

#### **Greetings from Pastor Kristine Isder**

The theme for our Wednesday night Lenten services was: What Does It Mean To Be ELCA Lutheran?

Christianity – the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus. The Christian church began when the Holy Spirit blew through the disciples on the Day of Pentecost as Jesus promised and sent them throughout the world to spread the good news.

After receiving the Holy Spirit, the disciples dispersed from Jerusalem and continued to spread the message of the risen Messiah. They shared the story of Jesus Christ and began to organize communities in his name. The movement grew.

Over the years there were many debates about church doctrine and teaching.

The first major split in the Christian church came in A.D. 1054, the "Great Schism" between the Eastern and Western faith We began with the beginning of traditions. The Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church have remained separate ever since.

> The next split began in Europe in 1517 with the Protestant Reformation. Martin Luther was one of the protesters who tried to reform the Roman Catholic Church. They weren't successful. Many of them were kicked out of the church and ended up forming their own churches.

> Throughout his ministry, Luther struggled with what it meant for someone to be "right with God." Luther came to the realization that nothing we can do can get us right with God and no amount of effort

on our part can get us to eternity.

God always comes down. We can't move closer to God no matter what we do.

We are saved by grace, not works.

As I tell the confirmation students each year, if you don't remember anything else from confirmation, remember this: There is nothing you can do to make God love you more and there is nothing you can do to make God love you less. That's grace.

As Lutherans, we believe in the theology of the cross rather than the theology of glory. Theology means thinking about God.

The theology of the **cross** emphasizes **God's work** – rather than human work. The theology of glory emphasizes human effort.

continued on page 3

### STEWARDSHIP

Contributions, Gifts, Memorials & Worship



General Fund 2025 Financial Responsibilities \$262,904

Checking Register for the General Fund

3/1/25 balance: \$20,540

March income: \$18,366

March expenses: \$16,875

3/31/25 balance: \$22,031

Worship Offerings & Attendance



March 30 \$3.716 52 April 6 \$1,422 50 April 9 \$160.45 62 - Lent (attendance includes Big Bend) April 13 \$1,272 110 April 17 \$414 135

- Maundy Thursday (attendance includes Big Bend)

April 18 \$3,283 108

- Good Friday (attendance includes Big Bend) April 20 \$4,996 174

- Easter Sunday



Memorials and Gifts

<u>Undesignated</u> *In memory of:* Dorothy Johnson

Cemetery Fund In memory of: Ken Kittelson

Online Giving ...



Visit our website at milanslutheranchurch.com

### **PRAYERS**

We offer up prayers for ...

This section removed for member privacy.

Pastor, Staff & Officers

# **Greetings from Pastor Kristine**

continued from page 1

God's love in Jesus came down to us.

I like to think of God's example for us in Jesus Christ as one who got down and dirty for the sake of grace in the world – a theology of the cross; as opposed to being all high and mighty – a theology of glory.

The goal of our life as Christians is not to be good to earn our way into heaven. Jesus has already done that for us.

"The gospel is less about how to get into the Kingdom of Heaven after you die, and more about how to live in the Kingdom of Heaven before you die." (Dallas Willard.) Our goal is to bring heaven to earth, as we pray in the Lord's Prayer, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

How is it all going to end? Some Christians believe it will end with the rapture, the belief in the return of Christ to rescue and deliver Christians off the earth.

The rapture is not biblical. There is no biblical support for such an event.

It will end with Jesus' second coming to **earth**. With a new heaven and a new earth.

God always comes down. So it will be at the end also. We don't know when it will be.

Just as with Jesus' first coming to earth, the second coming will be an event in which we can expect Jesus to confound all our expectations – to our eternal joy and gratitude.

The second coming is the promise that the future of all creation is in God's hands, so we don't have to worry about it.

In Revelation John writes: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. And I saw the holy city coming down out of heaven from God. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away. See, I am making all things new." (Revelation 21:1-5)

That gives us hope, because God always comes down to us.

#### **2025 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: Judi Bohm

V. Pres: Rob Schwendemann

Secretary: Jessica Trager Treasurer: Andy Streed

### Board of Deacons Cindy Kanten, Cheryl Erp,

Heidi Spray, Jon Hanson, Andrea Westra

# Board of Trustees Cory Heinrich, Ray Trager, Ryan Erp, Brandon Ascheman, Bryan Schuerman

Board of Education
Emily Heinrich, Tiffany Moen,
Michelle Ascheman, Shea
Joyce, Savannah Moen

#### **Helping Hands Board**

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

### **WORSHIP NEWS**

**May Schedules** 

### Lakeside Worship Service

#### at Milan Beach Resort

(Randall's - Lac qui Parle Lake)

Sunday, May 25th - 9:30 a.m.

Bring a lawn chair † In case of inclement weather, service will be held at Kviteseid, Milan.

Hosted by Big Bend, Borgund, Immanuel, Kviteseid, Minnesota Valley, and Zion Lutheran Churches

Loose offering will be given to the area food shelves

Free will donation for coffee and goodies following worship.



Julian Bowen Isaac Hanson Carson Spray Scarlett Trager

Senior Recognition

Sunday, May 18 during 9:00 a.m. Worship

A reception will be held in their honor following morning worship in the fellowship hall







#### Group 6

Captain - Tom Moe 734-4707

Erik Boraas
Jon Hanson
Cory Heinrich
Jim Kanten
Tim Kanten
Steve Thompson



#### **Deacon Communion Setup**

- 4 Heidi Spray
- 18 Andrea Westra

#### **Lectors**

- 4 Gabby Augeson
- 11 Isaac Hanson
- 18 Jen Tostenson
- 25 *Lakeside Worship*Char Strand

#### **Media Operators**

- 4 Gavin Ascheman
- 11 Jessa Norby
- 18 Eva Trager
- 25 Lakeside Worship None Needed

#### **Video Recorders**

- 4 Theresa Erickson
- 11 Jon Hanson
- 18 Rich Isder
- 25 Lakeside Worship
  None Needed

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.

#### **Helping Hands**

#### **Helping Hands**

Easter Blessings to all throughout this coming year!

Thank you to Service Group 1, chairpersons, Ryan/Cheryl Erp, Greg/Sherry Norby, Matt/Jenna Norby, for serving the family and friends of Ken Kittelson, lunch following his funeral. Much appreciated.

Thank you to Service Group 4, chairpersons, Yong Sun Schroeder, Bruce/Connie Streed, John/Sue Vetter, for serving the family and friends of Dorothy Johnson, lunch following her funeral. Also, thank you to this Group for putting together and delivering Easter Baskets to those who have lost loved ones, are homebound or are in care centers, or have needed extra prayers recently because of health issues. Our prayers continue for guidance for these families.

Thank you to those who donated items and helped package the Easter military boxes. The recipients of these boxes are always very appreciative that they are thought about so often during the year.

Thank you to those who were responsible for changing the banners and paraments during the Lenten and Easter season. It is a big ever-changing job! Thank you!!

Service Group 2, chairpersons, Jim/Paulette Anderson, Judi Bohm, Barb Dale, and Lorrie Spray, are next for funeral serving.

Our Syttende Mai Tea is coming fast! We are looking for help in several areas in serving the Tea. If you can help with washing dishes, table cleaning, serving food, or spreading lefse, please contact Nancy Schneck or Char Strand. We will find a spot for you. Your help is appreciated! Thank you so much! A big thank you to those who step up to do what they do each and every year. Couldn't be done without each of you!

a dish

• If
for a sa a dish

• The special serving the for a sa and go possible to the serving food, or spreading lefse, please contact help is appreciated! Thank you so much!

A big thank you to those who step up to do what they do each and every year. Couldn't be done without each of you!

Thank you to Thrivent for the grants to help with expenses for the Syttende Mai Tea this year and every year! It is so very helpful!!

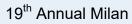
A few helpful things from the kitchen committee:

- If you use the stove top or ovens, please thoroughly clean them up before you leave.
- If you have leftover items from a serving event, please disperse of them before you leave. Take them back to the store if possible, or divide them among the committee serving.

- Be sure to clean the tables and chairs after each event, so they are ready for the next group to use them.
- •The dishwasher does not dry the dishes, they do require a wipe with a dish towel before storing them.
- If you have brought a cake, etc. for a serving event, please come and get your pan as soon as possible following the event.
- Thank you so much for your help in the care of the beautiful kitchen that we are fortunate to have!

The Syttende Mai Committee will be serving treats following the Senior Recognition worship service May 18. Everyone is welcome! You will be treated to many of the things served at the Syttende Mai Tea the day before! Yum!

Happy Syttende Mai and wishing all a beautiful spring and summer season!



### Syttende Mai

celebration



Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

10 am - 4 pm Main Street

#### Smorgås Tea

10 am - 1 pm at Kviteseid Church in the Fellowship Hall

Uff-da PARADE at 2 pm downtown Milan



May 2025 5 Volume 35, Number 5

Youth

#### **Faith Milestones**

#### **Sunday School Choir**

**Palm Sunday** - April 13, 2025 -





In April we celebrated a faith milestone in the lives of our young people – **First Communion**.

Six young people attended first communion classes in preparation to receive Holy Communion for the first time. They made the bread for the Maundy Thursday service. They received their first communion on Maundy Thursday, April 17. They are: Tyson Joyce, Greta Link, Colton Moen, Sawyer Sachariason, Chase Schuerman and Huxton Trager.







Sunday, May 4th — 10 a.m.

# Vacation Bible School



Plans are being made to hold

Vacation Bible School in early June.

Details coming soon!

#### **Jingle Offering**

New this Sunday school year is a jingle offering for kids to put coins in during worship. The kids will decide where the money will be sent.



Thank you to the Sunday School staff and the students for another successful, enlightening, action-filled FUN Sunday School year. We appreciate all you do!



Open House
Baby Shower

for

#### Della Marie

baby daughter of Kelby and Sara Strand

Saturday, May 24 at 1 p.m.

Kviteseid Fellowship Hall

Born March 18, 2025

Registered at babylist.com



#### **March Joint Council Meeting**

#### Kviteseid Lutheran Church Joint Council Minutes

March 19, 2025

Members present: Brandon Ascheman, Cory Heinrich, Judi Bohm, Michelle Ascheman, Andy Streed, Jessica Trager, Ray Trager, Jon Hanson, Cindy Kanten and Pastor Kristine Isder.

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by Judi Bohm, President.

Pastor Kristine led us in prayer.

<u>Secretary's Report</u>: The secretary's report was reviewed with no changes.

<u>Treasurer's Report</u>: Andy Streed reported fund balances: \$174,000 Gift/ Memorials, \$21,000 in Checking and \$111,000 in the Building Fund.

<u>Deacon's Report</u>: Communion is going well. Cindy is trying to get an Easter Choir going for Easter Sunday. Sign up is in the narthex or speak with Cindy.

Trustee's Report: Cory Heinrich reported that they purchased the landscaping items at the end of the year before prices went up. They had reviewed the bid to repair four windows. They are moving forward with purchasing 15 tables for the fellowship hall. When they arrive, they will be pulling some of the older wooden tables for members to take for free will donation. They expect the tables to arrive within the next month. Theresa Erickson's position has still not been filled. Discussion on getting more of a description of the duties expected for each part of the position and where it will be posted. Hillary Spray/WIC were in contact about renting the Fellowship Hall for the WIC meetings every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 9:30-3:30pm. This was approved by the council. David Thompson has also been painting the hallway and ceiling upstairs to refresh. Lastly, the annual elevator inspection occurred in February and passed.

**Board of Education:** Michelle reported that VBS will be the first week in June. They will be serving 2 Lenten meals this

season. There will not be an Easter breakfast, but instead will be serving muffins, treats, juice in the Narthex. They will be doing an end of the year project as well and there are 2 Bible lessons left in the Sunday School rotation for the year. The older kids have been studying "Should we do as Jesus did?" Martin Luther, and going to Heaven. They have talked about a trip to the Hill Museum, Noah's Ark. Michelle sent out a message and is awaiting to hear from parents. They will also be doing a tasting of the Passover Meal and Last Supper.

Pastor's Report: Annual meeting went well. Attendance December-March 16 ranged from 26-75. Online attendance ranged 84-122. First communion for the year will be on Maundy Thursday with 4 fifth graders, 1 4<sup>th</sup> grader and 1 6<sup>th</sup> grader. Classes need to be set up. Confirmation class will not meet during Lent and only 9<sup>th</sup> grade will meet after Easter. Graduate recognition will be May 18, 4 graduates.

Lenten Services: Good turnout for Ash Wednesday -78 people. March 12 service was at Big bend, 12 Kviteseid members attended. March 26 service will be in Big Bend as well. April 2, 9, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will be at Kviteseid.

The Lac Qui Parle Conference assembly was held February 23 at Kviteseid. Our conference consists of 28 churches and 2 nursing homes. Judi Bohm, Michelle Ascheman, Gavin Ascheman, Rich Isder, Bryan and Talia Schuerman, Nancy Streed and Pastor Kristine attended. They heard a report on Heritage Haven, a transitional housing project in Montevideo.

Pastor meetings continue to meet both by zoom and in person. Text study alternates one week in person, one week by zoom. Conference pastors meeting in person.

ELCA Online reports with membership and financial information was filed online by Theresa February 27. Both Pastor and Theresa worked on gathering data with it being important to get it submitted when going into the call process.

Big Bend turned 145 years old on March 17. They are celebrating on April 6 along with a sendoff for the parsonage which has been sold to be moved.

Lakeside worship- will check with Jeff and other churches. Pastor Linda Estling of Immanuel has agreed to lead the July and September services.

Micronesian students have not been coming to Sunday School after the first of the year. Hit or miss on attendance for confirmation. They have also not been using the church much lately.

Jingle offering for the kids is being received every Sunday. The kids will decide what the money will be used for.

Motion was made by Michelle Ascheman, seconded by Jon Hanson to approve reports. Motion carried.

#### **Old Business:**

- Call process: transition process. Cindy spoke with the Synod and Pastor Seyward Ask will be coming April 23 @ 7:00 p.m. to visit and go over the process.
- Constitution needs to be updated. Discussion over this took place.
- Meeting with Big Bend to go over the agreement with them will be on March 23 @ 2:00 p.m.

#### **New Business:**

- Pastor's parsonage allowance form was discussed and signed.
- Adopt A Highway was discussed with decision to renew.
- The nominating committee still needs three more members.
- Audit Committee- financial review to be done. Last was in 2018. 3 people needed. Bring to June meeting.
- Synod Assembly June 6-7. Jon Hanson volunteered to attend online. One other member needed; this will be in the newsletter/bulletin.
- Copies of the Final 2024 Annual Report prepared by Theresa were given out.

We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

The next scheduled meeting will be June 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. by Judi Bohm, President.

Respectfully submitted, Jessica Trager Council Secretary

#### Faith in Action

#### Bible Camp at Green Lake Lutheran Ministries



Calling all kids to register for Bible Camp!

Let's go on this adventure of faith, growing stronger every day, and sharing God's love with everyone we meet!

Come along as we take on the challenge of living a faith that's unstoppable, catches on like a bubbling wave, and is filled with God's neverending love and strength. We can't wait to have you join us this summer at one of our beautiful sites, to pause, reflect, and experience an amazing community with our staff and with each other.

2025 Theme Verse: Now to God who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to God's power that is at work within us, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (NIV, Ephesians 3:20-21)

Registration is open. For more information, there are brochures at church or check out their website: <a href="http://www.gllm.org/">http://www.gllm.org/</a>

To help offset the cost of Bible Camp for those who would like to attend, the following help is available to those who attend a full week of camp:

Helping Hands	\$100
Endowment Fund	\$150
Pastor Kristine & Rich	\$100
Kviteseid Church	\$150

#### **Video Team**

We are in need of a few more people willing to record, stream, and monitor the camera system to record our worship services. Our hope is to continue streaming our worship services on Facebook but we will be down to only two people doing the recording. Please consider volunteering to be a part of this team so we can continue offering an online worship service each Sunday. Training will be provided. Please let Pastor Kristine know if you are interested.

#### **Lenten Services**

The theme of our Wednesday night Lenten services this year was: What Does It Mean to Be an ELCA Lutheran? There was also church trivia and a mission minute for each service.

Pastor Kristine will compile the messages and make them available.

#### **Thank You**

— Holy Week —

Thank you to the Sunday school choir for leading the palm procession and singing on Palm Sunday.

Thank you to Roger Strand for the special music Good Friday. Thank you to Eva Trager and Teresa Olson for reading and to Rich Isder for the sound effects.

Thank you to Richard Olson for the drum roll for the Good Friday and Easter services.

Thank you to Carter Moen for veiling and unveiling the cross Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Thank you to the Kviteseid choir for singing Easter Sunday and to Cindy Kanten for organizing the choir.

This section removed for member privacy.

#### **Letters of Thanks**

#### **Thank You**

With sincere gratitude and warmest thanks . . . we thank you so much for your generous donation of quilts. God Bless You!

- Prairie Five Staff, Montevideo



Thank you so much for your kind donation of lovely quilts!

- Santa Anonymous, Chippewa County Family Services



Very special thanks . . . to very thoughtful you! Thank you all for the Easter Basket and goodies.

- Richard & Debbie Hanson



Thank you so much for the Easter Basket. It was greatly appreciated.

- Deanna & Reid Grant



Thank you for the nice Easter Basket I received from Kviteseid. I really enjoyed it.

- Nancy Streed



On behalf of Swift County Food Shelf, we would like to thank you for your donation of \$152.00 made on 3-21-2025.

Swift County Food Shelf relies on the generosity of donors such as yourself and is grateful for your support. Thank you once again.

- Swift County Outreach, Prairie Five Community Action Council, Benson Thank you for your donation of \$152.00 to the Lac qui Parle Community Food Shelf. Your generosity will help to buy nutritious food for those in our community who need some help in meeting their food needs each month.

Last year, 602 households (1509 individuals) were served by the food shelf taking 46,700# of food, plus garden produce donated by area gardeners.

All the food purchases (\$45,947.77 last year, a jump of \$8,095.98 from 2023) are from Second Harvest Heartland in St. Paul, which they deliver once a month, and from Jubilee Foods in town.

Everyone involved with the food shelf, and there are many, is a volunteer. Because of caring folks like you, the food shelf is able to offer a wide variety of good food.

Thanks again for your gift!

- Lac qui Parle Community Food Shelf



Thank you for your recent charitable gift of \$152.00 to the Chippewa County Food Shelf. Your support and generosity enables us to serve many individuals in our local area. We are grateful for your kindness and your continued support to our food shelf! This is truly a blessing!

- Prairie Five Community Action Council, Montevideo



Thank you to the group who packed the military boxes. Also, thanks for the treats that were donated for this project. Fourteen boxes were packed that morning.

- Kviteseid Military Committee

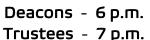
#### **TWC Bible Study**



"Together with Christ"
Bible study will meet in
the church fellowship hall
at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.

# Church Board Meetings

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 21





Board Meetings

#### **Coffee Fellowship**

Join us for coffee and fellowship following worship Sunday mornings in the narthex at 10:00 a.m. Please sign up to serve treats to enjoy along with the coffee. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex. The ushers

#### **Looking Ahead**



will make the coffee.

WORSHIP TIME CHANGE JULY 13 10:30 A.M.

WORSHIP MAY 25 JULY 6

**AUGUST 31** 



#### Southwestern Minnesota Synod

#### **Synod News**

### Are you discerning God's call?

Take a moment to consider: What is God calling you to?

God's call comes to us in wide and varied forms — teaching youth, serving on a board or committee within your congregation, or even leading worship as a lay leader. Others may feel God is calling them to further learning and become ordained as a minister of Word and Sacrament (pastor) or a minister of Word and Service (Deacon).

If you are hearing God's call, please reach out to Pastor Heather Culuris at the synod office. We would love to hear how God is calling you and help you along your vocation journey!

Connect with the synod office online at https://swmnelca.org/connect-with-us/.

# Hospitality Zoom Training for Congregations

Hospitality is a part of our Christian lives and a significant part of the life of our congregation's worship experience. We all want our congregation to be the most hospitable, but what makes us welcoming? How do we prepare to welcome guest worship leaders and preachers? How can we welcome people new to church?

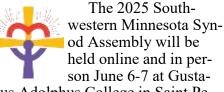
On March 18 the synod hosted a hospitality zoom training for congregations. It was recorded and is available on the synod website.

In this recording you will learn about the Biblical foundations of hospitality. Consider how to show intentional hospitality in our congregations and in worship. This training provides a checklist you can use to welcome guests, worship leaders and preachers who come to keep your worship life going strong.

Link: https://swmnelca.org/2025/03/20/hospitality-zoom-training-for-congregations/.

Or go to *swmnelca.org* and click on resources and then news and then Hospitality Zoom Training for Congregations.

# 2025 SW MN Synod Assembly



vus Adolphus College in Saint Peter.

The theme is "That My Joy May Be In You."

We can have a female voting member at synod assembly. If you are interested, talk to Pastor Kristine.

# SW MN Synod WELCA

The 2025 synod women's gathering will be held Saturday, May 3 at Vinje Lutheran Church in Willmar. The theme is "I Love to Tell the Story". For more information check out their website: http://www.swmnwelca.org/

The SWMN Synod Women's Board is planning a trip to tour both Lutheran World Relief and Global Health Ministries in the Cities on Monday, June 16. Registration closes May 3, or earlier if they reach capacity. The cost is \$20 payable in advance. If you have questions, text or call and leave a message to Cathy Blair at 507-370-2909 or Karen Skarphol at 507-822 -0785. Stops will be made in Redwood Falls, Olivia and Willmar. All women are invited to attend.

#### **CentraCare Hospice**

# Hospice Volunteer Training

CentraCare Hospice (formerly known as Rice Hospice) currently has a high need for volunteers in your area. We invite you to consider learning more about this opportunity. As a volunteer, you will be able to enrich the lives of others during their final journey home. CentraCare Hospice care brings hope to help people live life as fully as possible.

Our Spring volunteer training will be held at our Hospice Office in Willmar on Tuesday, May 13 and Thursday, May 15. The 2-day training will give you a comprehensive look at our hospice concept of care including communication and caring skills, symptom control and pain management, an overview of our complementary therapies, and so much more.

CentraCare Hospice is looking for men and women of all backgrounds who have hearts of compassion and a genuine interest in helping others. (We do have a high need for veteran volunteers.) For questions or for more information please call Deb VanBuren at CentraCare Hospice, 320-231-4433. Or visit CentraCare Hospice online at www.centracare.com/hospice.

Kviteseid Lutheran Church PO Box 31 Milan, MN 56262 www.milanslutheranchurch.com Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Milan, Minnesota 56262 Permit No. 4

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### **KVITESEID LUTHERAN CHURCH**

#### **Sunday Schedule**



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

Parish Assistant - Theresa Erickson office@milanslutheranchurch.com

