



Kviteseid Voice

Kviteseid Lutheran Church | February 2024 | Volume 34 | Number 2

Greetings from Pastor Kristine Isder

Be Kind

Love

In January I wrote about being kind. I suggested a motto for 2024: “spread kindness and show kindness to others.” Or simply, “Be Kind.”

Kindness flows out of love.

We celebrate Valentine’s Day on February 14, which also happens to be Ash Wednesday this year.

Valentine’s Day is all about love, usually romantic love. But we can celebrate all kinds of love, especially the love that God has for us. The source of all love is God, who created us all.

“God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.” (1 John 4:9-11)

“We love because God first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)

“Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.” (1 John 4:11)

“Let all that you do be done in love.” (1 Corinthians 16:14)

The word for love used in these verses in Greek is “agape”. Greek is the original language of the New Testament. Greek has several words for love, but agape is the type of love the Bible speaks about the most.

Agape love does not mean romantic love, liking or even friendship. Agape love is concerned with the greatest good of another.

Agape love shows a positive regard towards the other, always wanting the best for them. This kind of love is one-sided, because it expects nothing in return.

Love is a verb – something you do. It is what you choose to say, and how you choose to act, or react.

The most important thing we are called to do is to love God and to love neighbor.

That’s what Jesus taught during His ministry 2,000 some years ago: love God and love others.

Quotes by Jesus in the Bible: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your

continued on page 3

STEWARDSHIP

Contributions, Gifts, Memorials & Worship



FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Fund
2023 Financial Responsibilities
\$246,213

Checking Register
for the General Fund

12/1/23 balance: \$14,472
December income: \$33,419
December expenses: \$21,743
12/31/23 balance: \$26,148

Worship Offerings & Attendance



December 31	\$2,823	62
January 7	\$882	64
January 14	\$976	23
January 21	\$1,016	57

Online Giving ...



Visit our website at

milanslutheranchurch.com



Memorials & Gifts

Fidelity Gift

in memory of
Bob & Nancy Lundborg

Military Packages

from
Kviteseid Endowment
Kviteseid Helping Hands

PRAYERS

We offer up prayers for ...

This section removed for member privacy.

LOCAL NEWS

Pastor, Staff & Officers

Greetings from Pastor Kristine

continued from page 1

strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” (Luke 10:27)

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)

These words are a clear summary of the Christian life. It’s the one thing Jesus wanted his disciples to know and remember when he is gone: love one another.

Spread love and show love to others. It’s what Jesus wants us to do.



Financial



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.



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..... Paul Tostenson
Treasurer..... Josh Moen
Board of Deacons..... Rich Isder
..... Char Strand
Board of Trustees..... Erik Boraas
Board of Education... Holly Kanten
..... Jenna Norby



2024 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: Tom Moe
V. Pres: Rob Schwendemann
Secretary: Sherry Norby
Treasurer: Andy Streed

Board of Deacons

Jon Hanson, Cindy Kanten, Andrea Westra, Cheryl Erp, Heidi Spray

Board of Trustees

Brandon Ascheman, Bryan Schuerman, Cory Heinrich, Ray Trager, Ryan Erp

Board of Education

Sue Streed, Emily Heinrich, Tiffany Moen, Michelle Ascheman, Shea Joyce

Helping Hands Board

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

WORSHIP NEWS

February Schedules



FEBRUARY
Worship
Assistants

Acolytes

- 4- Mason Erp
- 11 - Carter Moen
- 14 - Parker Spray
- 18 - Eva Trager
- 25 - Alexandra Joyce

Lectors

- 4 - Tom Moe
- 11 - Char Strand
- 18 - Jon Hanson
- 25 - Rob Schwendemann

Media Operators

- 4 - Parker Spray
- 11 - Gavin Ascheman
- 14 -
- 18 - Jessa Norby
- 25 - Eva Trager
- 28 -

Deacon Communion Setup

- 4 - Jon Hanson
- 11 - *New Deacons*
- 14 - Cindy Kanten

Video Recorders

- 4 - Theresa Erickson
- 11 - Jon Hanson
- 14 - Rich Isder
- 18 - Theresa Erickson
- 25 - Jon Hanson
- 28 - Rich Isder

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.



February Ushers

Group 3

Captain - Bryan Schuerman
289-3127

Paul Belseth
Wade Kittelson
Bruce Loose
Tim Streed
Paul Tostenson



ASH WEDNESDAY *worship*

Wed., February 14 - 7 p.m.

Holy Communion
Imposition of Ashes

Bring your "Valentine" for Supper at 6 p.m.



Coffee Fellowship

Join us for coffee and fellowship before worship Sunday mornings in the narthex starting at 9:45 a.m.

Please sign up to bring and serve goodies to enjoy along with the coffee. The sign-up sheet to bring treats is on the table in the narthex. The ushers will make the coffee.



Cancellations

Although worship will rarely be canceled, please use your own judgment before traveling in to church on those questionable days. Weather related announcements can be heard on KDMA 1460 AM or KLQP 92.1 FM. It will also be posted on the Kviteseid website (www.milanslutheranchurch.com) home page and on Kviteseid's Facebook page.



WORSHIP NEWS

Lenten Services

Lenten Services

Lent begins on February 14.

We will again have Wednesday night Lenten services. We will have joint services with Big Bend. Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, service will be at Kviteseid. The Feb. 21 service will be at Big Bend. The rest of the services will be held at Kviteseid. Supper will be served by various groups at 6 each evening. Come and eat and stay and worship!

The theme this year is the Sermon on the Mount. This series for Lent will take us through some of the most familiar teachings of Jesus from his Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7 and relates them to the events surrounding Christ's life, death and resurrection. In the process, the services will powerfully reveal that the cross itself is the ultimate sermon on the mount for our journey of faith in this sacred season.

Ash Wednesday February 14

"Blessed Are You"

Imposition of Ashes

Holy Communion

Supper served by Helping Hands Board

On Ash Wednesday, we remember that we who are poor in spirit, who mourn, and who hunger and thirst for righteousness are called blessed by our Savior. Ash Wednesday reminds us that though we have been brought low by sin, our Lord will bless us with new life in him through the cross.



February 21 at Big Bend

"Salt and Light"

Supper served at Big Bend by Big Bend Members

In this service, we remember that Christ calls us to be salt and light in this world of sin. We who have tasted and seen his great love for us on the cross can spend our Lent savoring his salvation and shining with his glory and grace in the places where he has put us.

February 28 at Kviteseid

"Prayer and Fasting"

Supper served by Helping Hands Board

In this service, we remember that Lent is a season of prayer and fasting. We grow in our relationship with Christ by communicating with him, and we learn more about him and ourselves by giving up those things that can distract us from our connection to him.

March 6 at Kviteseid

"Do Not Worry"

Supper served by KLC Youth

In this service, we recognize that so much of our lives, even in Lent, is spent worrying about what might happen or what has happened. Christ teaches us to stop being anxious, but simply to trust that he knows what is best and will take care of us to the very end.

March 13 at Kviteseid

"Judge Not"

Supper served by KLC Youth

In this service, we recognize that we live in a very judgmental world, so Jesus' advice not to judge sounds radical to our modern ears. When we leave all judgment up to God, we free ourselves to look at one another through fresh and forgiving eyes.

March 20 at Kviteseid

"Build on Rock"

Supper served by Sunday School

In this service, we recognize that we build our lives on very shaky foundations, and then we are surprised when things start collapsing. Jesus reminds us in his teachings that the only solid foundation is himself, the Rock of our salvation. On him alone we build.

A Prayer for Lent

Dear Christ, hasten to me. Release me from my sins. Free my arms from the chains of evil, that I may embrace you. Lift the scales of ignorance from my eyes that I may see you. Why do you delay? What are you waiting for? You are my God and my Lord, you are my refuge and strength, you are my glory and my hope. In you I put my trust. Dear Christ, hasten to me.

—Aelred of Rievaulx
(12th century)

LOCAL NEWS

February

Bible Camp

Summer 2024 Bible Camp at Green Lake Lutheran Ministries



"We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to do the good things God created us to do from the beginning." -Ephesians 2:10

Growing in our faith, like so much in life, involves being brave enough to take that first step - to walk into church, to open the Bible, to show up for camp! Whether you are a first-year camper or have been coming for years, being open to something new can be scary. **But God created us to do the hard things, to be brave enough to show up.**

And with that first step, we open ourselves to all the possibilities that we are **Created to Be!**

Embark on an inspiring summer journey as you explore and discover the authentic person God created in each of us, and how we are called to live out the Gospel of love and justice in the world.

At GLLM, you will engage with dedicated staff who will guide you through your summer adventure in a Christ-centered community.

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

Calling all kids to register for Bible Camp!

Registration is open. Early bird \$50 discount ends February 15.

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 Hand.....\$100
- Endowment Fund.....\$150
- Pastor Kristine and Rich ...\$100
- Kviteseid Church\$150

Lectors Needed

Would you be willing to give just an hour of your time 4 – 5 times a year? We are in need of more lectors. In the last 7 years, we have lost at least 11 of our lectors (for a variety of reasons) and only gained 2. With the available lectors we have now, everyone is scheduled about 5 times a year – if we get a few more volunteers, that number will be even lower. Not here all year? No problem, we can



work with that. And there's no cold reading - the readings are sent to you several days in advance so you have time to go over them. If you're interested in being added to the schedule this year or just have questions, please let Heidi Hanson know by calling or texting 320-226-0682 or by emailing heidihanson72@outlook.com.



Thursday, February 29

Board Meetings

Wednesday, February 28
(note the date)

Deacons

6:00 p.m. during supper

Trustees

7:45 p.m. after Lenten service



Volunteers



Looking for ways to help out the church?

There are many opportunities.

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.

LOCAL NEWS

Helping Hands

Helping Hands

Winter has hit us with an iron fist just recently!!! Never fear --- spring is right around the corner! Less than three months of cold and snow to go!!

Thank you to Group Two, chairpersons Randy/Connie Fragodt, Paul/Patee Spray, and Andrew/Drea Westra, for serving the family and friends of Jim Haugen following his funeral. Very much appreciated by his family.

Group Three, chairpersons Theresa Erickson, Rob/Karla Schwendemann, and Ray/Jessica Trager, will be serving the next funeral.

Quilting has begun in the Fellowship Hall at Kviteseid! So fun to watch the busy working, the fun chattering and the serious dilemmas solved! Come and be part of it — it is too late for this winter, but we will be doing more during the month of July. Be there! It will be fun! Thank you to Janet Tostenson for sewing batting scraps together for more quilts. Much appreciated!

Thank you to all who served as chairpersons of the Service Group last year. You are appreciated more than you know! Thank you very much to those who will be serving

for the coming year! You are very much appreciated as well! When the new Service Booklets come out, your service will begin. Thank you so much!

The Helping Hands Board will be serving the Lenten suppers on Ash Wednesday, February 14 and also February 28. Lenten Worship and supper is at Big Bend on February 21. The KLC Youth and Sunday School will be serving the three Wednesday Lenten suppers in March.

Stay warm!

Fat Tuesday at Big Bend



Kviteseid members are invited to Big Bend's Fat Tuesday celebration on February 13. Waffles and sausages will be served from

5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Bingo will be from 6:30 to 6:45 p.m. Ash Wednesday worship will be at 7:00 p.m. with imposition of ashes and holy communion. Kviteseid

members are invited to attend all or part of the activities.



TWC Bible Study

**Wednesday,
February 14 - 1:30 p.m.**



Meet in the Fellowship Hall

Looking Ahead

March MN Food Share Month

Special offering will be taken



March 3 and 10

Video Team

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



FUNERAL

SERVICE GROUPS

Serving the next funeral will be Group 3.

Service Group 3 chairpersons are:

Theresa Erickson	734-4879
Rob & Karla Schwendemann	320-226-3700
Ray & Jessica Trager	320-309-4467



LOCAL NEWS

Faith in Action

Military Boxes

Military boxes will be packed on Tuesday, March 19th at 9:00 a.m. Items that can be sent are nuts, candy, jerky, raisins, trail mix, granola bars, licorice, individual treats, microwave popcorn and baked goods (4-6 in a baggie). Please have items to church by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, March 18th. Money donations are also appreciated. For questions, call Judi (734-4706 or 320-226-7354) or Nancy (734-4694).

Kviteseid Connectors

Kviteseid Connectors has been in existence for about four years now. We are a team formed to reach out and connect with our members who are unable to attend worship. This may include members living in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, or alone in their own homes. Connections can be made through phone calls, emails, mailed notes, face-to-face visits, etc. This could be done by a family, a couple, an individual, or even you and a friend could do it as a team.

Prayerfully consider becoming a part of this ministry. If interested, please call or text Char Strand at 320-815-0219 or send her an email at lakeannie@fedteldirect.net.

Christian Symbol

CROSS OF ASHES — On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshippers' foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In the Old Testament, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshippers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus' death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. Reciting Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."



Valentine's Day Jokes for Animal Lovers

- What did one sheep say to the other?
I love ewe!
- And how did the other sheep respond?
You're not so baaa-d yourself.
- Why do skunks love Valentine's Day?
They are very scent-imental creatures.
- What did the enamored deer say?
I'm very fawn-ed of you!
- What question did the penguin ask on February 14?
Waddle I do without you?
- What do you call two birds in love?
Tweethearts!
- What did one bee say to the other?
I love bee-ing with you, honey!

This section removed for member privacy.

This section removed for member privacy.

LOCAL NEWS

2023 Annual Meeting

Kviteseid Lutheran Church 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes January 21, 2024

The Annual Meeting of Kviteseid Lutheran Church was held on January 21, 2024.

President Tom Moe called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

Motion was made by Judi Bohm, seconded by Teresa Olson, to adopt the agenda, as presented. Motion carried.

Pastor Kristine gave devotions.

Motion was made by Jon Hanson, seconded by Bryan Schuerman, to approve the minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting. Motion carried.

The following reports were given:

Pastor's Report – The church currently has 355 baptized and 286 confirmed members. Joint Lenten services with Big Bend were held again this year. The agreement with Big Bend is working well. Two youth took classes and received their first communion and four young people affirmed their baptism on Confirmation Sunday. Three graduating seniors were recognized on May 21 and received quilts. Vacation Bible School was held for two nights in August. A new AED (automated external defibrillator) was installed at church. New speakers for the chimes were installed in December with the help of Ottertail Power Company employees and boom truck. Three joint lakeside services were held during the summer holiday weekends. God's Work Our Hands Sunday was held on September 10 with

several service projects being completed. The video services reach 100-200 people each Sunday.

Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer's Report will be included in the final annual report. Expenses were under budget for the year. We ended the year with \$26,147 in the checking account after transferring \$12,000 to the building fund.

Trustees' Report – The following items were fixed/installed: leaky AC unit in the balcony was fixed, replaced the utility shed, installed the baseboard behind the altar, replaced all four chime speakers, and consulted with a contractor on ideas for water mitigation within the elevator shaft. The City of Milan has approached the board on the idea of the Church becoming an emergency shelter for the community, funded by grants. Many more meetings and discussion to come on this proposal.

Board of Education – There are 36 students in pre-k through 9th grade. They do a rotation of Art, Bible Skills and Games, Cooking and Theater. Each week, they work on memory work and music. The students are focusing on giving back to others and have done several projects which are given to others or used in a silent auction. The Christmas program was great, even after only two practices. They also hosted a food drive.

Deacons' Report – Communion was offered twice a month, except June, July and August when it was offered once per month. It was also available at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. The deacons filled in for Pastor Kristine when she was gone and arranged for pulpit supply. There are currently three couples, one family and six

individuals who are part of Kviteseid Connectors. They have connected with 17 members on a regular basis, who are unable to attend regular worship at Kviteseid.

Helping Hands Board – There were approximately 70 quilts made and distributed. The profits from Syttende Mai were around \$3,500. They made several monetary donations and served Lenten suppers. The Military committee filled and mailed several boxes to our military personnel. More than 400 rolled bandages and 40 layettes were delivered to Global Missions. Thanks to Thrivent for their grants that helped with several of these projects. The Service Groups decorated the church for fall and Christmas seasons, prepared and delivered Easter Cheer Baskets and served three funeral lunches. The Service Groups will no longer be responsible for yearly cleaning of specific areas of the church. Those using the Fellowship Hall are strongly encouraged to wipe tables, check chairs and clean up the kitchen as they are used.

Endowment Board – As of 12/31/23, the endowment fund has a balance of \$397,665.73. They distributed \$12,000 to several groups. Since inception in the early 2000s, the endowment fund has earned \$113,759.27 and distributed \$87,100.05 to many organizations, ministries, Bible camps, food shelves, missions and people in need.

Motion was made by Keith Kvistero, seconded by Brian Olson, to approve all the reports. Motion carried.

There was no old business.

continued on page 10

LOCAL NEWS

2023 Annual Meeting

Kviteseid Lutheran Church 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

continued from page 9

New Business:

Election – After receiving no other nominations, motion was made by Jessica Trager, seconded by Jon Hanson, to cast a unanimous ballot for the following. Motion carried.

President – Tom Moe

Vice President – Rob Schwendemann

Secretary – Sherry Norby

Treasurer – Andy Streed

Board of Deacons – Cheryl Erp & Heidi Spray (3-year terms), Andrea Westra (1-year term)

Board of Education – Michelle Ascheman and Shea Joyce

Board of Trustees – Ryan Erp

Contribution Secretaries – Heidi Hanson and Luther Opjorden

Kviteseid Lutheran Milan Methodist Cemetery Board – Steve Thompson and Mike Burns

The following volunteered to be delegates:

Lay Delegates to the Madison Lutheran Home Annual Meeting – Rob & Karla Schwendemann.

Lay Delegates to Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Annual Meeting – Nancy Streed and the Council will appoint another person.

Lay Delegates to SW MN Synod Assembly – No one volunteered so the Council will appoint.

Lay Delegates to Lac qui Parle Conference Assembly – Judi Bohm, Jon Hanson, Jenna Norby, Michelle Ascheman and Gavin Ascheman.

Nomination Committee for January 2025 Annual Meeting – Char Strand, Josh Moen, Jessica Trager, Brian Olson, Jenna Norby and Lorie Spray.

New Business - Motion was made by Bruce Loose, seconded by Gavin Ascheman to approve the 2024 budget at an amount of \$251,736. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jon Hanson, seconded by Bryan Schuerman, to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 a.m. Motion carried.

Cemetery Association Meeting

The Cemetery Association Meeting was called to order at 9:56 a.m. by Wade Kittelson. Projects this year included monument maintenance, planted shade trees on the west side of the Methodist cemetery, granite for the east driveway approach, trim trees, new metal roof on the mower shed, updated cemetery records and assisted with nine burials.

Motion was made by Cindy Kanten, seconded by Teresa Olson, to adjourn the Kviteseid Lutheran Milan Methodist Cemetery Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.

Pastor Kristine led the closing prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Norby, Council Secretary

Thank You KLC Youth

We want to thank you very much for thinking of us. Your Christmas gift was so thoughtful. It has been a challenging few years with both of us having health issues. We are improving. Again, thank you very much for your kindness.

- Larry & Marie Molden

Thank You KLC Members

Together, we are neighbors helping neighbors. Thank you for your generous gift to support the services of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS).

From adoption and foster care to shelter and safety for youth experiencing homeless to support for people with disabilities to nutritious, home-delivered meals for older adults, LSS impacts 1 in every 65 Minnesotans. I invite you to learn more about our services at www.lssmn.org.

- Lutheran Social Service of MN

On behalf of Swift County Food Shelf, I would like to thank you for your donation of \$107.25 received from offerings taken at your Lakeside Worship Service in September. 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 Food Shelf

LOCAL NEWS

Letters of Thanks

Thank You KLC Endowment

Thank you for your donation of \$600.00 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 some of their food needs each month.

Last year, 442 households (796 individuals) were served by the food shelf taking 31,956 pounds of food, plus garden produce donated by area gardeners.

All the food purchases are from Second Harvest Heartland in St. Paul, which they deliver once a month, and 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!

- Stan Olson, Treasurer, Lac qui Parle Community Food Shelf

Thank you for pausing during this busy season to make a gift to Green Lake Lutheran Ministries! Your generosity is inspiring and so kind as we close out the 2023 year. We are so thankful for your partnership and continued help in this important work.

Your gift will bring hope, love, joy and peace to all that experience our ministries. As we look ahead to the new year, we are excited for what is coming next. After a year with such wild growth, we can't wait to see what is in store for the next year! The planning process for

summer camp is well underway, we have begun hiring summer staff, and retreat guests are arriving daily to spend time away at camp. Your gifts help us continue to dream for how Green Lake Lutheran Ministries can continue to serve people where they are at. That's so special—thank you!

- Travis Aufderhiede, Director, Green Lake Lutheran Ministries

Thank you Kviteseid Lutheran Church for your recent charitable gift of \$600.00. Your support and generosity enable us to serve many individuals in our local area. We are grateful for your kindness and your continued support.

- Chippewa County Food Shelf

On behalf of Swift County Food Shelf, I would like to thank you for your donation of \$600.00 made on 12-20-2023. 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 Food Shelf

Lac qui Parle Valley ISD #2853 gratefully acknowledges your generous donation of \$1,500.00 given to Strengthening the Family in December.

- Lac qui Parle Valley Schools, Strengthening the Family

We gratefully acknowledge your gift of \$750.00 to the Kviteseid Lutheran Milan Methodist Cemetery Association.

- Richard Olson, Kviteseid Lutheran Milan Methodist Cemetery

On behalf of Lutheran Campus Ministry-Morris, thank you for your gift to support our ministry for students who attend the University of Minnesota, Morris. Thank you for your generous support; for supporting Lutheran Campus Ministry-Morris both prayerfully and financially.

Your support helps us to create a "home away from home" for students at the University of Minnesota, Morris. Through your generosity, we are able to provide meals to students, host fellowship events, and complete service projects. We are grateful for your partnership in ministry.

- Lutheran Campus Ministry, University of Minnesota, Morris

Congratulations

Brookside Winter
Snowball Queen

Janet Tostenson
& King Lowell Hanson



LOCAL NEWS

Southwest Minnesota Synod

Synod News

Excerpts from Bishop Dee Pederson's 2023 Annual Report – Part 1

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ..... Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

– 1 Cor. 12.

One of the great joys of my call is to visit the congregations across this synod. We are very different from each other; yet in Jesus Christ, we all are one.

This year as a synod, we have been united by focusing on the WORD: Jesus—the Word—made—flesh, and the word of Scripture—as the source and center of our lives.

Those actions – **Embody, Serving, and Living the Word Today** – provide the framework for reviewing this year.

Embody the Word

Thank you for the way you, as beloved children of God, embody the word in your congregations and daily callings. Post pandemic, congregations have a clearer sense of who we are and what God is calling us to be and do today.

As we review the past year, one place to turn is the numbers. It's not all about the numbers, but trends do tell a story. These numbers represent real people, hearing the story of God's love in Jesus Christ.

The most recent statistical summary for congregations comes from the annual reports completed for 2022. Of the 229 congregations in

the SW MN Synod in 2022, 166 filed an annual report.

What stories do those figures tell? There is the cultural trend of fewer people connecting with a faith community. But these numbers also represent stories of outreach as adults are welcomed through Holy Baptism as hospitality is extended and new members are received, and as people are drawn to worshiping together both in the room and online.

We know there is great generosity in our congregations! Although earned income for congregations was challenged last year everywhere, regular giving and other receipts increased.

Thank you for the generous Mission Support you shared with the synod in 2022. We have seen a significant decrease in Mission Support in 2023. Why? We know that the cushion of PPP money is used up. Everything costs more. Some of our congregations' most generous givers are passing away or face high costs for elder care. And there is the tendency that when faced with financial challenges, congregations choose to direct funds close to home. Whatever the reason, we will continue to wisely steward the resources we receive and are committed to prioritizing providing pastoral care of congregations and rostered ministers. Like you, we know that challenges can also lead to doing things in new ways, and we trust in God's creative Spirit as we plan for the future. Thank you for your generosity.

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

Lac qui Parle Conference Assembly

The Lac qui Parle Conference Assembly will be held on Sunday February 18 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Montevideo. We will meet in person.

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

We can have six voting members, which were elected at the annual meeting: Judi Bohm, Jon Hanson, Jenna Norby, Michelle Ascheman and Gavin Ascheman.



God-Shaped Hole

Have you ever neared the completion of a jigsaw puzzle, only to discover that a piece or two is missing? That's an apt visual for what it's like to live without God. Blaise Pascal, a 17th-century philosopher, observed: "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ."

Centuries earlier, St. Augustine proclaimed "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee." And in the Old Testament, the writer of Ecclesiastes expounded on the meaninglessness of earthly striving and material pursuits. Only God's Spirit can fill our emptiness and satisfy our eternal longings.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full," says Jesus in John 10:10 (NIV). He alone provides the solution for emptiness. What comfort to be filled with — and to find our fulfillment in — our Savior!

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. ✝
- ✝ Online 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

