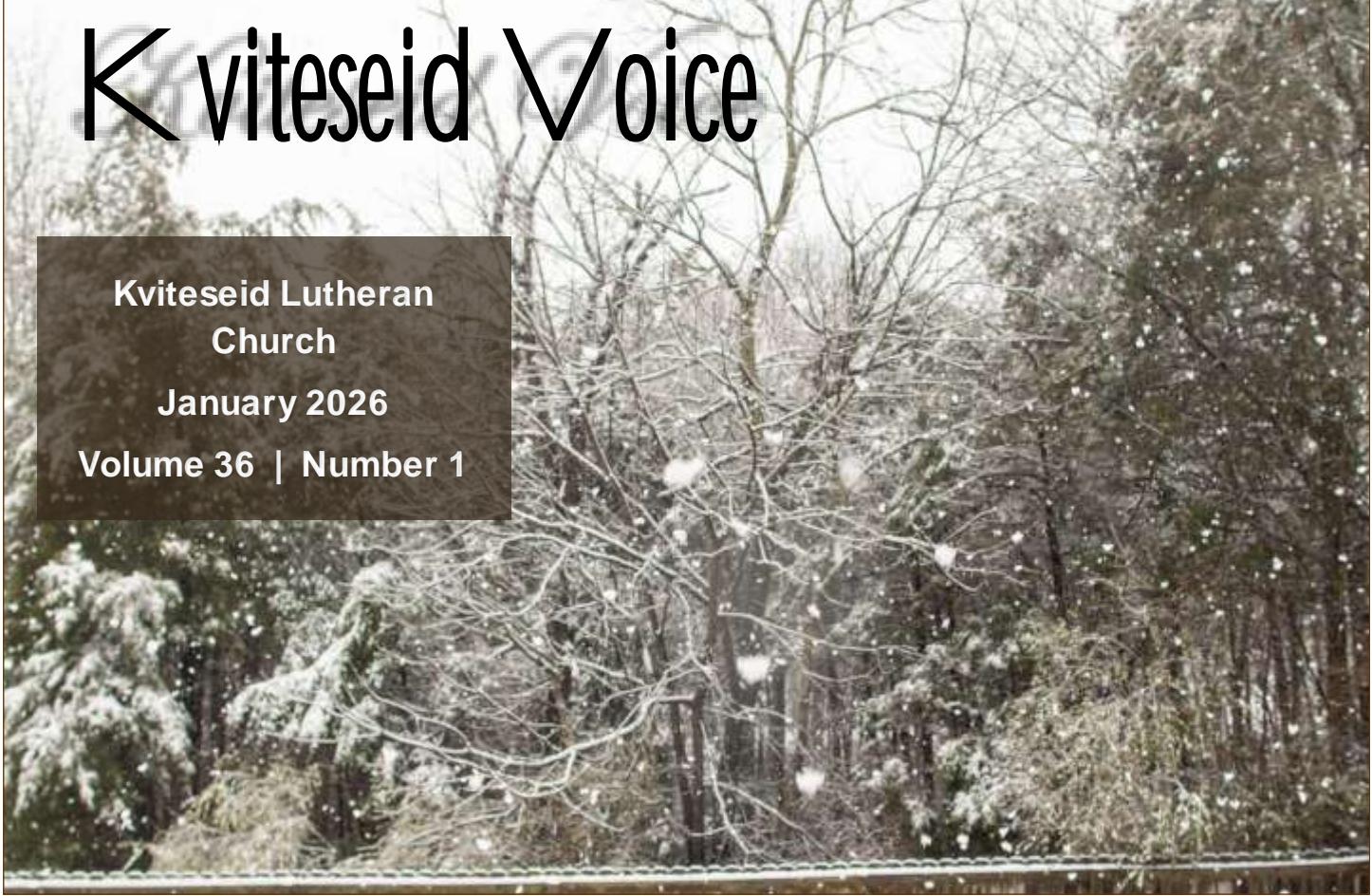


Kviteseid Voice

Kviteseid Lutheran
Church

January 2026

Volume 36 | Number 1



Greetings

January: A Season of New Beginnings

January greets us with fresh calendars, clean pages, and the quiet hope of new beginnings. In the life of the church, January is more than just the start of a new year—it is a continuation of the Christmas story and a reminder of God's promises made new each day.

During January, we remain in the season of **Epiphany**, a time when we celebrate the revealing of Christ to the world. The light that shone in Bethlehem continues to shine, guiding us in our daily lives. Through the stories of Jesus' baptism, His calling of the disciples, and His early ministry, we are reminded that God's grace is

active and present among us.

As we begin a new year together, January invites us to pause and reflect. Where have we seen God at work in our lives? How might God be calling us to serve, to grow, or to deepen our faith in the months ahead? While the world often speaks of resolutions and self-improvement, our faith reminds us that we walk forward not by our own strength alone, but by God's grace.

This new year also offers opportunities for renewed commitment—to worship, to prayer, to fellowship, and to caring for one another. Whether through gathering on Sunday mornings, serving within our community, or

offering encouragement to a neighbor, each small act reflects Christ's light.

As we step into January, may we do so with hope and trust, confident that God goes before us into this new year. "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning." (Lamentations 3:22–23)

May God bless our congregation and guide us as we walk together in faith in the year ahead.

Happy New Year!

STEWARSHIP

Contributions, Gifts, Memorials & Worship



FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Fund
2025 Financial Responsibilities
\$262,904

Checking Register
for the General Fund

11/1/24 balance: \$32,910
November income: \$4,126
November expenses: \$3,160
11/30/24 balance: \$33,876

Worship Offerings & Attendance



November 23	\$11,435	59
November 26	\$1,459	69
	<small>- Thanksgiving</small>	
November 30	\$380	40
December 7	\$1,430	44
December 14	\$1,093	66
December 21	\$1544	168

Online Giving ...



Visit our website at

milanslutheranchurch.com

MEMORIALS and GIFTS

Undesignated

In memory of
Jane Link

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Thank you for your financial support of the church. Contributions may be mailed to the church office if you are unable to make it to worship. You can also contribute online on our website.



PRAYERS

We offer up prayers for ...

This section removed for member privacy.

LOCAL NEWS



PUZZLE

HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.

JANUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
God	night	word	in	love	Jesus	
glory	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ	
new	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is	many
He	again	through	earth	made	white	bark
new	if	and	creation			

The second Monday _____
The last Monday _____
The 16th _____
One day before the 20th _____
The day before the first Friday _____
The last weekday of the second week _____
The day after the 20th _____
The day after 18th _____
The first day of the second weekend _____
The last Sunday _____
The last day of the month _____

Answers! Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

2026 Kviteseid Staff & Officers



Office Staff

Pastor Bob Dahl
rldahl1@charter.net

Worship Leader
Chelsea Briones

Parish Assistant: Cheryl Erp
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 Schneek
Vice President: Sue Vetter
Secretary: Cathy Olson
Treasurer: Theresa Erickson
Char Johnson, Sue Streed,
Karla Schwendemann, Patee
Spray, Naomi Streed

WORSHIP NEWS

January Schedules



Deacon Communion Setup

4 - Cheryl Erp

Acolytes

4 - Thatcher Ero
11 - Iver Heinrich
18 - Creed Joyce
25 - Isaac Link

Lectors

4 - Rob Schwendemann
11 - Gabby Augeson
18 - Connie Fragodt
25 - Jon Hanson

Media Operators

4 - Carter Moen
11 - Isaac Link
18 - Matt Schuerman
25 - Lucas Shuerman

Video Recorders

4 - Jon Hanson
11 - Theresa Erickson
18 - Heidi Spray
25 - Theresa Erickson

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



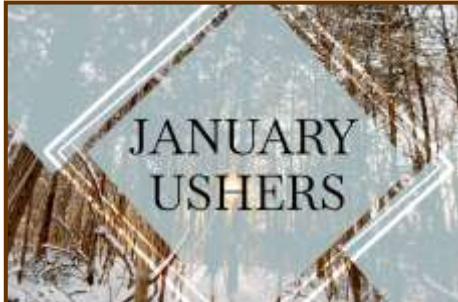
Coffee Fellowship

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 will make the coffee.

Church Board Meetings

Wednesday, January 21

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



Group 6

Captain - Tom Moe
734-4707

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

TWC Bible Study

Wednesday, January 14

1:30 p.m.

Meet at
the church
in the
Narthex



LOCAL NEWS

Helping Hands

Helping Hands

Christmas is almost here! Enjoy the Advent season and contemplate the arrival of the Savior of the world! Hallelujah!!

Thank you to Roger Strand for delivering the many layettes, more than 400 bandage rolls and 10 quilts to the Global Mission/Health Headquarters in Fridley! Your help is very much appreciated!!

Thank you to Beth Dalen and Paulette Haff for the heroic donation of many little hats for the layettes next fall and the many Prayer Shawls for those in need of the comfort of prayer, love and friendship. Your time and talent is much appreciated!! If you know of someone who could use a prayer shawl, please let Nancy Schneck know of the need!

Thank you to Service Groups 1, 3 and the senior high Sunday School kids for Fall and Christmas decorating and take down. The church looked just beautiful!! Thank you so much!

Quilting this winter is scheduled for Monday, Feb 2, Wednesday, Feb 4, Monday, Feb 8 and Monday, Feb 16. Summer quilting is scheduled for Monday, July 13, Wednesday,

July 15, Monday, July 20 and Wednesday July 22. Put those dates on your calendar and we would love to see you at quilting to help make beautiful and useful quilts!! Thank you so much to those who have shared Thrivent grants to help purchase batting and fabric!

Again, I ask that you prayerfully consider accepting the chairpersonship on the Service Groups should you be called. The current chairpersons will be in place until after the Annual meeting of the church and the new Service Booklets come out. Thank you to those serving! You are appreciated! Wishing each and everyone a blessed, healthy and a very happy New Year.

ACTIVITIES AT KVITESEID IN THE LAST MONTH

Military Boxes packed December 9 (14 boxes)

Sunday School Christmas program December 21

Worship

Online Worship Services

Sunday School

Sunday School sent cards to shut ins

Confirmation Classes

Bible Study

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Congratulations

Colin and Carli Thompson on the birth of their son, Lee James, born December 18. Lee is the great-grandson of Judy Thompson.



FUNERAL

SERVICE GROUPS

Serving the next funeral will be Group 3.

Service Group 3 chairpersons are:

Brandon & Michelle Ascheman	226-0658
Jan & Lori Rheingans	289-2669
Rob & Karla Schwendemann	226-3700

**Red Cross
Bloodmobile**
will be here on
Wednesday, January 28th
from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 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

Sunday School

Looking Ahead

Ash Wednesday

February 18



Sunday School Christmas Program

December 21

Thank you to the board of education, the Sunday school superintendent, teachers, students, parents, and all those who contributed to the program. Everybody thought it was great! Good job!



This section removed for member privacy.

LOCAL NEWS

December Church Council Meeting

Kviteseid Lutheran Church Joint Council Minutes

December 17, 2025

Members present: Judi Bohm, Cheryl Erp, Ray Trager, Ryan Erp, Cory Heinrich, Andy Streed, Bryan Schuerman, Jon Hanson, Heidi Spray (by phone) and Jessica Trager.

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm by Judi Bohm, President.

Treasurer's Report: Andy Streed reported fund balances: checking \$32,815.90, Building Fund \$74,002.21 and Gifts/Memorials \$178,354.71.

Deacon's Report: Jon Hanson reported the Kviteeid profile was basically done, with a bit more information coming from the Trustees. Confirmation classes are going well. Both Jon & Heidi state kids are participating and are involved during class time. Jon and Chelsea are attending classes with scholarships available for that. Annual meeting date will be January 11th, 9am.

Trustee's Report: Cory Heinrich reported the microphone and speakers have bee updated since the last meeting by Ryan Erp. Numerous compliments from congregation members on how well it sounds. Ryan also was wrapping up the 365 migration for IT. Trustees placed hangers for the wreaths at the front of the sanctuary so both banners

and wreaths can hang. Safety bars have been placed in the bathrooms and a wireless mouse was purchased for Judi for the organ. Cheryl ordered treat bags for children following the Christmas program on December 21st.

Board of Education: In lieu of an education board member, Jessica reported that attendance has been variable, but still an increase of children. Currently working on the Christmas Program.

Pastor's Report: N/A

Bryan Schuerman motioned for reports to be approved. Jon Hanson seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Members needed for the call committee.

Pastor's office has been repainted and curtains hung, with additional curtains being ordered for the administrative office as well.

Nominating committee will be reaching out to ask for people to fulfill the roles of the church prior to the annual meeting on January 11th.

New Business:

Pastor Bob will be continuing to provide pastoral services for us in 2026 in a limited capacity, he provided a contract for the council to go over. Continuing with lay person service with Chelsie Briones and Jon Hanson.

Jon Hanson motioned to adjourn. Bryan Schuerman seconded. Meet-

ing ended at 7:48pm.
Closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.
The next scheduled meeting will be March 18th @ 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Trager
Council Secretary

Snowflake SNACK CAKES

Celebrate the beauty of winter with these fun snowflake-inspired treats!

What you need:

- Graham cracker squares or sugar cookies
- White frosting or marshmallow fluff
- Pretzel sticks (snowflake arms)
- Shredded coconut or white sprinkles
- Mini marshmallows or candy pearls

What you do:

1. Frost each cracker or cookie.
2. Arrange pretzel sticks in a crisscross for the snowflake base.
3. Sprinkle with coconut or sprinkles for snow.
4. Add marshmallows or candy pearls to the ends for detail.

Lesson tie-in:
Remind kids that God made each of us unique—just like no two snowflakes are alike! (Psalm 139:14, KJV)

LOCAL NEWS

Southwest Minnesota Synod

Synod News

Dear Friends in Christ -

The message of the angel to Joseph is one of promise and hope today!

“Jesus,” a name that means, “God saves.” Christmas may not be a season when we want to think much about the need to be saved from sin. Yet beneath the Advent preparations and Christmas festivities, we confess our own preoccupation with ourselves, our impatience with others, our failure to respond to human need, our failure to live at peace with neighbors near and far, our reluctance to trust God’s faithfulness. Still, there is hope as we celebrate this One born as a vulnerable baby - Jesus - who saves us from the sin and brokenness of our world and of every human heart.

“Immanuel,” a name that means, “God with us.” Some days it is easy to wonder where God has gone. In times of confusion, fear, misunderstanding, illness, abuse, or grief, we wonder if God has forgotten us. Yet the promise of Immanuel is that God is here. Every human being is created in the image of God and embraced as beloved. In the promised birth of Immanuel, the Word became flesh and lived among us - fully sharing our humanity - bringing into this beloved world grace and truth, light and love that will not end.



This year, I am writing this letter from South Africa, where four of us from the Southwestern Minnesota Synod have the honor and privilege of getting to know our global partners in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Southern Africa (“ELCSA”). The relationship we share is one of ‘accompaniment’, walking with each other in relationship. Even though our churches face similar challenges, we are discovering the greater unity of the hope and joy we share in Jesus Christ. In the opening worship of our Consultation, Presiding Bishop Myaka of ELCSA, taught us the Zulu saying, *“The road to heaven goes by your neighbor’s house.”* It is a powerful reminder that Jesus, Immanuel, is present not only with me, but with my neighbors, and therefore, I am to be present with my neighbors, as well.

Wherever you are this Christmas - at home or far away - I pray that you know the grace and truth, light and love of **Jesus - Immanuel - God with you.** Merry Christmas!

+ Bishop Dee Pederson

Thank You

On behalf of Swift County Food Shelf, we would like to thank you for your donation. 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 Food Shelf

Thank you to everyone who helped and/or donated for the Thanksgiving and Christmas military boxes.

- The Military Committee

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Consider being a part of one or more of the following teams

Visitation Ministry.

- Contact Char Strand.

Ushers.

- Contact Tom Moe.

Funeral Ushers.

- Contact Tom Moe.

Lectors.

- Contact Heidi Hanson.

Media.

- Contact Judi Bohm.

Video Team.

- Contact Cheryl Erp

Helping Hands.

- Contact Nancy Schneck.

Kviteeid Lutheran Church
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Milan, MN 56262
www.milanslutheranchurch.com

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Permit No. 4

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

KVITESEID LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Schedule

- † Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. †
- † Coffee Fellowship at 10:00 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 Bob Dahl
Home phone: 320-262-5295 rldahl1@chater.net
Worship Leader Chelsea Briones
Parish Assistant - Cheryl Erp
office@milanslutheranchurch.com

