



## Greetings from Pastor Kristine Isder

### God's Love

On March 10 our Old Testament scripture text from Numbers 21 was about people complaining. Sound familiar?

God's people had been liberated from slavery in Egypt. But they are still wandering in the wilderness in search of the land they have been promised. They cry out in frustration to Moses and to God.

The experience of people sinning, suffering the consequences, calling out to God for salvation, and then God saving them is one of the central themes in Scripture. The cycle repeats over and over again.

The narrative arc of Scripture is one of a relentless God doing

whatever it takes to maintain a relationship with humankind. God is ultimately and relentlessly the source of life.

The gospel text that day included John 3:16, probably the most well-known verse in the Bible: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."*

Why did God send the Son to come into the world? Why did Jesus suffer and die for us?

The answer is love. God so loved the world. God's motivation is love. God loves us enough to die for us. God is just, and God is loving. God is merciful.

John 3:17 is just as important: *"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the*

*world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."*

Jesus came to save the world. Jesus came to show the world who God is, to give eternal life, to restore our right relationship with God.

*"But God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved."* (Ephesians 4:4-5)

God has given us the gift of life. Not because of anything we do, not because of any good works we do, but because God loves us. Our heavenly Father, who created us, loves us.

All of the Bible is a story of love. It's the story of God seeking

*continued on page 3*

# STEWARDSHIP

Contributions, Gifts, Memorials & Worship



## FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Fund	
2024 Financial Responsibilities	\$251,736
Checking Register for the General Fund	
2/1/24 balance:	\$21,284
February income:	\$17,050
February expenses:	\$22,131
2/29/24 balance:	\$16,203

## Worship Offerings & Attendance



### Sunday

February 25	\$861	64
March 3	\$1,255	52
March 10	\$1,457	59
March 17	\$492	66

### Lent (Joint Services - attendance includes Big Bend members)

February 28	\$119	47
March 6	\$333	50
March 13	\$185	64
March 20	\$166	85

Online Giving ...



Visit our website at

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



## Memorials & Gifts

*None to Report*

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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

# PRAYERS

We offer up prayers for ...

**This section removed for member privacy.**

# LOCAL NEWS

## Pastor, Staff & Officers

### Greetings from Pastor Kristine

*continued from page 1*

God's people, seeking to restore the world to the way it was always intended to be.

The world rejected God, we humans turned away from our Creator, but our Creator never gave up on us. God continues to love this sinful, stubborn world.

And God will do anything to communicate that love, even suffering the loss of God's own Son as a consequence of the world's sin...our sin. This is the gospel. This is the good news. This is the truth shown in God's light.

Love is God's motivation. Love is what motivated Jesus to eat with the outcasts. Love is what led Jesus' followers to include Gentiles and Greeks, to risk everything to share

the good news and even to pray for their persecutors. God's love is what has inspired the Church for 2,000 years to reach out to people on the outside, people overlooked by society.

Because we know the story of God's love, because we know God's motivation, we can reflect God's love.

Because we have received the free gift of grace, we have something to share with our friends, with our neighbors, with our world, this world God so loves.

May we share the good news of God's grace with the world, that all may know God's love.

### Lutheran Men in Mission

#### Spring Retreat

Saturday, April 13, 2024

8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Gloria Dei Church in Redwood Falls

— For All Men —

**THEME: Love Your Neighbor, Even When We Disagree**

*Guest Speaker: Ted Mathews "How Do We Manage Conflict."* Ted Mathews is a mental health practitioner with over 30 years of experience in counseling in rural areas.

For schedule and registration information, go to the website: <https://swmnelca.org/event/lmmspringretreat/>

Cost: \$10 per person

*Donations:* Donations to the LMM Scholarship Endowment Fund are appreciated even if you are not able to participate in the Spring Gathering.

### Board Meetings

Wednesday, April 17

Deacons - 6:00 p.m.

Trustees - 7:30 p.m.



## 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

## April Schedules

### Faith Milestones

#### FIRST COMMUNION

These fifth graders will receive first communion this year:

- Warren Heinrich
- Tosten Johnson
- Josie Norby
- Elexis Spray



They have attended first communion classes in preparation to receive Holy Communion for the first time. They will receive their first communion on Maundy Thursday March 28 and April 7.

#### CONFIRMATION

In April we will celebrate a faith milestone in the lives of our young people.

Confirmation Sunday is April 28. Three of our young people will affirm their baptism:

- Charlie Hanson
- Alexandra Joyce
- Matthew Schuerman



When they were baptized, their parents made promises for them. Now they will affirm these promises for themselves.

*Come and support our young people as they receive first communion and affirm their baptism.*



#### Acolytes

- 7 - Alexandra Joyce
- 14 - Matthew Schuerman
- 21 - Charlie Hanson
- 28 - Confirmation  
Mason Erp

#### Deacon Communion Setup

- 7 - Andrea Westra
- 28 - Confirmation  
Cheryl Erp

#### Lectors

- 7 - Nancy Streed
- 14 - Gavin Ascheman
- 21 - Char Strand
- 28 - Confirmation  
Confirmands

#### Media Operators

- 7 - Theresa Erickson
- 14 - Gabby Augeson
- 21 - Ty Norby
- 28 - Confirmation  
Scarlett Trager

#### Video Recorders

- 7 - Jon Hanson
- 14 - Theresa Erickson
- 21 - Rich Isder
- 28 - Confirmation  
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.



#### Group 6

Captain - Tom Moe  
734-4707

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

### TWC Bible Study

Wednesday,  
April 10 - 1:30 p.m.



Meet in the  
Fellowship Hall

# LOCAL NEWS

## Helping Hands

### Helping Hands

Spring is here and all is well! There may be a few snowflakes to fall yet, but they will be gone in a blink of an eye!

Thank you very much to all of those who helped served Wednesday night Lenten suppers. The Helping Hands Board, Sunday School and Luther League groups did a great job! All was wonderful and tasted great!

Some of the Helping Hands Board served breakfast and lunch to the Conference pastors who came to Kviteseid on March 21 for their regular meeting. Thank you to those who helped with that day.

There will be a **Syttende Mai Tea** this year. It will be **Saturday, May 18, from 10 am to 1 pm**. If you are moved to help out with this project which enhances the community celebration in a big way, please contact Char Strand or Nancy Schneck. You could help that day with serving, making some of the delicacies, washing dishes, waiting tables, contributing money to purchase those items which can't be made, or setting up or cleaning up. We can find someplace for you to be very useful! Those who have headed committees in the past, please check your email as there is

an email with lots of information regarding this year's celebration. Thank you so much for your wonderful help!

The quilts which were made earlier this year will be dedicated on Sunday, April 7. At this time, the seniors from our church can pick out their favorite which will be presented to them on **Senior Recognition Sunday, May 19**.

They come with all the best wishes for a bright future for each of our graduates. More quilts will be made in July. Watch for more information about that later.

Group 3, chairpersons, Theresa Erickson, Rob/Karla Schwendemann, Ray/Jessica Trager, are up to serve the next funeral. Everyone stay well!

May each of you be blessed with the story of the first Easter! Blessings to all!

### Quilt Blessing

**Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**



during  
10:30 a.m.  
Worship

**THANK YOU**

to all who helped in the making of the quilts.

### 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Milan Syttende Mai

celebration



**Saturday,  
May 18<sup>th</sup>**

10 am - 4 pm  
Main Street

### Smorgåst Tea

10 am - 1 pm  
at Kviteseid Church

Contact Nancy Schneck or Char Strand if you are willing to help with the tea

### Layettes

In September we will again be putting together layettes for God's Work Our Hands. Last September we made 40 layettes which was great. We will need blankets again. They can be 30 by 30, 36 by 36, or 42 by 42 inches.

Thank you for your help in this project.

If you have any questions, you can give me a call at 289-3066.

- Cathy Olson

# 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



### Red Cross Bloodmobile

will be here on Monday,  
April 8<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 6:30 p.m.

For more information or to make an appointment, call Sue at 734-4424 or (320) 212-4411 or visit [www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org).

# LOCAL NEWS

## Youth

### Bible Camp

#### Summer 2024 Bible Camp at Green Lake Lutheran Ministries

Calling all kids to register for Bible Camp! Registration is open.

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.

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



*“Build, Create  
and Navigate!”*

Youth  
**FAITH**  
Lock-In



**April 13 – 14**

Contact Michelle A.  
at (320) 226-0658  
to register by March 29

*No cost to attend*

### Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Activities

Spring Fever for Grades 2-6 April 20. Join us in a day full of Bible studies, games, arts and crafts, worships and more. This retreat is great for new campers who want to give camp a try before doing a full week. Register online by April 10 at <http://www.gllm.org>.



**Wednesday, April 24**  
Eat 5:30 \* Play 6:30

Fellowship  
Food  
Fun!

Com Enjoy Waffles, Sausage, & Juice

### Did you find a “Little Jesus”?

200 mini Statues of Jesus were hidden for Holy Week. The Teen Leaders of our congregation encouraged everyone to “take a little Jesus with them, everywhere they go”. If you found one or two, please pass on the message:

**“You are never alone,  
Jesus is always with you and  
loves you always”!**

A LITTLE JESUS



# LOCAL NEWS

## Letters of Thanks

### Thank You

Kviteseid Lutheran Church:

Thank you for your generous gift of mission support to Green Lake Lutheran Ministries! We are so thankful for your partnership in this important work. 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 we can continue to serve people where they are at together. That's so special. Thank you again for being such a great partner in ministry.

- Green Lake Lutheran Ministries



Thank you to everyone who helped and/or donated items for the military boxes. Sixteen boxes were mailed to military women and men. We have heard comments that they really appreciate receiving the boxes.

- Nancy Streed



Kviteseid Endowment Board:

Thank you for your generous donation to the military fund. We know that these military men and women appreciate receiving the boxes.

- Kviteseid Military Committee



### 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](http://www.milanslutheranchurch.com)) home page and on Kviteseid's Facebook page.

### Coffee 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.

**This section removed for member privacy.**

# LOCAL NEWS

## Southwest Minnesota Synod

### Synod News

#### Excerpts from Bishop Dee Pederson's 2023 Annual Report – Part 3

##### Living the Word Today

These are interesting times to be called and sent by the Triune God to live the Word today! The territory of our synod is described by the state demographer as including areas that are entirely Rural, Town/Rural Mix, Urban/Town/Rural Mix, and Entirely Urban. “Cities, farms, and towns together.” As demographic trends continue, the report asks, and we as the church can ask:

- How will we support the many older adults who are part of our communities who may live farther from services and family support?
- How will we respond to labor force shortages as more Boomers move into retirement?
- How can our churches help our distinct communities to be more attractive to new residents?

How can churches make a difference in communities with growing racial and cultural diversity, and create connections and belonging?

Those gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12) will lead the way as God continues to reform us to live the Word today.

In the fall of 2023, we celebrated the reactivation of our relationships with our friends in the South Eastern Diocese of Southern Africa. Four guests came to be with us here in Sept.-Oct., and then five leaders from SW MN made the journey to South Africa and were blessed by warm hospitality, joy in our friendships, and new opportunities to accompany one another in Christ. An-

other gift!

I am grateful for the leadership of our Synod Council, taking seriously its responsibility to be faithful stewards of our resources of staffing, facility, and funding. I am excited to work together with them on the Council's commitment to “empower Christian communities to join in God's mission of reconciliation: listening intentionally, loving unconditionally, serving others authentically, and faithfully healing creation.” They have been focusing on the strengths, opportunities, aspirations, and results they see in this commitment, and are eager to live out this vision with you in the coming year.

I conclude this report by expressing my sincere **thanks and gratitude** to the synod staff who embody, serve, and live the Word each day:

Rev. Heather Culuris – Synod Minister, Tammy Schacher – Executive Assistant, Kristin Bakeberg – Communications Coordinator, Maggie Berggren – Administrative Assistant, and Rev. Dr. Troy Pflibsen – Director for Evangelical Mission. They walk beside you in ministry with wisdom and joy. We are grateful for the ministry of Youth Ministry Coordinator Rev. Nikoli Falensheck, who served with us for the past year. And we continue to grieve the passing of our colleague and friend, Pr. Naomi Mahler, who brought energy, courage, and faith to her many ministries.

Thank you for the privilege of embodying, serving, and living the Word together with you as the Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA.

*Holy God, we praise you for calling diverse people into your church and its ministries. Uphold*

*all leaders with your strong and loving arms. Empower ministers to serve your people with the word of scripture, the water of life, the meal of grace, and deeds of love and mercy and justice. Equip them with both beloved traditions and fresh ideas; grant them joy in their tasks; and renew them daily by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, the Word among us, now and forever. Amen.*  
(adapted from All Creation Sings).

+ with grace, peace, and love,  
- Rev. Dee Pederson,  
D.Min. Bishop, Southwestern  
Minnesota Synod, ELCA

#### 2024 Synod Assembly

The 2024 Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly will be held online and in person June 7-8 at Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter. The theme is One Body in Christ.

We can have two voting members. If you are interested in being a voting member at synod assembly, talk to Pastor Kristine.

#### Lac qui Parle Conference WELCA

Spring Gathering Tuesday, April 16 from 9 a.m. to noon at Garfield Lutheran Church, rural Madison. The program is Kim Derich sharing her experience and mission work in Guatemala. All are welcome. Cost is \$5 for morning coffee.

The Southwestern MN Synod WELCA convention will be Saturday, May 4 in Redwood Falls.

There will be a Lutheran World Relief Pick-up Saturday, May 4 at Our Savior's in Montevideo.



Kviteeid Lutheran Church  
PO Box 31  
Milan, MN 56262  
[www.milanslutheranchurch.com](http://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](http://www.milanslutheranchurch.com)



**Pastor Kristine Isder**  
Parsonage phone: 320-734-4667  
[pastor@milanslutheranchurch.com](mailto:pastor@milanslutheranchurch.com)

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

