

# Kviteeid Voice

Kviteeid Lutheran Church

December 2023

Volume 33 | Number 12



## Greetings from Pastor Kristine Isder

### Christ in Christmas

Merry Xmas

Is using Xmas as an abbreviation for Christmas taking Christ out of Christmas?

No!

The X in Xmas stands for the Greek letter “Chi”, the first letter of Christ’s name in the Greek language. Greek is the original language of the New Testament.

So Xmas is the same as Christmas.

X or “Chi” and P or “rho” are the first two letters of the Greek word christos, which means Christ. Christ is ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ in Greek.

The letters X and P together form one of the earliest symbols of the Christian faith, the chi-rho.



Christ is the reason we celebrate Christmas. We celebrate the coming of God to Earth in human form over 2000 years ago when Christ was born.

We celebrate the fact that, “For God so loved the world that he sent his only beloved Son” (John 3:16)

God sent Jesus to live among us.

And in the words of the Nicene Creed, “For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven.”

Jesus came as a helpless baby, not as a mighty warrior. Jesus grew up to 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.

After Jesus’ birth an angel brought the news to shepherds who were out in the field:

*“I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:10-12)*

Then the angels sang:

*“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”” (Luke 2:13-14)*

Later wise men from the east came to worship the new king.:

*“In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the*

*continued on page 3*

# STEWARDSHIP

Contributions, Gifts, Memorials & Worship



## FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Fund  
2023 Financial Responsibilities  
\$246,213

Checking Register  
for the General Fund

10/1/23 balance: \$2,852  
October income: \$37,987  
October expenses: \$16,320  
10/31/23 balance: \$24,519

---

Cashflow loan to date: \$7,000

## Worship Offerings & Attendance



October 29	\$6,563.70	67
November 5	\$1,191.25	63
November 12	\$4,320	58
November 19	\$2,115	100
November 23	\$1,663	47
- Thanksgiving		
November 26	\$280	40

Online Giving ...



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



Undesignated  
*In memory of  
Neil Perseke*

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

# 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*

*child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” (Matthew 2:1-2)*

*“On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” (Matthew 2:11)*

The Magi brought the first Christmas gifts to the Christ child.

Jesus’ first visitors were not mighty rulers, but shepherds and wise men from a foreign country. It was a humble beginning for the Savior of the world.

The hymn “The Birthday of a King”, by William H. Neidlinger,

tells the story of Jesus’ birth and why it was significant.

**“In the little village of Bethlehem,**

There lay a Child one day;  
And the sky was bright with a holy  
Light

**O’er the place where Jesus lay.**

Alleluia! O how the angels sang.  
Alleluia! How it rang!  
And the sky was bright with a holy  
light

**’Twas the birthday of a King.**

**’Twas a humble birthplace, but O**

how much  
God gave to us that day,  
From the manger bed what a path  
has led,

**What a perfect, holy way.”**

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

### 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.

### Red Cross Bloodmobile



will be here on

**Monday, December 4**

from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

[www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org)

## 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: Sherry Norby**  
**Treasurer: Josh Moen**

### Board of Deacons

**Rich Isder, Char Strand,**  
**Jon Hanson, Cindy Kanten**

### Board of Trustees

**Erik Boraas, Brandon**  
**Ascheman, 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

## December Schedules and Events



### Deacon Communion Setup

- 3 - Char Strand
- 10 - Cindy Kanten
- 24 - *Christmas Eve*  
Rich Isder
- 25 - *Christmas Day*  
Cindy Kanten

### Video Recorders

- 3 - Theresa Erickson
- 10 - Rich Isder
- 17 - Theresa Erickson
- 24 - *Christmas Eve*  
Jon Hanson
- 25 - *Christmas Day*  
Rich Isder
- 31 - Theresa Erickson

**Reminder:** It is your responsibility to find a replacement if you are unable to be there the day you are scheduled.



### Group 4

Captain - Jon Kanten  
793-6647

Peter Ervin  
Gary Heimdahl  
Val Johnson  
Keith Kvistero  
Jason Norby  
Nate Spray

### Acolytes

- 3 - Alexandra Joyce
- 10 - Matthew Schuerman
- 17 - Mason Erp
- 24 - *Christmas Eve*  
Charlie Hanson
- 25 - *Christmas Day*  
Carter Moen
- 31 - Parker Spray

### Lectors

- 3 - Char Strand
- 10 - Jon Hanson
- 17 - *Sunday School Christmas Program*  
Reed Molden
- 24 - *Christmas Eve*  
Sherry Norby
- 25 - *Christmas Day*  
Heidi Hanson
- 31 - Teresa Olson

### Media Operators

- 3 - Missy Ervin
- 10 - Theresa Erickson
- 17 - Gabby Augeson
- 24 - *Christmas Eve*  
Ty Norby
- 25 - *Christmas Day*  
Scarlett Trager
- 31 - Paul Tostenson

*Schedules are also available online at [milanslutheranchurch.com](http://milanslutheranchurch.com)*

### Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17  
10:30 a.m.  
*during morning Worship*

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion

Sunday, December 24  
6:30 p.m.

*No Sunday morning worship service December 24*

### Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion and Candle Lighting

Monday, December 25  
9:00 a.m.

*Different service than Christmas Eve*



**Children's Choir**  
November 19, 2023

# LOCAL NEWS

## Bible Reading Plans



### Bible Reading Plans

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



*If you've kept up for the whole year, congratulations! If you fell behind, pick up where you left off and keep reading.*

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Readings for December to read the Bible in a year Chronologically**

Dec 1	1 Corinthians 9-11	Dec 5	2 Corinthians 5-9	Dec 18	1 Timothy
Dec 2	1 Corinthians 12-14	Dec 6	2 Corinthians 10-13	Dec 19	Titus
Dec 3	1 Corinthians 15-16	Dec 7	Acts 20:1-3; Romans 1-3	Dec 20	1 Peter
Dec 4	2 Corinthians 1-4	Dec 8	Romans 4-7	Dec 21	Hebrews 1-6
		Dec 9	Romans 8-10	Dec 22	Hebrews 7-10
		Dec 10	Romans 11-13	Dec 23	Hebrews 11-13
		Dec 11	Romans 14-16	Dec 24	2 Timothy
		Dec 12	Acts 20:4-23:35	Dec 25	2 Peter; Jude
		Dec 13	Acts 24-26	Dec 26	1 John
		Dec 14	Acts 27-28	Dec 27	2 3 John
		Dec 15	Colossians; Philemon	Dec 28	Revelation 1-5
		Dec 16	Ephesians	Dec 29	Revelation 6-11
		Dec 17	Philippians 1-4	Dec 30	Revelation 12-18
				Dec 31	Revelation 19-22

### Military Boxes

Military boxes will be packed on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Plans are to fill seventeen 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, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Money donations are also appreciated. For questions, call Judi (734-4706 or 320-226-7354) or Nancy (734-4694).

### Kviteseid Memory Tree

The Christmas tree located by the rosemaled Heritage cabinet is the Kviteseid Memory Tree. On this tree are ornaments given in memory of loved ones. If you have lost a family member or friend, please feel free to bring an ornament that reminds you of that person and hang it on the tree. Each ornament has a tag telling who the ornament is in memory of and who brought the ornament to the tree. The tags are located on the shelves in the Narthex. The ornaments are carefully stored year to year, but it would be better if ornaments brought are not of the very fragile variety. If you have questions, please contact Nancy Schneck and she will be happy to help you out. It would be lovely during this season to fill this tree with reminders of loved ones who have gone before and are in the arms of Jesus! Blessings to all!



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.

### Looking Ahead

**Sunday, January 21**

[Annual Meeting](#)

before Worship at 9:00 a.m.





**80<sup>th</sup>**  
Birthday Party  
for  
**Nancy Streed**

Saturday  
December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
3:00 p.m.  
Mil an Legion



Lunch will be provided  
*Everyone is invited*

# LOCAL NEWS

## Helping Hands

### Helping Hands

Thanksgiving has come and gone! It is a time to reflect on how much God has blessed you and your family and to remember that we are operating on God's time.

Thank you very much to Group 2, chairpersons Randy/Connie Fragodt, Paul/Patee Spray, Andrew/Andrea Westra, for the beautiful fall decorations and also for removing them! They were awesome!

Thank you very much to Group 3, chairpersons Theresa Erickson, Rob/Karla Schwendemann, Ray/Jessica Trager, for putting up the Christmas decorations preparing for the season of Christmas and the miracle of the birth of the Christ child. They are beautiful!

Thank you very much to Group 4, chairpersons Bob/Diane Berven, Heidi Spray, Sue Streed, for serving the Fall Festival/All Saints Day potluck dinner! Great job! Great food! Thank you everyone!

Many, many thanks to Michelle Ascherman and her Sunday School kids for their enthusiastic help in hauling down the Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations from the balcony. I hope they know how helpful it is to have their assistance. You guys are the best!

We will be working with the staff of Apple Ridge in supplying egg salad and chicken salad croissants for their resident and family Christmas party on December 10.

Winter quilting will be January 22, 25, 29 and February 1. Please put those dates on your calendar and come prepared to have fun, bring warmth and joy to some lives, and have lively conversation! You will be blessed!

The Helping Hands Board held their annual meeting November 8. We welcome Patee Spray as our new member! Thank you to Ronae Rose for her service the past 3 years!

In other business:

- We distributed \$2400 to local, national and international concerns, including Marie Sandvik (\$150), Rice Hospice (\$200), Lutheran Social Service (\$100), Strengthening the Family (\$200), Heartland Girls Ranch (\$250), Caregivers Prairie 5 (\$200), Chippewa, Lac qui Parle and Swift County Food Shelves (\$100 to each), FLY Backpacks (\$300), Global Missions (\$200), Military Boxes (\$200), Layette mission (\$200), Global Health (\$100).

- We will serve two Lenten suppers (February 14 and 28), the recipients of the free will offering to be determined. Please feel free to grab some friends and sign up for the remaining dates!

- Dates for your calendar:

*Quilting* – January 22, 25, 29 and February 1, July 11 and 14

*Syttende Mai* – May 18

*Helping Hands annual meeting* – November 13

*Apple Ridge Christmas Party* – December 7

*Rally/God's Work Our Hands Sunday* – September 8

*Fall Festival/All Saints Sunday* – November 3

Take care everyone and have a blessed Christmas season – remembering the reason for the season!

### Mystery at Kviteseid

In the dead of night, or maybe afternoon, or even in the morning one day a few weeks ago, someone came to our church and blessed our Chancel lectern with a piece of Hardanger! It is a beautiful piece done in a pattern very closely matching the pieces we already have! It is very well done, very well installed and very



much loved and appreciated! We have checked with several people who are known to do this handwork so loved by our community, but have come up with no one. We would love to know who shared their talent and time with our congregation. If you choose not to share who you are, just know that we love it and appreciate it! Thank you so much!


F

**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

## Faith in Action



### Advent Devotions

Looking for a devotion for Advent? Here is a free one you can access online or download. "O Come, O Come Emmanuel: A Daily Advent Devotional" for December 1 – 24. It's from the Nourishing Vocation Center at St. Olaf College. For each day, there is a scripture reading, short devotion, prayer concern and prayer. A few printed copies will also be available at church. <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/719530813/>

### Crisis in the Holy Land

As the conflict between Hamas and Israel continues, the humanitarian crisis in the Holy Land continues to worsen. Almost 70% of Gaza's residents are displaced, and resources such as food, water and medical supplies are in short supply. The death toll has far surpassed those of previous conflicts in the region in recent decades.

The ELCA has longstanding relationships with partners in the region, including Augusta Victoria Hospital and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

Lutheran Disaster Response is supporting these partners and others in providing humanitarian aid, psychosocial support and financial assistance to those within and outside Gaza.

#### ***Be part of the response:***

**Pray:** Please pray for those impacted by the humanitarian crisis in the Holy Land. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.

**Give:** Thanks to generous donations, Lutheran Disaster Response is able to respond quickly and effectively to disasters around the globe. Your **gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response** will be used to assist people impacted by conflict in the Middle East.

To learn more about the situation and the ELCA's response:

- Visit the "Crisis in the Holy Land" resource page: <https://elca.org/crisis-holy-land>
- Check the Lutheran Disaster Response blog: <https://blogs.elca.org/disasterresponse/>



### Activities at Kviteseid in the Last Month

- All Saints recognition Nov. 5
- Fall fellowship dinner Nov. 5
- Veteran recognition during worship Nov. 12
- Sunday school made Thanksgiving cards for military boxes
- Military boxes packed Nov. 14 (16 boxes)
- Sunday school choir sang for worship Nov. 19
- Sunday school made Thanksgiving cards to send to shut-ins
- Fall un-decorating
- Christmas decorating
- Helping Hands annual meeting
- Worship
- Online worship services
- Sunday School
- Services at Apple Ridge and Appleton Care Center
- Confirmation Classes
- Bible Study



**This section removed for member privacy.**

**This section removed for member privacy.**

# LOCAL NEWS

## Southwest Minnesota Synod

### Synod News

#### Missionary News

Message from the ELCA missionaries Kviteseid supports:

**10 years in Tanzania!!**

October 20, 2023

**Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson**  
ELCA Global Personnel

Dear Kviteseid Lutheran Church,

Exactly 10 years ago, on October 20, 2013, we left Minnesota and embarked on an unknown journey. 18 months prior, we had visited

Arusha and worked at Selian Hospital, but visiting a place for 6 weeks and leaving your home and moving to a new country and continent are two very different things!

We often remember the beginning days of trying to get our foothold with a sigh and a shake of our heads. Those were not easy days. Getting used to power cuts, trying to buy a car, find a home, settle 3 children into a new school, learn a new language, and deal with the sadness of hospitals with shortages of qualified staff/supplies, and pediatric deaths were near daily challenges.

It was that way in the beginning. And now? We are used to power cuts and lack of water, we have friends and more friends. We have shared our journey with so many other families that have come and gone through our community, and we have met and loved so many wonderful Tanzanian co-workers. We didn't know exactly what laid before us, but we knew God was before and behind, and walking alongside us. And that was enough.

"Where can I go from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?"

If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."

- Psalm 139:7-10

God has held us fast. We can say that He has provided for us—education for the kids, friends and fellowship, meaningful work, safety and health. We are so grateful for His faithfulness to us.

#### ELCA News

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Church Council Executive Committee approved Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's request for a 4-to-6-month leave of absence. Her leave starts Nov. 17, 2023.

The Church Council appointed former bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, the Rev. Michael Burk, as Presiding Bishop Pro Tem to care for the responsibilities of the presiding bishop during her leave of absence. We give thanks for Bishop Eaton's tireless dedication and leadership and pray for her during this time of rest and rejuvenation.

#### Synod News

Synod Youth Ministry Coordinator, Pr. Nikoli Falenschek concludes his ministry in Southwestern Minnesota at the end of November.

Pr. Nikoli has been working with the synod Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) board and congregational youth and family leaders. This summer he moved to Iowa, but continued to work in the Synod Youth Ministry position. Now he has received a full-time interim call and needs to conclude his work in the synod.

The synod will be seeking temporary leadership assistance to carry forward the youth ministry.

### 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 is on the table in the narthex. The ushers will make the coffee.

### Financial

**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. **Please have all 2023 contributions in to the church office by noon Thursday, December 28.** Please do not take contributions to Prairie Sun Bank as they will not be recorded. If giving online, please do so by Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> to be processed for the 2023 year. ***We will NOT be extending the deadline for 2023 contributions into the 2024 year.*** Thank you for your contributions!



**Service Work Group 3  
decorating for Christmas**



Kviteleid 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)

