



Kviteseid
Voice
 Kviteseid Lutheran Church
 December 2021
 Volume 31 | Number 12

Greetings from Pastor Kristine Isder

Recently I was in a store (not locally) and noticed an Advent Calendar for Cats. I didn't look at the display but assume there was also an Advent Calendar for Dogs. My first thought was "Really?"

What does a cat or dog know about Advent? The joy of the Advent Calendar is counting down the days to Christmas and the excitement as Christmas gets closer. None of this would mean much to a cat or dog.

It seems to be another Christian activity that has been co-opted for the secular world. Secular means: "activities or other things that have no religious basis".

The secular world has been promoting Christmas for over a month already with decorations, music and gift promotions.

The church follows a different

schedule for the Christmas season. The retail world promotes Christmas as a time to buy gifts for others. Shopping needs to be done before December 24 so gifts can be exchanged on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

The church begins its preparations for Christmas with the season of Advent, which begins on November 28 this year. The church season of Christmas begins on Christmas Day and extends for Twelve Days AFTER Christmas, ending on January 5th.

I saw a calendar like the one to the right on Facebook recently.

So what is Advent? It means "coming" or "arrival". The focus of the season of Advent is preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ.

continued on page 3

Church Christmas Calendar						
November 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	Advent Nov. 28-Dec. 24			
ADVENT (almost Christmas but not yet Christmas)						
December 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
CHRISTMAS! Dec. 25-Jan. 5						
January 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22

STEWARDSHIP

Contributions, Gifts, Memorials & Worship



FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Fund
2021 Financial Responsibilities
\$233,650

Contributions through October 31
\$119,166

Checking Register
for the General Fund

10/1/21 balance:	\$499
October income:	\$24,784
October expenses:	\$15,755
10/31/21 balance:	\$9,527

Worship Offerings & Attendance



October 31	\$3,372	66
November 7	\$1,932	75
November 14	\$585	93
November 21	\$895	55

Financial Reminder

Church financial responsibilities continue as we are in the last quarter of the fiscal year. Please send your weekly offerings to the church office or donate online so we can meet our monthly obligations.

THANK YOU!

Gifts & Memorials



Undesignated Memorials
In memory of
Orvald & Avis Olson

Online Giving ...



Visit our website at
milanslutheranchurch.com

PRAYERS

We offer up prayers for ...

This section removed for member privacy.

LOCAL NEWS

Pastor, Staff & Officers

Greetings from Pr. Kristine

continued from page 1

Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. During the Sundays of Advent, we light candles on the Advent wreath during worship. As another candle is lit each Sunday, the light gets brighter as we get closer to the celebration of the birth of Jesus on Christmas.

Finally, on Christmas Eve, the light that has come into the world is plainly visible as the Christ candle in the middle is lit.

Candles symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His son.

The light of the candles reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world that comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life

and hope. It also reminds us that we are called to be a light to the world as we reflect the light of God's grace to others.

The real meaning of Christmas is that God sent Jesus to live among us. The people were looking for a king that would free them from their oppression at the hands of neighboring powers. What they got was a baby in a manger. A baby who would grow up to be a servant king, to serve others rather than to be served. This servant king gave up his life to give us eternal life, the best gift we could ever get.

As the church celebrates God's in breaking into history in the coming of Jesus to live among us, we also remember our own responsibility as a people commissioned to "love the Lord your God with all your heart" and to "love your neighbor as yourself".

Just as Jesus came to serve,

there are many ways we can serve others. One way we can serve others in the world this Christmas is by giving a gift of hope. We can honor friends and relatives by giving in their name to a charity to help other people.

We can give a gift of hope to others with alternative gifts. Through ELCA Good Gifts and Lutheran World Relief, we can give animals, water systems and much more to help people in need.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

- Pastor Kristine Isder

Looking Ahead

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 9th
9:00 a.m.

- Reports due December 20th -

2021 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:
Paul Belseth
Heidi Hanson

Church Officers

President: Roger Strand
Vice Pres.: Ken Lee
Secretary: Sherry Norby
Treas.: Rob Schwendemann

Board of Deacons

Marie Molden, Reed Molden,
Cindy Kanten, Rich Isder,
Char Strand

Board of Trustees

Bruce Loose, Josh Moen,
Nate Spray, Josh Vetter, Erik
Boraas

Board of Education

Sue Streed, Emily Heinrich,
Hillary Spray, Holly Kanten,
Jenna Norby

Helping Hands Board

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

WORSHIP NEWS

December Schedules & Happenings

TWC Bible Study

TWC "Together with Christ" Bible Study will meet Wednesday, December 8th at 1:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.



Church Supper Update

No church supper was held this year. Members were asked to give a monetary donation in lieu of the supper. Total received this year was \$1,960. Thank you!



December Ushers

Group 2

Captain - Char Johnson
752-4577

Connie Fragodt
Jody Molden
Kim Olson
Sue Streed
Kim Thompson
Teresa Olson

DECEMBER

Worship Assistants

Acolytes

- 5 - Gabrielle Augeson
- 12 - Gunner Liebl
- 19 - Isaac Hanson
- 24 - *Christmas Eve*
Carson Spray
- 25 - *Christmas Day*
Jessa Norby
- 26 - *None needed*

Lectors

- 5 - Jon Hanson
- 12 - Reed Molden
- 19 - Sherry Norby
- 24 - *Christmas Eve*
Heidi Hanson
- 25 - *Christmas Day*
Teresa Olson
- 26 - Rob Schwendemann

Media Operators

- 5 - Scarlett Trager
- 12 - Paul Tostenson
- 19 - Missy Ervin
- 24 - *Christmas Eve*
Isaac Hanson
- 25 - *Christmas Day*
Cale Norby
- 26 - Tom Moe

Deacon Communion Setup

- 5 - Rich Isder
- 12 - Reed Molden
- 24 - *Christmas Eve*
Reed Molden
- 25 - *Christmas Day*
Reed Molden

Video Recorders

- 5 - Theresa Ericksom
- 12 - Jon Hanson
- 19 - Theresa Erickson
- 24 - *Christmas Eve*
Rich Isder
- 25 - *Christmas Day*
Jon Hanson
- 26 - Rich Isder

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

Schedules are also available online at milanslutheranchurch.com



Church Boards & Council

meet in-person
Wednesday, December 15th

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

Church Council
7:30 p.m.

COFFEE Fellowship

Coffee Fellowship is in the narthex at 9:45 a.m. Sundays. Ushers will make the coffee. Please sign up to serve. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex.

LOCAL NEWS

December

Christmas Worship Events



Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 19
10:30 a.m. during Worship

Christmas Eve Worship with Communion

Friday, December 24
6:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship with Communion

Saturday, December 25
9:00 a.m.



Alternative Gifts

We can give a gift of hope to others through alternative gifts. There are many places where we can give animals, honey bees, fruit-tree seedlings, blankets, school supplies and much more to help people in need. Give the gifts that mean the most to you, or choose gifts to give in honor of someone special. Your gifts support the ministries of the ELCA in nearly 80 countries around the world.



Among these are ELCA Good Gifts, Lutheran World Relief and Heifer International. Information is available on the table in the narthex.

Sunday School Choir - NEW KLC T-shirts



This section removed for member privacy.

LOCAL NEWS

Helping Hands

Helping Hands

We are blessed with awesome autumn weather! Everyone do enjoy it!!

The Helping Hands Board met for their annual meeting. We donated money to the three area Food Shelves, the Backpack program in Appleton and also the military boxes. Thank you to all who are involved in those organizations. Hopefully, next year we will be able to donate to more of the causes that we have in the past. Prayers that Covid-19 will be more in the rearview mirror by next year.

We also picked out a rolling kitchen cart to purchase with money from Lois Berge's family. We will order one and if we like it, we will order a second one! These will be for use in the kitchen. Thank you to Lois's family for that kindness! We have established a memorial fund in the Helping Hands funds, so if anyone would like to contribute to that, you may do so! Thank you!

There are several cake pans and other kitchen containers on the counter in the Fellowship Hall. If you are missing something, please check it out. These items will be donated to the Thrift Shop after the first of the year.

We will be taking cupcakes to Apple Ridge instead of our usual Christmas Tea. This is in accordance with their Covid guidelines. Hopefully, next year we can do our usual Christmas Tea.

We plan to do our Syttende Mai Tea on May 14 next year if it is appropriate to do so.

We will be doing Christmas cards for shut-ins, military personnel and those in assisted living and nursing home facilities. Look for

those on the tables in the Narthex after Thanksgiving.

Board members will be calling to replace the Service Group Leaders. Please consider taking your turn at doing that for a year. Thank you very much to those who have been Service Group leaders for the past 2 years. Your service has been appreciated!

All the quilts, layettes and rolled bandages have been delivered! Thank you to everyone who contributed in those donations! They are fun to deliver and very much appreciated! Hospice, Bridging, Prairie 5, Family Services, Lutheran World Relief, Heartland Girl's Ranch and Global Missions were this year's recipients.

Thank you very much to Service Group 4 and the Sunday kids for the beautiful Fall decorations and thank you for taking them down!!

Thank you to Service Group 2, chairgals Judi Bohm, Barb Dale and Lorrie Spray for decorating for Christmas. They will be coordinating with the Sunday School kids to help with that task! Your efforts are much appreciated!

We will be quilting February 14, 17, 21 and 24. Thank you to those who will be helping with that. If you don't care to quilt, monetary donations, fabric, sheets are always

appreciated! Thank you!

Thank you to the following Committee workers:

- Nursing Home: Judy Thompson
- Baptismal Towels: Beth Dalen
- Quilting: Saundra Moe, Nancy Schneck, Mary Ziemann and Char Strand
- Altar Guild: Connie Streed and Sherry Norby
- Military Boxes: Nancy Streed, Judi Bohm, Cindy Lee, Connie Streed, Mary Ziemann, Kim Molden
- Syttende Mai Tea: Nancy Schneck and Marlys Kvistero
- Christmas Cards: Connie Fragot
- Kitchen: Cathy Olson and Nancy Schneck

Thank you to all who contribute in any way to our congregation and there are many! You are enough and you are appreciated!

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Unclaimed Cake Pan

There is a very nice cake pan on the Fellowship Hall counter with the name of Elizabeth Freese on the cover. Does anyone know of her? I believe a cake came to a funeral a few years ago. Please claim it for her if you know her. Thank you!

FUNERALSERVICE GROUPS

Serving the next funeral will be Group 4.

Service Group 4 chairpersons are:

Robert & Jill Blom	793-6740
Erik Boraas	605-695-9862
Craig & Char Strand	734-4758



LOCAL NEWS

Congregational Meeting

Congregational Meeting Minutes November 21, 2021

President Roger Strand called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the upgrading needed for heating and cooling the church.

Josh Vetter, from the Trustees, explained that the current system is nearly 25 years old. The R22 coolant is no longer manufactured and the cost is going up. One compressor has been replaced and one more is not working. The recommendation is to replace the four units downstairs which does the heating and cooling.

The church has received a quote from Chappell Central to replace and remove the four units at a cost of \$70,654. This quote is good for 60 days. The church does have funds to cover this expense. Additional bids are pending.

There are rebates available from OtterTail Power Company. There is a possibility of a \$40,000 rebate, but there may be a cap of \$10,000 in rebates. More information from OtterTail will be coming soon.

Motion was made by Josh Moen, seconded by Judi Bohm, to replace and upgrade the existing heating/cooling system in the basement at a cost of \$70,654. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Norby, Council Secretary

Military Packages

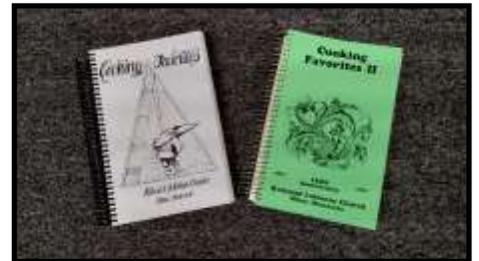
Military boxes will be packed on Tuesday, December 14th at 9:00 a.m. Items that can be sent are: beef jerky, nuts, raisins, individual snack items, microwave popcorn, candy or home-baked cookies (4-6 in a baggie). Also, monetary donations for expenses are appreciated. Items can be left at the church office during regular hours or in the basement on the kitchen counter before 12:00 noon Monday, December 13th. For questions, call Judi (734-4671) or Nancy (734-4694).

All Saints Sunday

Our youth recognized family of our church members who have passed away and been buried at the Kviteseid Lutheran Milan Methodist Cemetery in the last year. They placed roses at these gravesites on the morning of All Saints Sunday, November 7th.



Kviteseid Cookbooks



If you are interested in purchasing one of our original (reprint) gray cookbooks (produced in 1986) or one of our newer green cookbooks (printed in 1997), contact the church office or Nancy Schneck.

Cost is \$15 for the gray cookbook, \$10 for the green cookbook, or get one of each for \$20. They would make great Christmas gifts!



Poinsettias to decorate the church for Christmas can be purchased and given in memory or in honor of loved ones. After Christmas, those of you who purchased a poinsettia may take one home with you to enjoy throughout the rest of the holiday season.

If you would like to purchase one, you can do so at Country Floral (289-1321) in Appleton. Standard poinsettias will be \$15.95 (+ tax) and a more deluxe version with a bow will be \$18.95 (+ tax). Orders due by December 16th or until supplies are gone.



LOCAL NEWS

Southwest Minnesota Synod

Synod News

“For we are God’s servants, working together, you are God’s field, God’s building.” (1 Corinthians 3:9)

When a seed is planted and tender shoots start to emerge from the soil, it’s hard to imagine the plant that will grow there. Corn or beans, daffodils or iris bulbs, tomatoes or pumpkins, these small beginnings grow into plants that can be tall and beautiful and capable of sustaining life.

None of us can see exactly what the church of the future will look like, but the examples of innovation and creativity being shared across our congregations show that by God’s grace, the church will emerge so that more and more people know life abundant in Jesus Christ.

The pandemic reminded us that indeed, the church is not a building – it is people! And God is building all of us in new ways to serve God’s preferred and beautiful future.

We believe that God has planted our congregations in cities, farms, and towns together, and that by God’s grace, together we have what we need. Each of our congregations has unique gifts from God – gifts we can discover and appreciate even more in the coming years. The strength of our entire synod depends upon the strength of each of us, and the relationships of all of us, together. Your prayers, partnership, and Mission Support allow us to walk together so that congregational ministries remain vital as God’s field, God’s building.

Here are some of the inspiring ways our ministries are being lived

out together:

- Synod staff are walking with the highest number of congregations ever who are seeking interim and settled-call pastors.
- New synod staff members are being called.
- Area ministry partnership conversations are emerging.
- Lay members of congregations are adapting to new circumstances and imagining ministry in new ways.
- The online presence of congregations is reaching people who are homebound, on the road, and on the other side of the globe.
- Candidates for ministry are beginning the candidacy process and preparing for their first call.
- Our new bishop and synod staff are leading worship, meeting with congregations, and listening for how God is at work in each of their varied contexts.

In challenging circumstances, our congregations and our synod are living with change in the same way the church always has: remembering that it is GOD who has planted us, and GOD who is building us.

Thank you for walking together with the other 230 congregations who are part of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA. We knew we were “church together” before, but as COVID-19 kept us apart, God has shown us how truly connected we really are. During this time of emerging from the global pandemic, your gifts for Mission Support have never been more vital and more important.

Your offerings become Mission

Support as you share a portion of those gifts to invest in the ministries of our synod locally, across the ELCA, and around the world. These shared gifts enable us to work together in ways no individual or congregation can do alone.

Thank you for your generosity and for your partnership. We give thanks that it is God who is the actor in the story of Life in Christ.

**You are God’s planting,
you are God’s building.**

Thanks be to God!

- Rev. Dee Pederson, D. Min
Bishop, Southwestern Minnesota
Synod, ELCA

Thank You

Thank you to Malisa Ervin for her 17 years as financial secretary for Kviteseid.

- Pastor Kristine

Thank you for the thoughts, prayers and acts of kindness since my eye surgery. Vision is getting better in that eye and most of the restrictions have been removed. I continue to give thanks for restored vision.

- Pastor Kristine

New Financial Secretary

Theresa Erickson is the new financial secretary for the church. Please be patient as she learns the financial system!

Kviteeid 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

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. †
- † Facebook Live 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