



# Kviteseid Voice

**Kviteseid Lutheran Church**

**November 2023**

**Volume 33 | Number 11**

## Greetings from Pastor Kristine Isder

This year in confirmation class we are studying the stories of the Bible. And where do we start, but at the beginning, with creation, which we did a couple weeks ago.

And there we read about the days of creation, and the creation of humankind.

“So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them;” (Genesis 1:27)

In Matthew 22:15-22, some of the temple authorities ask Jesus, “Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor or not?” Jesus asked them for the coin that was used to pay the tax.

Jesus asked them whose head and title were on the coin. They answered that it was the emperor’s image. Jesus responded, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s and to God the things that are God’s.” (Matthew 22:21)

As I read that text, the story of the creation of humankind came to mind.

In God’s image we were created. We all bear the mark of God.

When coins are made, they are stamped with an image. We are also stamped with an image – the image of God.

In addition, at our baptism, we are marked with the cross of Christ. We can’t see that image, but it’s there, and can never be erased.

The significance of the image is the same as a seal: it is a marker of a grander meaning.

Caesar might have an empire, but God created the cosmos. We are brought back to Genesis and the creation of all that there is. It is a reality much bigger than Caesar’s empire.

God put God’s stamp on the earth by making humanity in the image and likeness of God’s very self. Our very existence, everything that we are, belongs to the one whose image it bears.

Coins are made in the image of Caesar, and so they belong to him.

Humans are made in the image of God, so they belong to God.

Jesus calls them (and us) to remember who we are; to remember whose we are. We are children of God. Created by God. Created in the image of God. Created to be a sign of God’s presence in this world. Charged to see that our whole lives give witness to the creative and renewing work God is seeking to do in this world.

We are called to return our whole lives in faithfulness: every action, every word, every decision, every relationship, every moment to be pleasing to the one who makes it all possible.

With His answer, Jesus invites us to boldly live in Caesar’s world while bearing witness to the image of whom we belong, God.

*continued on page 3*

# STEWARDSHIP

## Contributions, Gifts, Memorials & Worship



### FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Fund  
2023 Financial Responsibilities  
\$246,213

Checking Register  
for the General Fund

9/1/23 balance: \$6,022  
September income: \$11,738  
September expenses: \$14,908  
9/30/23 balance: \$2,852

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Cashflow loan to date: \$7,000

### Worship Offerings & Attendance



October 1	\$1,015	48
October 8	\$830	52
October 15	\$4,222	49
October 22	\$3,253	47



None  
to  
Report

### Contribution Statements

#### STATEMENTS

were mailed or emailed out for contributions given through September. Please check your statement to your records and let the church office know if there is a discrepancy. Statements were only mailed/emailed to those with contributions of record.

Online Giving ...



Visit our website at  
[milanslutheranchurch.com](http://milanslutheranchurch.com)

# 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*

We are made in the image of God. Let us live in the image of God.

In this month of Thanksgiving, "I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus." (1 Corinthians 1:4)

"O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever." (1 Chronicles 16:34)

*Thanks be to God!*

#### Pastor Continuing Education

On October 7 I attended the Engage Calvary Conference in Alexandria. It was a day of learning, listening, and discovering ways to engage one another for the future of the church.

October 8-10 was our Synod's Fall Theological Conference in Sioux Falls. The Theme was "Serving the

Word Today: Worship in a Both/And World". Jason Moore spoke about the hospitality we extend to people - both for people who come into our buildings and those who worship online. He had some especially helpful thoughts for those who host livestream worship. Bottom line for both online and in person worship: It's all about bringing people the Word of God, helping folks follow in the way of Jesus, and connect with Christian community.

Stay tuned for implementation of some ideas I learned. Little things can make a big difference!

### Israel - Hamas War

Posted by SWMN Synod Bishop  
Dee Pederson Oct. 19, 2023

"Our hearts continue to break as the suffering of the Israel-Hamas War escalates, and the humanitarian crisis becomes more dire. What can we do?

Pray. Listen. Learn more. Advocate for humanitarian aid. Share gifts for Lutheran Disaster Response."

#### Prayer

Gracious God, the news of these days rips our hearts and tears our souls. Too many are walking through the valley of the shadow of death. In the depths of pain and anger, we come to you, our rock and our refuge. You know the depth of suffering and the grief of those who have only begun to mourn what they have lost. You are our only comfort. You are our only hope. Faithful God, surround this world with your everlasting arms. Hear the cries of despair, heed the calls for justice, and do not let your children lose hope. Bring peace in our world, peace in our homes, and peace in the hearts of all; through your Son, Jesus, our Savior, we pray. Amen.

*(Adapted from Service After a Violent Event, All Creation Sings, p. 64)*

To share gifts: <https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response>

For more information: <https://elca.org/Israel-Hamas%20War>

## 2023 Kviteseid Staff & Officers



### Office Staff

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

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

### Building Staff

Custodian: David Thompson  
Organist: Judi Bohm

### Volunteer Leadership

Sunday School Choir Dir:  
Jessica Trager

Sunday School Supt.:  
Talia Schuerman

Contributions Secretaries:  
Heidi Hanson  
Luther Opjorden

### Church Officers

President: Tom Moe  
Vice Pres: Paul Tostenson  
Secretary:  
Treasurer: Josh Moen

### Board of Deacons

Rich Isder, Char Strand,  
Jon Hanson, Cindy Kanten

### Board of Trustees

Erik Boraas, Brandon  
Ascherman, Bryan  
Schuerman, Cory Heinrich,  
Ray Trager

### Board of Education

Holly Kanten, Jenna Norby,  
Sue Streed, Emily Heinrich,  
Tiffany Moen

### Helping Hands Board

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

# WORSHIP NEWS

## November Schedules

### NOVEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

#### Acolytes

- 5 - Parker Spray
- 12 - Eva Trager
- 19 - Charlie Hanson

#### Deacon Communion Setup

- 5 - Rich Isder
- 12 - Cindy Kanten

#### Lectors

- 5 - Rich Isder
- 12 - Jen Tostenson
- 19 - Connie Fragodt
- 23 - *Thanksgiving*  
Tom Moe
- 26 - Lee Haugen

#### Media Operators

- 5 - Gavin Ascheman
- 12 - Jessa Norby
- 19 - Alexandra Joyce
- 23 - *Thanksgiving*  
Rich Isder
- 26 - Nancy Schneck

#### Video Recorders

- 5 - Jon Hanson
- 12 - Rich Isder
- 19 - Theresa Erickson
- 23 - *Thanksgiving*  
Jon Hanson
- 26 - 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.



Thursday, November 23  
*Thanksgiving Worship at 9 a.m.*

The Thanksgiving offering each year is given to two of our local campus ministries—Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) of Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall, MN and University of Minnesota, Morris, MN. These funds help support the college youth to take an active role in service and mission work, giving back to their community and sharing God's love with others.

The offerings that go to LCM are from the loose offerings (no envelopes) and the Thanksgiving offering envelopes. Offerings given in your regular Sunday envelopes will go to the general fund of the church. Thank you for your continued support of this important program!



Sunday, November 5  
*Worship at 10:30 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 Pastor Kristine.*

Fall Festival Potluck  
Fellowship Dinner  
will follow worship

A-M: bring hotdish  
N-Z: bring salad

*Service Group 4 will be serving the meal*



Veteran Recognition  
Sunday, November 12  
*Worship at 10:30 a.m.*

Join us as we recognize all of our military veterans during our Sunday morning worship service.

DAYLIGHT  
SAVING  
TIME



**ends Sunday, November 5**

*Remember to set your clocks back one hour.*



#### Group 2

**Captain - Char Johnson**  
**752-4577**

**Connie Fragodt**  
**Kim Heimdahl**  
**Jody Molden**  
**Teresa Olson**  
**Karla Schwendemann**  
**Sue Streed**  
**Kim Thompson**

# LOCAL NEWS

November

## Bible Reading Plans

Booklets are available at church with these Bible reading plans plus a Bible time line.



### Readings for November to read the Bible in a year Chronologically

Nov 1	Matthew 20-21	Nov 7	Matthew 24	Nov 19	Acts 9-10
Nov 2	Luke 18:15-19:48	Nov 8	Matthew 25	Nov 20	Acts 11-12
Nov 3	Mark 11; John 12	Nov 9	Matthew 26; Mark 14	Nov 21	Acts 13-14
Nov 4	Matthew 22; Mark 12	Nov 10	Luke 22; John 13	Nov 22	James 1-5
Nov 5	Matthew 23; Luke 20-21	Nov 11	John 14-17	Nov 23	Acts 15-16
Nov 6	Mark 13	Nov 12	Matthew 27; Mark 15	Nov 24	Galatians 1-3
		Nov 13	Luke 23; John 18-19	Nov 25	Galatians 4-6
		Nov 14	Matthew 28; Mark 16	Nov 26	Acts 17-18:18
		Nov 15	Luke 24; John 20-21	Nov 27	1 2 Thessalonians
		Nov 16	Acts 1-3	Nov 28	Acts 18:19-19:41
		Nov 17	Acts 4-6	Nov 29	1 Corinthians 1-4
		Nov 18	Acts 7-8	Nov 30	1 Corinthians 5-8

### Christmas Decorating



SERVICE WORK

### GROUP 3

will be decorating the church for the Christmas season on Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. Please put it on your calendar.

### Big Bend Lutheran Church ANNUAL MEATBALL SUPPER

Wednesday, November 1  
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Meatballs, corn, green beans, mashed potatoes & gravy, dinner roll, lefse, coleslaw, and apple crisp



\$14.00/plate

Basement seating or Take-out

Call 320-793-6621 to place a take-out order (on day of supper only)

## Looking Ahead

Sunday, December 24

### Christmas Eve Worship

Evening Candlelight Service with communion at 6:30 p.m.



No Sunday morning worship  
December 24

Monday, December 25

### Christmas Day Worship



Morning Service with communion at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 21

### Annual Meeting

Before Worship at 9:00 a.m.



## Military Boxes

Military boxes will be packed on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Plans are to fill eighteen boxes. Items that can be sent are candy, jerky, raisins, licorice, microwave popcorn and baked goods (4-6 in a baggie). Please have items to church by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. Money donations are also appreciated. For questions, call Judi (734-4706 or 320-226-7354) or Nancy (734-4694).



Saturday, November 11

### Veterans Day



# LOCAL NEWS

## Helping Hands

### Helping Hands

Time seems to go by faster as one gets older! I must be getting older because the months seem to fly by! Enjoy them, they go fast!

Thank you to Group 2 and the older Sunday School kids for getting the decorations down from the balcony and decorating the Sanctuary and the Narthex for the fall harvest season! It looks just lovely! Wishing everyone a safe and productive harvest! This group is in charge of de-decorating the fall season.

Group 3, chairpersons Theresa Erickson, Rob/Karla Schwendemann, Ray/Jessica Trager, is in charge of Christmas decorating. Members of Group 3 watch for times designated for Christmas decorating. Thank you for your work!

All Saints Sunday and New Member Sunday is November 5. Group 4, chairpersons Bob/Diane Berven, Heidi Spray, Sue Streed, are in charge of serving the Potluck dinner following the worship service. First part of the alphabet bring hot dishes and the last part bring salads. Thank you so much for your participation!

The Helping Hands Board will be having their Annual Meeting on

Wednesday November 8 at 5:30. We will be getting pizza from the Legion and sharing the cost. Please bring your drink of choice for supper. We are looking for a new board member at this time. If you are interested in helping with this very important part of our congregation, please contact a current board member and indicate your interest. Thank you for your consideration!

Thank you to Group 1, chairpersons Cory/Emily Heinrich, Greg/Sherry Norby, Bob/Jen Tostenson, for serving the family and friends of Neil Perseke following his funeral service. Your time is appreciated by Neil's family.

Group 2, Randy/Connie Fragodt, Paul/Patee Spray, Andrew/Andrea Westra, is next for funeral serving. Thank you!

### Church Supper

Without our church supper again this year, we lose the income it generates, about \$2,500 to \$4,500. The church council is asking members to give a financial contribution in lieu of the church supper. Donations may be left in the offering plate or sent to the church marked "church supper." *Thank you to those who have already donated.*



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 \$19.99 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, 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.

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



# FUNERAL SERVICE GROUPS

**Serving the next funeral will be Group 2.**

Service Group 2 chairpersons are:

Randy & Connie Fragodt	752-4552
Paul & Patee Spray	320-841-0876
Andrew & Andrea Westra	321-3021

# LOCAL NEWS

## September Church Council Meeting

### Kviteseid Lutheran Church Council Minutes (Draft) September 20, 2023

**Meeting called to order by President Tom Moe at 7:38 p.m.**

**Members in attendance:** Tom Moe, Gwen Olson, Cory Heinrich, Char Strand, Jon Hanson, Rich Isder, Pastor Kristine

**Agenda** reviewed, no additions

**Devotions:** Pastor Kristine led devotions from Psalm 145.

**Secretary Report:** Minutes from June Council Meeting reviewed. No changes submitted.

**Motion** by Jon Hanson, second Cory Heinrich to approve the secretary's report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurers Report:** Pastor Kristine – \$7,000 was borrowed from Gifts & Memorials in August. Giving for the year is \$10,000 ahead of last year.

**Deacons Report:** Char Strand – Discussion about God's Work Our Hands Sunday – looking for ideas on how to improve and increase attendance. New members – everyone can invite people to join. National Youth Gathering, Summer 2024 – getting the word out, there is a promotional video to watch.

**Trustees Report:** Cory Heinrich – Chimes are still in progress. Received a quote, and it will be reviewed before they are ordered. Ottertail Power will assist with the installation. New utility shed will be delivered next Thursday. It will have a gravel base. The old one will be cleaned out and demolished. A company has been contacted to help with water issues, offer ideas and quotes to remedy the problem. They have already offered many suggestions and we may be able to handle the jobs

with workers within the congregation. Josh Vetter and Ray Trager looked at a spot on the roof that may be contributing to the problem. Trustees will monitor the situation during the upcoming rain that is predicted. Mark Molden is working on the board on the wall behind the altar.

**Board of Education Report:** Pastor Kristine – Vacation Bible School (VBS) was held in August. Sunday School has started.

**Pastor's Report: Pastor Kristine**

**Worship attendance:** better attendance in September. Attendance: from 36 to 89 (Rally Day) in last month. Online worship is still 80-130 per Sunday.

**Lakeside worship:**

July 2: 88 people, \$235 offering for food shelves. 6 churches: Kviteseid, Big Bend, Zion of Appleton, Minnesota Valley, Borgund and Immanuel. Pastor Linda Estling and Pastor Kristine led the service.

September 3: 82 people. \$321.80 offering for food shelves. Same six churches. Pastor Linda Wimmer, Pastor Linda Estling and Pastor Kristine led the service. Kind of hot that day.

**God's Work Our Hands Sunday** was September 10

About 50 people stayed to help. 1 quilt tied, 1 blanket tied, 40 layettes assembled, 240 bandages rolled, 16 military boxes packed, yard cleanup for a community member, ditch too overgrown to pick up garbage; Thrivent grant for provided dinner. Big Bend members were invited. One person came.

**Rally Day** was September 10: Balloon found in Eagan.

**Confirmation class** started September 13; 11 kids: 9 from Kviteseid and 2 from Big Bend.

**Christmas Eve service** will be 6:30 p.m. at Kviteseid, 4:30 p.m. at Big Bend.

**Pastor meetings:** continue to meet both by zoom and in person.

**Area churches:**

Pastor Michelle Rowell is the new associate pastor at Our Savior's in Montevideo.

Bishop Craig Anderson is the new interim at Faith in Madison.

**Synod:**

Pastor Naomi Mahler of the synod staff was on medical leave and is now on hospice. She was the synod staff person who related to our conference. Bishop Dee will now connect with our conference.

**Motion** by Char Strand, second Rich Isder to approve reports as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business:** Emergency Shelter idea with the city is still in the discussion stage.

**New Business:** It has been 6 years since a church supper was held. Each year the congregation has been asked to donate to replace the lost income. It was decided to continue that this fall. If someone is willing to lead the organizing of a church supper please notify the church office.

**Annual Meeting** of the congregation will be held January 21, 2024, at 9:00 am.

**Next meeting** – December 20, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwen Kleven Olson, Council Secretary

### TWC Bible Study

Wednesday,  
November 8<sup>th</sup>  
1:30 p.m.



Meet in the fellowship hall

# LOCAL NEWS

## Southwest Minnesota Synod

### Synod News

#### Visitors from South Africa

Four guests from our Companion Synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa-South Eastern Diocese were hosted by the SWMN Synod for two weeks this fall.

While here they visited churches and ministry partners in the synod. They also attended the Fall Theological Conference and shared some spirited music.

#### Visitors to South Africa

On October 23, four leaders from our synod were sent on a journey to our companion synod in South Africa. May they be a blessing to those they meet.

These relationships are rooted in “accompaniment,” which promotes the values of mutuality, inclusivity, vulnerability, empowerment, and sustainability. Through the program, companion churches and ELCA synods nurture and strengthen one another for life and ministry through prayer, study, communication, exchange of visitors, and sharing of resources.

#### Synod Minister

Posted by SWMN Synod Bishop Dee Pederson Oct. 23, 2023:

“We mourn the passing on October 21 of our dear colleague and Synod Minister, Pr. Naomi Mahler. Pr. Naomi joined our staff last November. In this brief time, she has brought wisdom, joy, clarity, questions, encouragement, energy, spark, and vision to all aspects of her work as Synod Minister. We grieve and miss her dearly. I ask your prayers for comfort and strength for her husband, Todd, and daughters, Sofia & Grace, as they experience such a deep loss.

May we all continue to follow the counsel of the Apostle Paul: “Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2)”

#### Equipping Congregations Day

Saturday December 2 at Vinje Lutheran Church in Willmar. The theme is “Living the Word Today”.

Gather together as we enter the season of Advent with learning opportunities to equip congregations as we live the Word today.

The keynote speaker is Rolf A. Jacobson from Luther Seminary.

Workshop topics include: Companion Synod Visitor Exchange, Church Responding to a World in Need, Welcoming Refugees, Grants, Rural Mental Health, Trauma Informed Care, Congregational Hospitality, Generosity.

Interested in attending? Talk to Pastor Kristine.

### Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the layette project. We made 40 layettes that were sent to Global Missions. Keep this project in mind for next years’ God’s Work Our Hands Sunday.

Thank you again!

- Cathy Olson

To the Ladies of Kviteseid,

Thank you so much for the two beautiful quilts we received. Cindy did a great job of picking them out.

It was so thoughtful of you. It is so special to have a quilt to wrap up in that is from my hometown.

We are doing good after our fire. We will be rebuilding this coming spring. Something exciting to look forward to! Thank you again!

- Mike & Julie Swenson

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section  
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for  
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privacy.



Kviteeid Lutheran Church  
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## 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)

