



Kviteseid Voice

**Kviteseid Lutheran
Church**

December 2024

Volume 34 | Number 12

Greetings from Pastor Kristine Isder

Christmas has different meanings for different people. For kids, it's usually about the presents. For adults, it's often the time spent together with families.

In the church, we celebrate the fact that, "For God so loved the world that he sent his only beloved Son" (John 3:16)

Christmas is the celebration of the coming of God to Earth in human form. It is the celebration of that night 2000 years ago when Christ was born as a baby in Bethlehem.

"And the Word became flesh and lived among us." John 1:14a (NRSV) Or as The Message Bible puts it: "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood." The Word is Jesus.

The word for "lived" has its root in a word that means a tent – a

humble, portable shelter or dwelling used by the Israelites during their years in the wilderness.

This tent has been pitched around the world as God's presence has spread throughout the centuries.

In the words of the Nicene Creed, "We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became truly human."

The words of the Advent hymn, "He Came Down", help answer the question of why Jesus came.

*He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.*

He came down that we may have light;

*he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
hallelujah forevermore.*

*He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forevermore.*

*He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
hallelujah forevermore.*

It's a catchy hymn which originates in the country of Cameroon (arranged by John L. Bell). In that tradition, a lead singer prompts the next stanza with the question, "Why did he come?". There are variations in the words. Most versions include "love", "peace" and "joy". Others add "hope", "light" and "life".

continued on page 3

STEWARDSHIP

Contributions, Gifts, Memorials & Worship



FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Fund
2024 Financial Responsibilities
\$251,736

Checking Register
for the General Fund

10/1/24 balance: \$3,518
October income: \$18,648
October expenses: \$16,108
10/31/24 balance: \$6,057

Cashflow loan to date: \$7,000

Worship Offerings & Attendance



October 27	\$4,200	88
November 3	\$7,962.57	107
November 10	\$4,155	60
November 17	\$730	48

Online Giving ...



Visit our website at
milanslutheranchurch.com

MEMORIALS and GIFTS

Military Boxes

In memory of
Russ Gabrielson
Orvald & Avis Olson



PRAYERS

We offer up prayers for ...

This section removed for member privacy.

LOCAL NEWS

Pastor, Staff & Officers

Greetings from Pastor Kristine

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These words make the hymn appropriate to use during Advent when we light the candles of hope, peace, joy and love on the Advent wreath.

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.

In His ministry, Jesus taught about love. Love of God and love of other.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your 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. (Luke 13:34)

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (John 15:12)

Jesus taught us how to love one another, and to love everybody. He spent his time with the lowly, the downtrodden and the outcasts.

May we radiate His love throughout our own lives.



***Joy to the world,
the Lord is come!***

***Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare
Him room!***

Financial Update

Thank you for your financial support of the church.

Contributions may be dropped off or mailed to the church office if you are unable to make it to worship. You can also contribute online on our website.

The 2024 approved budget is \$251,736. As of November 20th, we have received \$135,512. The amount needed to meet our budget is \$116,224.

Please have all 2024 contributions in to the church office by noon Monday, December 30. Please do not take contributions to Prairie Sun Bank as they will not be recorded. If giving online, please do so by Tuesday, December 24th to be processed for the 2024 year.

We will NOT be extending the deadline for 2024 contributions into the 2025 year.

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 Kantan,
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

December Schedules



Acolytes

- 1 - Mason Erp
- 8 - Iver Heinrich
- 15 - *Sunday School Christmas Program*
Daisy Sachariason
- 22 - Carter Moen
- 24 - *Christmas Eve*
Creed Joyce
Thatcher Erp
- 25 - *Christmas Day*
Eva Trager
- 29 - Mason Erp

Lectors

- 1 - Char Strand
- 8 - Nancy Streed
- 15 - *Sunday School Christmas Program*
Jon Hanson
- 22 - Gavin Ascheman
- 24 - *Christmas Eve*
Teresa Olson
- 25 - *Christmas Day*
Sherry Norby
- 29 - Charlie Hanson

Deacon Communion Setup

- 1 - Cindy Kanten
- 8 - Jon Hanson
- 24 - *Christmas Eve*
Cheryl Erp
- 25 - *Christmas Day*
Cindy Kanten

Media Operators

- 1 - Rich Isder
- 8 - Gabby Augeson
- 15 - *Sunday School Christmas Program*
Ty Norby
- 22 - Scarlett Trager
- 24 - *Christmas Eve*
Paul Tostenson
- 25 - *Christmas Day*
Carter Moen
- 29 - Matt Schuerman

Video Recorders

- 1 - Jon Hanson
- 8 - Theresa Erickson
- 15 - *Sunday School Christmas Program*
Rich Isder
- 22 - Theresa Erickson
- 24 - *Christmas Eve*
Jon Hanson
- 25 - *Christmas Day*
Rich Isder
- 29 - 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.



Sunday School Christmas Program



**Sunday, December 15
9:00 a.m.**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

**Tuesday, December 24
4:30 p.m.**



Christmas Day Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion



**Wednesday, December 25
9:00 a.m.**



Group 8

**Captain - Ryan Grant
734-4924**

**Rich Isder
Tyler Kanten
Dave Lovehaug
Luther Opjorden
Rob Schwendemann**

LOCAL NEWS

Helping Hands

Helping Hands

Well, Frosty and Snowy have finally arrived in our small hamlet! Let's hope it isn't too much for us for the season!

Thank you to Group 3, chairpersons, Theresa Erickson, Rob/Karla Schwendemann, Ray/Jessica Trager, for decorating and undecorating for the fall season! Great job all of you!! Thank you so much for beautifying our sanctuary for the season!

Thank you to Group 1, chairpersons, Ryan/Cheryl Erp, Gary/Kim Heimdahl, Josh/Tiffany Moen, for decorating for the Christmas season! I'm sure it will be lovely! Thank you so much!

Thank you to everyone who has contributed financially or in other ways to the projects of the Helping Hands organization. We most certainly appreciate your generosity!

The annual meeting of the Helping Hands Board was held on November 13. At that meeting, funds were allocated to the following groups: Marie Sandvik-\$150, Rice Hospice-\$200, Lutheran Social Service-\$100, Strengthening the Family-\$200, Heartland Girls Ranch-\$200, Military boxes-\$200, Swift County Food Shelf-\$200, Chippewa County Food Shelf-\$200, LacQuiParle County Food Shelf-\$200, Global Health Ministries-\$300, FLY Backpack Program-\$300, Layettes-\$200. It was decided to contribute toward the purchase of additional white tables.

It was decided to not continue with Pie Day and the Apple Ridge Christmas event going forward.

There will be calls to fill the Service Group Chairpersons for each of the service groups. Please prayerfully consider taking this opportunity to serve in our congregation. It is much appreciated.

It has been brought to our attention that there are times when there is a shortage of people to work at funerals held at our church. If it looks like the people in the kitchen are struggling to get the job done, please take the opportunity to step up and help out if you have a bit of time. Also, if you are willing to help fill the help needed at funerals, please let Nancy Schneck know of that so she can forward those names to chairpeople if they are short. Thank you so much!

Thank you to everyone who has helped out or provided food and help to events this past year. Your time and talent is much appreciated!

Happy Thanksgiving to all - We have much to be thankful for!

Merry Christmas to all - Remember the reason for the season!



Quilting Work Days

— October 16, 22 and 28 —



Military Boxes

Military boxes will be packed on Tuesday, December 17th at 9:00 a.m. Plans are to send 17 boxes. Items that can be sent are Christmas candy, jerky, raisins, licorice, microwave popcorn and baked goods (4-6 in a baggie). Monetary donations are also appreciated. Please have items to church by noon on Monday, December 16th.



FUNERAL

SERVICE GROUPS

Serving the next funeral will be Group 4.

Service Group 4 chairpersons are:

Robert & Jill Blom
 Brian & Teresa Olson
 Craig & Char Strand

793-6740
 734-4615
 734-4758



LOCAL NEWS

December



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, contact the church office (734-4455). All poinsettias will be red this year. The cost is \$20.00 per poinsettia. Checks should be made out to Kviteseid Lutheran Church. A limited number of poinsettias have been ordered for your purchase.

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, mosquito nets, 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, including the United States.

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



Jingle Offering

New this Sunday school year is a jingle offering for kids to put coins in during worship. The kids will decide where the money will be sent. From September 8 through November 17, we have received \$72 for the jingle offering.

Sunday School Choir

— October 27 —



Welcome New Members

In November we received three new members:

Emily Kittelson

and

Colin and Carli Thompson

If you see them, introduce yourself and welcome them to Kviteseid.

Looking Ahead

Sunday, January 19

ANNUAL MEETING

following worship
at 9:45 a.m.



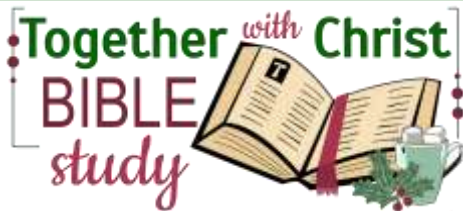
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LOCAL NEWS

Faith in Action

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.



Wednesday, December 11

1:30 p.m. at church

Meet in the Fellowship Hall

Church Board and Council Meetings

Wednesday, December 18

Deacons - 6:00 p.m.

Trustees - 7:00 p.m.

Church Council - 7:30 p.m.



Advent Devotions



Looking for a devotion for Advent? Here is a free one you can download from Luther Seminary: "Joy of Heaven, Here on Earth" for December 1 – 25.

A few printed copies will also be available at church.

Download: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IJMVdn54_YGhTzIN7A_tzwwi9NWTDlexh/view



ACTIVITIES AT KVITSEID IN THE LAST MONTH

All Saints recognition Nov. 3
Veteran recognition during worship Nov. 10
New members received Nov. 10 and 17
Fifteen Military boxes packed Nov. 12
Fall un-decorating Nov. 29
Christmas decorating Nov. 30
Helping Hands annual meeting Nov. 13
Worship
Online worship services
Sunday School
Confirmation Classes
Bible Study
Services at Apple Ridge and Appleton Care Center



All Saints' Sunday

All Saints' Sunday was November 3. We lit candles and remembered: Ivy Tostenson who was baptized in the last year; and James Haugen, Bradley Moen, Oma Fairchild, Adeline Ellingboe and Betty Molden, who passed away in the last year.

Church Supper

Our annual church supper will not be held again this year. In past years, our annual supper has raised between \$2,500 and \$4,500 for our church, depending on expenses and turnout.

The church council is asking members to give a contribution to

help offset this lack of income. On average, a couple would have spent about \$25 for the meal, not to mention all the time spent and donations of food. Many people commented "I would rather just write a check."

In the month of December, please consider giving a financial gift in lieu of the church supper. Donations can be sent to the church or put in the offering plate marked "church supper." Thank you!

Community Christmas Cantata

Singers from area churches have been practicing for a Christmas cantata that will be presented in December. This cantata is made possible through a generous Mission Endowment Grant from the SW MN Synod of the ELCA.

Concerts will be held on Saturday, December 7 with lunch following: 11:00 a.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Montevideo; 2:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church in Cottonwood; 7:00 p.m. at Bergen Lutheran Church, rural Granite Falls. All are welcome to enjoy this joyous celebration of Christmas.



LOCAL NEWS

Southwest Minnesota Synod

Synod News

Bishop's Post-Election Message

by Bp. Dee Pederson

**Go out into the world in peace:
Have courage.
Hold on to what is good.
Return no one evil for evil.
Strengthen the faint-hearted,
support the weak,
help the suffering,
and honor all people.
Love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power
of the Holy Spirit.**

Many of us are trying to absorb the results of this election. Some are grieving. Some are rejoicing. In this synod, we recognize that "God has placed us in cities, farms, and towns together under one prairie sky." That, in itself, names the reality that there are going to be different opinions among us on many topics. But I love this reminder: It is God who placed us here. So, wherever we are, whoever we are, and however we come, congregations will gather, and preachers will preach this week. As always, we will gather with people, in the room and online, who have varying thoughts and emotions right now. Our call is to live out God's mission for this world that God loves so much. Love our neighbors. We all have been through some difficult months. We know that the church has work to do. As we take a breath and pray our way forward, I offer these grounding texts and prayers.

Psalm 90:1-2: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were

brought forth or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Prayer: Almighty God, you have given us this good land as our heritage. Make us always remember your generosity and constantly do your will. Bless our land with honesty in the workplace, truth in education, and honor in daily life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance; and from every evil course of action. When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful; and, in troubled times, do not let our trust in you fail. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (ELW, p. 77)

Ephesians 4:31-32: Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Prayer: Holy Trinity, one God, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. Make us, who came from many nations with many languages, a united people that delights in our many different gifts. Defend our liberties, and give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, that there might be justice and peace in our land. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our sovereign and our Savior. Amen. (ELW, p. 77)

Conference News

There was a Listening and Partnering meeting at Faith in Madison October 20 for the Lac qui Parle Conference. It was put on by the

synod to share information on congregational transitions and to consider future partnerships. Fifty people attended, including Tom, Cindy, Rob and Pastor Kristine. There is a shortage of pastors in the ELCA and especially in our synod. Churches were encouraged to seek out and build up lay leaders for worship leadership roles. There are many classes available for training.



God's Creation

This petunia plant somehow made it's home by the church maintenance shed and is still surviving. God certainly takes care of all his creation!



October 31



November 18

Kviteleid 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

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

