission, Pr. Troy Pflibsen.

- If you're curious about evangelism and what's new for the future, we have stories to tell! Reborn Lao Lutheran in St. Cloud regularly welcomes adults through baptism. Many congregations are considering how to partner in a variety of ways with others in the area. The ELCA provides Pr. Troy's full-time position on our staff, to focus especially on outreach and planning for the future.... All possible, thanks to your Mission Support.

Connects us to ministry partners close to home and around the globe. Through our ELCA partners, we do together what we could not do as congregations alone.

- Ever wonder how you can spread the good news? Well, know that you do already! You send missionaries, partner with churches around the globe, work to alleviate poverty, bring healing in disasters, and send hope - along with quilts - through Lutheran World Relief. With our hands, we do God's work of restoring and reconciling communities throughout the world.... thanks to Mission Support.

We are called to join in God's work in the world using all the gifts God has entrusted to our care.

It is an honor and a joy to walk with you in ministry. If you have any questions about these opportunities, please reach out. Dee.pederson@swmnelca.org. I'd love to listen, learn from you, and share more! Thank you for your partnership in God's mission. We plan and work together "that all may know Christ's love!"

+ *grace and love in Christ, Rev. Dee Pederson, D. Min. Bishop, Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA*

Kviteeid Lutheran Church
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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



Pastor Kristine Isder
Parsonage phone: 320-734-4667
pastor@milanslutheranchurch.com

Parish Assistant - Theresa Erickson
office@milanslutheranchurch.com

