



Kviteseid Voice

Kviteseid Lutheran
Church

October 2026

Volume 36 | Number 10

Greetings from Pastor Linda Molitor

That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. Jonah 4:2

Have you ever resisted doing something because you don't want to help someone you don't like? That was a problem for Jonah. God sent him on a mission to spare thousands of people. He refused to go to Nineveh because the people there were actually enemies of the Jewish people. Going to them was very dangerous and probably would result in his death. He resented God giving them a chance to repent. Jonah had hoped to see God smote them, hopefully kill them all.

There are things we know we should do and yet don't do them. Perhaps we are scared or maybe don't want to see someone you dislike get help; or maybe you just don't want to help because it's just too big of a bother. The story of Jonah is a dramatic story that shows our nature verses God's.

The story of Jonah reminds us that while we put off stuff, we are never away from God's influence. It is also a good reminder that God is with us when we are afraid. I know I'm as bad as anyone about procrastinating which is usually because it involves doing something I don't want to do. An example that stood out for me was getting a call from a family member that a childhood friend of the family lost their wife and I needed to go to the visitation that night. This is someone I had not seen in many years and he was more a friend of my siblings. My family members were unable to attend because they had moved out of state so couldn't make it. I went reluctantly to the funeral home and did not see anyone I recognized there.

Continued on page 3

STEWARDSHIP

Contributions, Gifts, Memorials & Worship



General Fund
2026 Financial Responsibilities
\$269,336
Checking Register
For the General Fund

8/1/26 balance:	\$24,602
August income	\$15,215
August expenses:	\$19,703
8/31/26 balance:	\$20,114



WORSHIP OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE

September 6	\$ 70	
<i>Lakeside worship</i>		
September 13	\$ 935	92
September 20	\$ 602	113
September 27	\$1035	66



Memorials and Gifts

Undesignated
In memory of
Alice Brouwer

Undesignated
In memory of
Ruth Anderson

Online Giving

Visit our website at
milanslutheranchurch.com



PRAYERS

We offer up prayers for ...

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For member privacy

LOCAL NEWS

Pastor, Staff & Officers

I also had never met the wife so didn't recognize the person in the casket. I was sure I had walked into the wrong place. I walked around for about 10 minutes looking for a familiar face. As I turned to walk out, the family friend came out of a back room. We hugged and talked for a few minutes and I left.

I was told later by family members that he said I was like an angel walking in because he hadn't seen a friendly face all evening and I reminded him that someone cared about him. Unfortunately, he was not liked by his in laws at all.

It wasn't as dramatic as how God delivered Jonah. However, everything about going scared me but I felt an internal sense of compulsion to go that was too strong to avoid. When you get that sense you should contact someone or do something out of your comfort zone, you may very well be used by God to spread his love and mercy. The biblical stories may be dramatic but most of the time you are really only being asked to do something small that reaches someone in need.

I invite you to attend worship weekly to learn about God, worship together, share in community and be sent to show God's mercy and steadfast love in your life.

In Christ, Pastor Linda Molitor

2026 Kviteseid Staff & Officers



Office Staff

Pastor Linda Molitor

pastor@milanslutheranchurch.com

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

Brian Olson

Church Officers

President: Connie Fragodt

V. Pres: Char Strand

Secretary: Jessica Trager

Treasurer: Josh Vetter

Board of Deacons

Teresa Olson, Heidi

Spray, Jon Hanson, Jodi

Tongen, Talia Schuerman

Board of Trustees

Cory Heinrich, Ray Trager,

Ryan Erp, Brandon

Ascheman, Bryan

Schuerman

Board of Education

Rachel Strand, 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

October Schedules



Deacon Communion Setup

4 - Heidi Spray
11 - Jodi Tongen

Acolytes

4 - Josie Norby
11 - Elixis Spray
18 - Boden Strand
25 - Isaac Link

Lectors

4 - Connie Fragodt
11 - Jen Tostenson
18 - Char Strand
25 - Heidi Hanson

Media Operators

4 - Parker Spray
11 - Daisy Sachariason
18 - Eva Trager
25 - Thatcher Erp

Video Recorders

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

*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.

Church Board Meetings

Wednesday,
October 21st
Deacons – 5:30 p.m.
Trustees – 7 p.m.

Coffee Fellowship

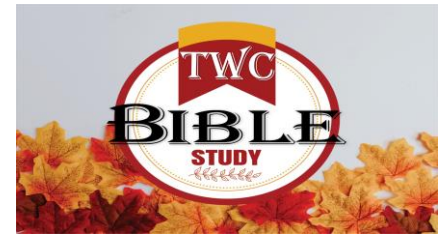
Join us for coffee and fellowship
before worship Sunday morning in
the narthex. Please sign up to
serve treats to enjoy along with the
coffee. The sign-up sheet is on the
table in the narthex. The ushers
will make the coffee.



Group 8
Caption – Ryan Grant
734-4924

Tyler Kanten
Dave Lovehaug
Rob Schwendemann
RJ Strand

Looking Ahead



Wednesday,
October 14th
1:30 p.m.
Meet in the Narthax



October 25
9:00 a.m.
Worship
WEAR RED

Service Work Group 1
will be decorating the church for
fall Sunday, October 11th
following worship. Please stay
help if you are in this work group
and are able.



October 25th the Children's
Choir will be singing



LOCAL NEWS

Helping Hands

Blessings to all as fall begins!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the God's Work, Our Hands/Rally Sunday! We accomplished many things in service to others. We tied a quilt, packed 50 layettes, packed 12 military boxes, rolled about 300 bandages, tied 2 fleece blankets, colored many pictures for our local heroes (firemen, EMTs) and the military boxes, walked the our highway ditches, visited some shut ins with dinner are among some of the things that were done! Thank you Thrivent and to Group 3, chairpersons Brandon/Michelle Ascheman, Theresa Erickson, Ray/Jessica Trager, for preparing and serving a delicious dinner following the activities and cleaning up following!

Thank you to Group 1, chairpersons Gary/Kim Heimdahl, Bob/Kim Molden, Bob/Jen Tostenson, for serving lunch following the funeral service for Ruth Anderson (Ruth's husband, Rod, was Winnie Strand's brother).

A big thank you to our Board of Trustees, Ryan Erp, Brandon Ascheman, Bryan Schuermann, Cory Heinrich and Ray Trager. They are working very hard dealing with difficult elevator/water issues, window issues among other things that occur. We appreciate you and your work as well as the work of other officers and board members of our congregation. Thank you for serving!

Thank you to Pastor Linda for coming to our congregations to help us through our time without a called pastor. We surely appreciate you and your time with us! Thank you!

Thank you to our great group of Sunday School teacher who have graciously volunteered to teach our most precious kids of the congregation! Blessings to each of you and to our kids!

We have just started a new Bible Study on the Book of Romans. If you would like to come, contact Char Strand for a book right away! We meet the second Wednesday in the Narthex.

Have a wonderful, productive and safe fall!!



FUNERAL	SERVICE GROUPS
Serving the next funeral will be Group 2. <u>Service Group 1 chairpersons are:</u> Randy & Connie Fragodt 752-4552 Jon & Cindy Kanten 320-226-4078 Paul & Patee Spray 320-841-0876	

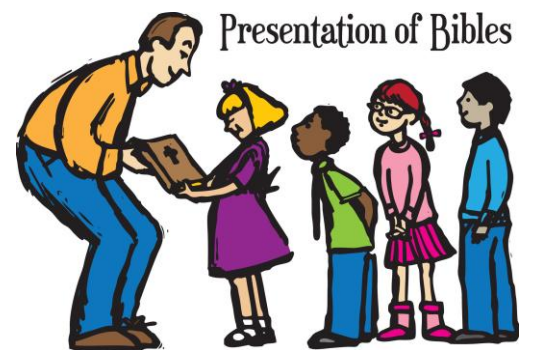


LOCAL NEWS

Youth



2026



Presentation of Bibles

On September 20th 3-4-year olds, 3rd graders and 8th graders received their bibles .
Ivy Tostenson, Tripp Kanten, Charlie Kanten, Warren Heinrich, Josie Norby, Elixis Spray and Boden Strand.

LOCAL NEWS

September Joint Council Meeting

Members present: Ray Trager, Bryan Schuerman, Ryan Erp, Josh Vetter, Rachel Strand, Jessica Trager, Talia Schuerman, Teresa Olson, Heidi Spray, Connie Fragodt, Pastor Linda & Char Strand.

Connie Fragodt called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. Pastor Linda lead devotions.

Secretary's Report: Nothing to add to previous meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report: \$21,000 in the checkbook, bills have been paid. Fourth Quarter will look different with now having hired an interim pastor.

Deacon's Report: We had lakeside services July 5th & September 6th. Judi Bohm returned to playing piano in July and is now on the organ again. We offered the interim position to Pastor Linda, who accepted. Jon Hanson has registered for seminary and will be working on that. We have received positive feedback with having the offering plates located in the narthex and north entrance of the sanctuary and will continue to do so. Discussed Micronesians using the church more regularly. Confirmation classes will start September 23rd. A parent/adult will also be present during classes along with Pastor Linda. We had a successful Rally Sunday with God's Work Our Hands, Teacher Installation and Bible presentations will be on September 20th. Discussions on plans for All Saints Sunday and inviting Micronesian community to join.

Trustee's Report: Welcomed Pastor Linda as the interim pastor. Completed general repairs in the parsonage and roof repair over the pastor's office in the church. We signed an agreement with Big Bend Church, effective August 1st. Narthex window project is still ongoing. Continuing to work on landscaping and the water leak by the elevator. The elm tree located on the northeast lawn of the church will be taken down. We are waiting to hear back on the usage agreement with the Micronesian community.

Board of Education Report: Completed Vacation Bible School at Char & Craig Strand's. Games and stories of Moses and the parting of the Red Sea and Jonah and the Whale. 35 kids attended with Big Bend Church also joining us. We did the balloon release on Rally Sunday, September 13th. We will have three new 3-year-olds starting Sunday School this year. Teachers this year are: Poly Strand and Emily Heinrich 7-12th Youth group, Eva Trager-Art, Savannah Moen- Theater, Jenna Norby-Cooking, Tiff Moen-Bible Skills & Games, Jessica Trager-Children's Choir and Talia Schuerman-Superintendent.

Pastor's Report: Jumped right into things with Larry Larson's funeral. Have done visits to Montevideo and Appleton, also performed service at Apple Ridge. Confirmation class has 9 kids including Big Bend Church. Fall Theological convention is 9/27-9/29. Upcoming baptism and Elaine Erickson funeral. In the process of getting plugged into the conference meetings. Will be taking vacation October 22nd-28th. Jon Hanson will conduct the service and Heidi Spray will teach confirmation that week.

Josh Vetter motioned for reports to be approved, Bryan Schuerman seconded.

Old Business: Hymnal was downloaded to be used in the future when needed.

New Business: Connie Fragodt attending the zoom meeting on Stewardship and Generosity in Small Congregations lead by Pastor Tim Brown. She shared takeaways and what she found helpful; including being great at what you are good at and how can that help the church, having a plan for large donations-what would the church use it for, increasing use of online giving and/or QR codes for donations, if doing a fundraiser, be specific in the ideas to increase the donations received as people are more likely to donate when they know what their money is being used for.

The term has ended for the current missionary we've supported and we need to pick a new one. Deacons will look into the available missionaries needing support, request information from the ELCA and choose who we will support in the future. Pastor Linda and Deacons discussed working together on Thanksgiving Eve service with Big Bend at Big Bend this year and eliminating the Thanksgiving Day service at Kviteseid.

Bryan Schuerman motioned to approve old and new business, Ray Trager seconded.

Meeting was concluded with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 7:51pm.

Next meeting will be December 16th.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Trager
Council Secretary

**Kviteseid Lutheran
Church Joint
Council Minutes**

September 16, 2026

LOCAL NEWS

Faith in Action

Volunteers Needed

Need more volunteers to run the camera during the worship service.



Need additional lectors. Only scheduled approximately once every other month & we can work with your schedule. Contact Heidi Hanson if interested.

Sunday, November 1

Worship at 9:00 a.m.

We will remember those who have joined the church triumphant, and receive any new members.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Kviteseid, talk to the office

Coffee, Juice & Fresh Rolls

will be served by the Helping Hands Board following worship in the Fellowship Hall

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For member privacy

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For member privacy



LOCAL NEWS

Letters of Thanks

Thank You service work group 3 for help with the “God’s Work Our Hands/ Rally Sunday” dinner. Thanks to those of you who came early to get dinner started, to the who came to help serve, to those who donated food, and to ALL who helped with clean-up. Also, big that’s to Thrivent for providing help with cost. We appreciate your generosity! ~ Ascheman’s, Trager’s and Erickson



Thank you for your recent donation of \$64 to the Lac qui Parle Community Food Shelf. Your donations help the food shelf buy over 125 items of food and hygiene products. With your help we are sure we give away more items than any other rural food shelves. Last year over \$45,000.00 was spent on the food and hygiene items thanks to your help and from many others. Thanks again!!!

Lac Qui Parle Food Shelf



Thank you so much for your continued generosity, donations and support of our Strengthening the Family and Asset Builder organizations throughout the 2025 – 2026 school year. Your contributions and commitment have meant so much to us and are truly appreciated. We are grateful for your continued support and partnership!

Thank you,

Brooks Bjerke & the Strengthening the Family Board

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

Military Committee



Thank You, Pastor Linda, Pastor Bob & Jon

During Pastor Appreciation Month, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to Pastor Linda, Pastor Bob, and Jon, our worship leader. Your faithful leadership, encouragement, and dedication to our congregation help draw us closer to God each week.

We are grateful for the messages you share, the guidance you provide, and the many ways you serve our church family with love and joy. Your time, talents, and willingness to serve are truly appreciated.

Thank you for all you do to nurture our faith, strengthen our church family, and help us grow together in Christ. We are blessed to have each of you as part of our Kviteseid family!

LOCAL NEWS

Southwestern Minnesota Synod

LIVE - HEAR - PROCLAIM - SERVE – STRIVE

+Bishop Dee Pederson

Those five little words summarize the promises of Baptism. They are also at the heart of the grant our synod received to organize and equip Mentors who walk with our Synod-Authorized Ministers (SAMs) as they continue to grow in ministry. We are grateful to Wartburg Theological Seminary and Lilly Endowment, Inc., for the gift of CaSTLE grants for 2025 and 2026.

From August 10-12 synod participants in the CaSTLE project explored what it means to be “Rooted in Baptism. Sent into Everyday Life.” As synod grant leaders, Synod Minister Pr. Heather Culuris and I attended this annual retreat. Pr. Bryant Kaden also participated as one of Wartburg’s CaSTLE Advisory Team members.

“CaSTLE” is short for Country and Small Town Lived Ecclesiology. OK – that sounds like a mouthful, but the heart of this ministry is simple: living out Baptism in everyday life – right where God planted us. It is the recognition that God is already at work right where are you each day: in the ordinary spaces of daily life.

This is nothing new, right?! As a pastor, I prepared families and adults for baptism for decades. We teach the gift of baptism, preach it, and ground the gospel in the promises of the Triune God made to us in Baptism. But honestly, the CaSTLE Project is helping synods like ours embrace these promises in a whole new way.

This is vital to the formation our SAMs receive through our synod. Because lay ministry is not about completing a year of classes and then assuming we have reached a final goal or received a title. It is about continued formation in leadership as a lay minister in this synod and in the ELCA. The program is not intended to create leaders who do it all themselves. Rather, it is to equip the baptized in congregations to be the church—to live out their baptism in the places of their everyday life.

As the CaSTLE material states:

- *The CaSTLE Project is helping reimagine what it means to be church in rural communities and small towns today.*
- *Grounded in our baptismal calling, we believe ministry is not confined to church buildings, Sunday mornings, or professional clergy. God is already at work in churches and offices, at co-ops and cafes, on tractors and front porches, in conversations with neighbors, and in acts of care woven through daily life.*
- *Instead of an attraction model which focuses on recruiting volunteers for an organization, we are helping congregations to nurture, empower and send disciples of Jesus into the communities where they already live, work, and serve.*

While we were at Wartburg, Professor Craig Nessen gave a presentation on one phrase of “*We know that Christ is Raised and Dies No More*”: The Spirit’s fission shakes the church of God. Nessen suggests that we have been a “fusion” church, assuming that: Building + Pastor + Programs = a strong church. But that formula can leave us thinking that we are a failure as a church if we do not have all three. Nessen challenges us to become a “a fission church” by practicing “Worship as Formation for Sending.”

This good word is not only for Synod-Authorized Ministers; it is for all of us! So here are some ideas to help us live into our baptismal calling:

- Memorize the promises of baptism over the next 5 weeks (one per week!).
- Create your own Baptismal Promise Card. Print the baptismal promises on a small card to distribute so people can carry those baptismal promises with them and even share with others.
- Open your eyes, ears, and heart to spot an opportunity to put this commitment into action in the ordinary places of your daily life.
- Bless your young people in worship as they prepare to head back to school. They might bring their backpacks to worship. Remember, it is not really the contents of the backpacks that a blessing, but *the children and youth* who carry them. Pray for them as they begin this new school year. .
- Celebrate “God’s Work. Our Hands.” more than once a year. This is a great way to be present with and for our neighbors and serve as an anchor that contributes to the vitality of our rural areas and small towns.
- Consider including prayers and blessings for the affirmation of Christian vocation not only on Labor Day weekend, but periodically throughout the year. What a wonderful way to ground worship practices in Sending, so we might be Gospel-centered, praising, peacemaking, grateful, generous, and neighborly people.

It’s all about fission!

“*We know that Christ is Raised and Dies No More*” is one of my favorites hymns. Our family was formed through adoption, and I will never forget the excitement on our daughter’s four-year old face when we sang the Hymn of the Day before her baptism. As we sang, “*We know that Christ is Raised and Dies No More*” she couldn’t contain herself. There she was—with an exploding smile, jumping with excitement, hands bursting with joy, because she was about to receive a cross + marked on her forehead. She did not speak much English, but she knew that cross meant: Jesus loves you forever.

This is the joy and the promise of Baptism. It is what Jesus sends us to live each day.

So, how might we become a fission church? How might living deeply in our Baptismal promises and help us see worship as formation for the Sending?

Thank you, dear synod, for being part of this adventure of being church together.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Kviteseid Lutheran Church Milan, MN				1 Pastor Interim a.m. meeting	2 Erickson funeral 11a	3
4 19 th Sunday after Pentecost - Green Worship - communion 9 a Online Worship 9 a Coffee Fellowship 10a Sunday School 10a	5 Pastor off	6 Pastor text study 9a	7 Pastor - Worship at Apple Ridge Confirmation 10a 6:30p	8	9	10
11 20 th Sunday after Pentecost - Green Worship - communion 9 a Online Worship 9 a Coffee Fellowship 10a Sunday School 10a	12  Pastor off	13	14 TWC Bible study 1:30 p	15 Pastor - Conference meeting 10a	16	17
18 21 st Sunday after Pentecost - Green Worship - communion 9 a Online Worship 9 a Coffee Fellowship 10a	19 Pastor off	20 Pastor text study 9a	21 Board meetings - Deacons 5:30 p - Trustees 7 p Confirmation 6:30p	22 Pastor Vacation	23  Pastor Vacation	24 Pastor Vacation
25 Reformation Sunday - Red Worship WEAR RED 9 a Online Worship 9 a Coffee Fellowship 10a Sunday School 10a (Worship Leader Jon Hanson)	26 Pastor Vacation	27 Pastor Vacation	28 Confirmation 6:30p	29	30	31 

Kviteleid Lutheran Church
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KVITSEID LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Schedule

Worship at 9:00 a.m.
Online Worship at 9:00 a.m.
Coffee Fellowship at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

Church Office Phone: 320-734-4455 | www.milanslutheranchurch.com

Pastor Linda Molitor

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pastor@milanslutheranchurch.com
Parish Assistant - Cheryl Erp

office@milanslutheranchurch.com

