



## Greetings from Pastor Kristine Isder

On **Valentine’s Day** we celebrate love, human love.

But there’s an even greater love – the love of God.

In Isaiah 43:4, God sends us his valentine: *“Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you.”*

God says “You are precious. I love you.” This is the only place in the entire Bible where God specifically says, “I love you” in just those words.

God’s love is evident all through the Bible by his care and concern for us, but here, from God’s own lips, are the words, “I love you”.

The book of 1 John tells us that God is love. *“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are.”* (1 John 3:1a)

The word “love” is used 368 times in the Bible. Some of those verses are about God’s love, some are about loving God and others are about loving each other. In this article, I’m focusing on God’s love for us.

As I was looking through the verses containing “love”, this phrase kept appearing, “his steadfast love endures forever”. When I searched for just that phrase, I found that it occurs 43 times in the Bible.

What a great comfort to know that God’s love will never cease!

No matter what we do, God will still love us. I tell the confirmation students that if they don’t remember anything else from confirmation, to remember this: “There’s nothing you can do to make God love you more and

there’s nothing you can do to make God love you less.”

That’s the grace of God. And it’s because of God’s amazing and unconditional love. This love is a pure gift. We can’t earn it by anything we do. God loves us unconditionally. And that’s the best valentine ever!

*“But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.”* (Psalm 86:15)



# STEWARDSHIP

## Contributions, Gifts, Memorials & Worship



### FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Fund  
2022 Financial Responsibilities  
\$236,438

Checking Register  
for the General Fund

12/1/21 balance: \$12,069

December income: \$52,930

December expenses: \$28,885

Trsf. to building fund: \$22,000

12/31/21 balance: \$14,114

### Worship Offerings & Attendance



January 2 \$1,086 44

January 9 \$247 56

January 16 \$636 36

January 23 \$777 44

### Online Giving ...



Visit our website at

[milanslutheranchurch.com](http://milanslutheranchurch.com)

### Gifts & Memorials



#### Undesignated Memorials

*In memory of:*

Ernie & Arlene Streed

Fern Streed

Karen Zimmerman

#### Sunday School Education

*In memory of:*

Fern Streed

#### Helping Hands - Quilting

*In memory of:*

Fern Streed

# PRAYERS

We offer up prayers for ...

**This section removed for member privacy.**

# LOCAL NEWS

## Pastor, Staff & Officers

### THANKS FOR SERVING

Thank you to those completing their terms on church council for your years of service to the congregation. Your time and efforts have been appreciated.

#### Thank you to outgoing council members:

Vice President: Ken Lee  
Treasurer: Rob Schwendemann  
Trustees: Bruce Loose and Josh Moen  
Deacons: Marie Molden and Reed Molden



### Kviteleid Connectors

Kviteleid Connectors is a group of volunteers whose mission is to reach out to members of our congregation who may not always be able to attend worship. We currently have 13 individuals and 2 families who are volunteering with hopes of gaining more.

We began connecting with members who live in nursing

homes and assisted living facilities. We have expanded to some members who live in their own homes. We send notes, make phone calls, and visit when it's possible. It is a fun way to help everyone remember that they are an important part of our congregation and we care about them!!

Throughout these last two years, many people have felt isolated at times and perhaps have felt lonely. If this sounds like you, we invite you to let us know. Our group is made up of people who care about others. If you would like someone to talk to and/or occasionally visit with, we would like to connect. If interested, please call Char Strand 320-815-0219 or e-mail her at [lakeannie@fedtdirect.net](mailto:lakeannie@fedtdirect.net).



## 2022 Kviteleid Staff & Officers



### Office Staff

**Pastor Kristine Isder**  
[pastor@milanslutheranchurch.com](mailto:pastor@milanslutheranchurch.com)

**Parish Assistant:**  
**Theresa Erickson**  
[office@milanslutheranchurch.com](mailto: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: Roger Strand**  
**Vice Pres: Paul Tostenson**  
**Secretary: Sherry Norby**  
**Treasurer: Josh Moen**

### Board of Deacons

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

### Board of Trustees

**Nate Spray, Josh Vetter, Erik Boraas, Brandon Ascheman, Bryan Schuerman**

### Board of Education

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

### Helping Hands Board

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



# WORSHIP NEWS

## February Schedules & Opportunities

### Coffee Fellowship

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



**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.



### Acolytes

- 6 - Isaac Hanson
- 13 - Carson Spray
- 20 - Jessa Norby
- 27 - Julian Bowen

### Lectors

- 6 - Connie Fragodt
- 13 - Jon Hanson
- 20 - Reed Molden
- 27 - Sherry Norby

### Media Operators

- 6 - Nancy Schneck
- 13 - Gage Augeson
- 20 - Elizabeth Hanson
- 27 - Gavin Ascheman

### Deacon Communion Setup

- 6 - Char Strand
- 13 - Rich Isder

### Video Recorders

- 6 - Rich Isder
- 13 - Theresa Erickson
- 20 - Jon Hanson
- 27 - 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.**



are needed. If you are able to help out, please contact Pastor Kristine.



### Group 7

Captain - Ken Lee  
320-226-3970

Robert Blom  
Josh Moen  
Matt Norby  
Paul Spray  
Ron Streed

# LOCAL NEWS

## Helping Hands

### Helping Hands

Blessings to all in this New Year! Prayers that it will be a good one for all!

How wonderful to know that folks actually read the Helping Hands portion of the newsletter! Even if it points to an error, it brings happiness!! Apologies to Service Group 2 for not receiving the credit due for a fabulous job decorating for Christmas this year - and undecorating as well! Your efforts are gratefully appreciated! Thank you so much!

We will be quilting this month on February 14, 17, 21 and 24. In case of snow storms, there is a Monday before Lenten services start, if we need to postpone. We will begin about 9:00 and end about 3:00 each day. Bring a bag lunch and if you have something to share for coffee, that is always fun too! Monetary donations are always welcome, gently used or new colorful sheets are appreciated, and tops ready to tie are coveted! Above all, no experience is required to come and join us to tie the quilts. We will gladly show you how easy it is and welcome all to join in the fun! Thank you to all who share time, talent and resources for our quilting mission!

Be sure to sign up for goodies to go with coffee served in the Narthex before worship services! It is fun to visit and share with friends and neighbors during that time!

Watch for news on Lenten suppers in Sunday bulletins and next months mailer.

Also, a decision has not been made on celebrating Syttende Mai with our Smorgas Tea yet. Watch for news of that also. It will depend

on the state of Covid-19 in our state and our area.

Thank you so very much to the current Service Group chairpersons who have faithfully served these past two years. It is so appreciated! The new 2022 Helping Hands Service Booklet is out so the next group of chairpersons are now on deck and we appreciate their service as well.

Service Group 1 is next up for funeral service.

or long or high or deep. I want you to know all about Christ's love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is." Ephesians 3:18-19



Calling all kids to register for Bible Camp! Registration is open. Early bird \$50 discount ends February 15.

For more information, there are brochures at church or check out their website: <http://www.gllm.org/>

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 and Rich: \$100
- Kviteseid Church: \$150

### Bible Camp

#### Summer 2022 Bible Camp at Green Lake Lutheran Ministries



This summer's theme: "I pray that you and all of God's people will understand what is called wide

### TWC Bible Study

Wednesday, February 9th  
1:30 p.m.  
in the Fellowship Hall

## FUNERAL

### SERVICE GROUPS

Serving the next funeral will be Group 1.

Service Group 1 chairpersons are:

- |                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Ryan & Cheryl Erp    | 734-4430 |
| Gary & Kim Heimdahl  | 752-4529 |
| Jason & Chanda Norby | 734-4844 |



# LOCAL NEWS

February

## Lenten Services

Lent begins on

**Ash Wednesday,  
March 2.**

We will determine in February if there will be suppers.

Big Bend will host two services this year.

Stay tuned for more information!



## Christian Symbol

**VALLEY**—Valleys symbolize life's dark or low points; for example, Psalm 23:4 refers to "the valley of the shadow of death" (ESV). But valleys also symbolize people who find God's favor because they're lowly and meek. As a result, valleys can be places of blessing. God lifts his people out of despair and rewards their faithfulness. He also



promises to "level" conditions by raising up valleys and bringing down mountains (see Isaiah 40:4).

## Board MEETINGS

Church Boards  
meet in-person  
Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>

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



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member  
privacy.**

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removed for  
member privacy.**



# LOCAL NEWS

## Letters of Thanks

### Letters of Thanks

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent gift of rolled bandages given on 10/14/2021 to Global Health Ministries. Your gifts make it possible to ship vital medical supplies and equipment, offer timely grants, and educate leaders to help the hands that heal in 13 under-resourced countries. Thank you for the gifts you share!

- Pastor Doug  
Global Health Ministries



Dear friends from Kviteseid Lutheran Church,

On behalf of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) and those we serve, thank you for your yearly gift of \$120.00. As your partners in ministry, we are eager to equip you with practical tools, teaching resources, and opportunities to serve your community. Your support affirms our shared vision that all people have the opportunity to live and work in community with full and abundant lives. Thank you for your generous gift!

- Pastor Julie Wright  
Lutheran Social Service



Kviteseid,

We are so grateful for all of your prayerful and financial support of our ministry. You are a blessing to our ministry. Wishing you well in 2022. Blessings as we enter into the New Year!

- Lutheran Campus Ministry  
University of MN, Morris

Dear members of Kviteseid,

Thank you for your continued support of campus ministry.

- Lutheran Campus Ministry  
(LuMin), SMSU, Marshall



Kviteseid Lutheran Church General Endowment Trust Fund,

On behalf of Swift County Food Shelf, I would like to thank you for your donation of \$320.00 made on 12-20-2021. Swift County Food Shelf relies on the generosity of donors such as yourself and is grateful for your support. Thank you once again.

- Sue Fragodt  
Swift County Outreach



Kviteseid Lutheran Church General Endowment Trust Fund,

Thank you for your generous gift to our Back Pack program. We really do appreciate it. We have 100 students in the program. We send a bag of food on the weekend. Thank you again.

- Back Pack Board



Kviteseid Lutheran Church General Endowment Trust Fund,

The Strengthening The Family Board thanks you for your generous donation to our program. Donations help to fund our Child Guide Program and with supplies needed for activities with children.

Gloria Tobias  
STF - LqPV Schools

Kviteseid Lutheran Church General Endowment Trust Fund,

Thank you for supporting LuMin (Lutheran Campus Ministry) of SMSU in Marshall. Your donation will support our ministry!

- LuMin Board,  
SMSU, Marshall

### Church Cancellations



**Although worship will rarely be canceled,** please use your own judgment before traveling in to church on those questionable days. If Pastor Kristine and

Rich can get to the church, a worship service will be recorded and posted online.

Weather related announcements can be heard on KDMA 1460 AM or KLQP 92.1 FM. It will also be posted on the Kviteseid website home page and on Kviteseid's Facebook page.



### Video Team

Looking for a few more people willing to record, stream, and monitor the camera system to record our services. Training will be provided. Please let Pastor Kristine know if you are interested.



# LOCAL NEWS

## Southwest Minnesota Synod

### Synod News

#### Excerpts from Bishop Dee Pederson's 2021 Annual Report

“God has placed us in cities, farms, and towns together....

The Risen Christ surprises us as we plant God's Word in the world....

By God's grace, together we have what we need.”

These words from our synod mission statement provide both grounding and direction as we look ahead to the future. First I want to say **Thank You!** for your congregation's participation and leadership, and for your partnership with one another across our synod. I am inspired by your witness to Jesus Christ and grateful for your dedication!

**God.** I know: that is not a surprising place to begin, is it? But all too often, we do not begin with God or God's Word; we begin with us. Or me. And given the year we have just been through, that is understandable. There are so many concerns that weigh on our hearts. We have mourned the loss of loved ones, struggled with illness, navigated worship online, worried about attendance and offering. But during challenging times especially, it is vital to begin with God.

As we consider the challenges our congregations and communities face in our synod right now, it is easy to get stuck on us and our problems.

Yet your congregation is not here by chance. It is God who planted you where you are – whether that was 155 years ago, 45, or 5. The

Holy Trinity sends you to serve each other and your community for a time such as this. God is calling you. The Risen Christ does surprise us as we plant God's Word. God's grace will provide what you need.

*“It is the Lord your God who goes with you. And God will not forsake you or leave you.”* (Deut. 31:6).

**Together.** “Synod” literally means “walking together.” No two of our congregations are identical; we are different from each other. We have different histories and traditions. That can lead us to think that because we may not have certain things in common, that we don't need each other. I have been blessed to see the varieties of gifts the Spirit has poured out on each of our congregations and rostered ministers.

Together, your synod staff has been walking with you as we have been in a time of transition:

- Synod Minister Pr. Stephen Cook will continue to serve in his call as pastoral staff.
- Pr. Troy Pflibsen – Director for Evangelical Mission (D.E.M.) – a position funded by the ELCA and deployed in our synod.
- Pr. Heather Culuris joined the staff January 1.

Together, your staff team has been doing a fantastic job of focusing on candidacy, interim ministries, call process, and the leadership transition. At the present time, there are 54 out of 230 congregations that are in some point of transition – the highest number ever. If you know someone in your congregation who has the gifts for full or part-time ministry, please be bold enough to encourage them; it may be the Spirit's way of calling forth a new

leader. And if you have a rostered minister leading your congregation right now, please express your appreciation to them and let them know you are grateful for their ministry.

**I return to the place I began: gratitude.** Thank you for your continuing and generous financial gifts for Mission Support that sustain the ministries of this synod and our many partners locally and around the globe.

Finally, thank you for your prayers as I begin serving in the Office of the Bishop. I give thanks that, by God's grace, together we have what we need.

*Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.*  
*Amen.* – Eph. 3:20-21

- Rev. Dee Pederson, D. Min  
Serving as Bishop of the  
Southwestern Minnesota Synod,  
ELCA

### Lac qui Parle Conference Assembly

The Lac qui Parle Conference Assembly will be held on Sunday February 27 at Salem Lutheran Church in Montevideo.

Registration is at 1:30 p.m. with the meeting to start at 2:00 p.m.

We plan to meet in person but the technology is available if we need to move online. We can have six voting members. If interested in attending, please let Pastor Kristine know.



Kviteeid Lutheran Church  
PO Box 31  
Milan, MN 56262  
[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. ✝
- ✝ Facebook Live Worship at 10:30 a.m. ✝

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



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