

December/January 2021-22

NEWSLETTER

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**Milnor Lutheran and
Immanuel Lutheran Churches
Rick Bryant**

Rick's Column

Greetings and Peace to you all,
As I write this letter, Thanksgiving has just passed and we are enjoying near record-high temperatures. What a blessing! It is my hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with good food, friends, and loved ones. Harvest appears to be behind us and now our farmers and ranchers can hopefully take a well-deserved rest. We are certainly blessed in so many ways in our little community.

As most of you know, several in our community have passed from this earth and have gone on to receive their Heavenly reward. Please join me in prayer for those families who have endured the loss of a loved one. Losing a loved one is one of the hardest things we ever go through, but this loss is amplified during the holiday season. Also, please let us check on our friends and neighbors periodically. The gift of a card or a phone call is one of the greatest Christmas gifts one could receive.

In church news, we are now in the season of Advent. The meaning of Advent is "coming." This is a wonderful time of the year as we anticipate Christmas and the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Christmas is always a glorious time of the year filled with anticipation and excitement for young and old. As this newsletter will serve for December and January, I sincerely hope that each and every one of you has a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to the upcoming New Year and all of promising signs that the future holds for our community and church. Thanks be to God.

On December 5th, our Sunday School kids will put on their annual Christmas program during the 9:30 service

at MLC. The kids and staff work hard on this event and it is truly a joy to watch. I hope everyone can make it! Also happening on December 5th at 2:00 p.m. is the WELCA's annual Christmas Tea. All area women are invited to this event, which will feature speaker Jana Berndt on the topic of dealing with the loss of a loved one. There will also be snacks, music, and door prizes.

We will cease confirmation for the Christmas holiday after our class on Wednesday, December 15th. We will resume confirmation classes January 5th 2022.

There will be no church service at ILC on December 26th. We will hold our annual potluck lunch after service on December 19th. The Christmas Eve service for ILC will be at 7:00 p.m. As for MLC, the Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00 p.m. There will be regular church services on Sunday, December 26th.

I would like to recognize the ladies of the Day of Doing Quilters for all of their amazing work in creating beautiful, warm blankets and quilts for folks in need. Their dedication and hard work certainly helps many stay warm through the cold winter and God is glorified greatly in this mission.

This Saturday, December 4th, I will attend my last National Guard drill and will be retiring after 27 years of service. I hope with my extra time I can devote more time to the church in service to you and God.

In closing, please remember that God is with you at all times. He knows the trials and tribulations we face and His compassion and love will never, ever fail us. May His blessings be upon you all.

Rick

PARISH PRAYER LIST

People on our prayer lists are *Steve Ellefson, Marlene Snellman, Carol Hogness, Kit Mund, Curt Mahler, Bobbi Haugen, Linda Robbins, Dan Mund, Tanner Martinson, Elsie Skarpness, Lorie Skarpness, Eileen (Schutt) Vail, Patty Cross, and Scott Warner*. Please keep them in your prayers.



December/January Birthdays

December

2 - James Foley
3 - Alison Kottke
Tallulah Schutt
Lincoln Smith
4 - Bill Pribula
5 - Teegan Olson
6 - Pat Freese
Marshall Lien
Brad Lunneborg
7 - Melinda Mund
8 - Brian Fuhrman
Blair Michels
9 - Chris Larson
10 - Dana Gainor
14 - Janis Claus
Adam Kottke
16 - Anne Ringdahl
21 - Doug Martin
22 - Allison Yagow

23 - Allen Peterson
Shelby Mund
24 - Harlan Hogness
25 - Curt Hogness
26 - Avyn Hogness
27 - Aiden Heitkamp
28 - Mary Alice Mund
29 - Dale Torreson
30 - Melissa Lunneborg
31 - Jordaan Larson
Dawn Mund
Lonnie Rotenberger

January

1 - Evelyn Banish
4 - Jennie Hanna
Jessica Heitkamp
Curt Mahler
Grace Prante
7 - Kaleb Olson
8 - Matthew Olson

10 - Vi Mahler
William Peterson
11 - Bob Schutt
Diane Wallin
13 - Jill Baldwin
15 - Kari Fuhrman
18 - Deb Schutt
19 - Kris Fuhrman
23 - Larry Moxness
Jasmine Smith
26 - Lennox Hogness
27 - Karen Krause
28 - Keith Johnson
29 - Marlene Hogness
Duane Lillestol
30 - Bryggen Martinson
Bruce Speich



Please join us!
Sunday, December 5th at 2:00 p.m.

WELCA CHRISTMAS TEA

Milnor Lutheran Church

The speaker will be Jana Sipe Berndt from Breckenridge. She is the author of the book "Finding Norm" and gives a message about hope and rediscovering joy after loss of a loved one. There will also be music, Christmas goodies, door prizes, and fellowship!

ALL AREA WOMEN ARE INVITED.
PLEASE BRING A FOOD PANTRY ITEM.

Milnor Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2021 at 7 p.m. In person/conference call

Present: Bill Pribula, Deb Wagner, DeNae Mahler, Rick Bryant, Randy Syrstad, Alisha Olson & Kelly Arth, Diane Wallin; Absent: Travers Storhaug, Myron Yagow

Devotion by Rick. Secretary and treasurer's report reviewed. Motion made by Alisha Olson to accept and approve reports, seconded by Kelly Arth. Motion carried.

Committee Business

- Worship
 - Request from Sunday School to move Communion to 2nd week of December as Christmas program is on the 5th—no concerns voiced regarding this —will let Heidi know this is ok.
 - Heidi – request off Dec 27th thru January 15th – discussed coverage during that time both as organist and secretary. Will reach out to Heidi and work on what will need to be covered.
 - Worship committee will meet in next week or two to pick hymns. Discussed possibility of putting offering hymn back into service. A request had been made for using “We are an offering” during service instead of “Create in Me”. “We are an offering” is a hymn and not part of liturgy so it would not be covered by our licensure for reprint, but this hymn could be used in rotation as offering hymn, referring congregation to the song in the hymnal, rather than reprint. Will discuss further at worship committee meeting.
- Stewardship
 - Update on Churches United: A Representative will be coming to speak to congregation December 19th. We will be collecting Christmas gifts for Churches United starting November 28th.
 - Stewardship committee is looking for suggestions for a focus for 1st Qtr 2022. If you have suggestions please reach out to Diane Wallin, DeNae Mahler or Andrea Hogness.

- Education
 - Confirmation is going good – class canceled today as members involved in State 1 act
 - Christmas Program December 5th – final practice will be December 1st at 5pm.
- Properties/Grounds & Parsonage
 - Sewer vent update—Vents were put in on both Church and parsonage.
 - Parsonage bathroom project final bills are paid – we still have a positive balance in the parsonage fund so will be looking at some further projects in new year.

Pastor's Report - Pastor will be gone the weekend of the 14th. Service will be covered by council. Several funerals the past 2 weeks and 2 more coming up.

Old Business

- Pastors Contract coming due in Dec – Bill will reach out to Heidi regarding contracts/ budgets etc

New Business

- Holiday schedule discussed. As Christmas Day falls on a Saturday this year, the decision was made to have Christmas Eve Service as normal, no service on Christmas Day, but will have normal church service that Sunday.
- There has been some concern about how to setup and troubleshoot heating/air. Bill will be speaking with Crossroads to get further instructions/demonstration so that more people are aware for how to work the system.
- Annual Meeting will be set for January 23rd

Next Meeting: December 8, 2021

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Diane Wallin, seconded by Alisha Olson, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Wagner, Secretary

MLC Financial Report:	
October Income	\$ 14,156.26
October Expenses	9,406.24
Net Income	\$ 4,750.02

December Altar Guild
Kristie Johnson and Linda Robbins

WELCA

Day of Doing Quilters will meet December 14 and 15 at 9:00 a.m.

Yarn Angels will meet December 14th at 1:00 p.m.

WELCA Christmas Tea--Sunday, December 5th, at 2:00 p.m.

Day of Doing Quilters

On Sunday, November 28th, the Day of Doing Quilters displayed many beautiful quilts and fleece blankets in the sanctuary. Some of these are being distributed right away to Sargent County Food Pantry for Christmas baskets and to Furniture Mission. Thank you to the ladies who give time and talents to this ministry and to Sophie Fuhrman for the fleece fabric for the blankets.

They continue to collect gently used clothing of all sizes and toys (but no stuffed animals) for the White Earth Reservation.

December Shepherding Schedule

Leaders: Lynn & Mary Johnson; Kevin & Danene Odegard

December 5 -- Ushers: Jasmine Smith & Family

December 12 -- Ushers: Kristie Johnson; Lector: Kristie Johnson;

Communion: Danene Odegard and Lynn Johnson

December 19 -- Ushers: Jason Kottke Family; Lector: Jason Kottke

December 24---Ushers: Melissa Bryant, Monty & Bobbi Haugen, Lonnie Rotenberger Family;

Lector: Linda Schutt; Communion Assistant: Melissa Bryant

December 26-- Ushers: _____; Lector: Linda Schutt



Christmas Poinsettias

MLC members wanting to donate toward Christmas poinsettias in memory of or in honor of loved ones or friends should contact Kristie Johnson (427-5259) or Connie Robbins (427-5536) by December 12th.

Volunteers Needed/Senior Meals

Milnor Lutheran congregation will be responsible for delivering Valley Senior Services meals in Milnor, every other month beginning January 2022. Volunteers are needed! Delivering the meals usually takes about 20 to 30 minutes. Deliveries are ready to go at 11:30 AM and are served Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday each week. If you can help, whether for a day or two or for an entire 4-day week, please call Lone Foley, 427-9409 or 640-6237. Thank you for your help!

This is a wonderful program to have in our community. Usage helps ensure it will continue to be available in Milnor. You can eat in at the center, pick it up yourself to eat at home, or have it delivered. To begin receiving meals, or for more information on Valley Senior Services programs, please contact Resource Specialist Morgan Biss at 683-3131.

Milnor Lutheran Sunday School

Worship Service - 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School - 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.

- There will be a practice for the Christmas program on Wednesday, December 1st, at 5:00 p.m.
- The Christmas program will be Sunday, December 5th, during the worship service (9:30 a.m.)
Rolls, juice and coffee will be served after the program for a free will donation to Sunday School.
- After the program, we will be on Christmas break until January 9, 2022.

*If you have questions about Sunday School, please contact
Greta Buskohl (427-5646) or Mary Yagow (427-5023).*



MLC SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

*You are invited to our Sunday School Christmas Program,
which will be part of our worship service
on Sunday, December 5th, at 9:30 a.m.
The Sunday School will be serving rolls, juice, and coffee afterwards
for a free will donation.
Everyone welcome!*

MLC MEMORIALS

In memory of Theo James Biss

From: Steve & Celeste Metzen (Yarn Angels)

In memory of Janet Carlson

From: Allen & Joan Peterson (WELCA)

In memory of Julie Gathman

From: Monty & Bobbi Haugen (Yarn Angels)

In memory of Todd Goolsbey

From: Marshall & Rachel Lien (ML Cemetery)

In memory of Pat Crider Kjar

From: Curt & Vi Mahler (Yarn Angels)

In memory of Duane Peterson

From: Mervin & Karen Wohler (MLC)

In memory of Ashly Odegard

From: Monty & Bobbi Haugen (Yarn Angels)
John & Marilyn Lunneborg (Sunday School)
Curt & Vi Mahler (Yarn Angels)
Mervin & Karen Wohler (MLC)
Myron & Lori Yagow (MLC)

In memory of Gary Olson

From: Steve & Andrea Hogness (MLC Improvement)
John & Marilyn Lunneborg (Sunday School)
Curt & Vi Mahler (Yarn Angels)
Mervin & Karen Wohler (MLC)
Myron & Lori Yagow (Sunday School)

In memory of Jim Robbins

From: Jon & Kim Mund (MLC)
Mervin & Karen Wohler (MLC)
Myron & Lori Yagow (MLC)

Churches United Giving Tree at MLC

Milnor Lutheran's stewardship focus currently is Churches United, an organization in Fargo-Moorhead that provides help for today and hope for tomorrow to people in need. Read on to learn more about this amazing source of blessing in this area.

Churches United

Founded in 1987, Churches United is a non-profit that was started by a group of local churches and faith communities to support community by addressing the rising homeless crises in the area. We provide shelter, support, and case management services for families, men, and women. We are open to people of any faith or non-faith guests. Our mission is to provide safe shelter, stable housing, nutritious food, and a path toward healing for our neighbors in need.

We strive to move residents from shelters to stable housing as quickly as possible. All those experiencing homelessness have case managers who help guide them into safe and affordable housing, access to two full-time shelter nurses, and the support of advocates who help provide for daily needs such as diapers, laundry detergent, hygiene products, and a listening ear as they adjust to community in the shelters and apartments.

Originally, Churches United was one site. In 2018, CU joined with Dorothy Day and now has 6 sites.

- Micah's Mission Shelter and Community Center (shelter for men, women, and families) -This is the only shelter in the area that houses male-headed families and does not separate the father from the family
- Dorothy Day House (shelter for men)
- Safe Haven (shelter for unaccompanied women)
- Bright Sky Apartments (permanent supportive housing)
- Dorothy Day Food Pantry – Moorhead (choice model pantry)
- Dorothy Day Food Pantry – West Fargo (food distribution site) -We just moved this pantry to a new location in West Fargo and it is the largest fresh food pantry in ND
- Silver Linings Apartments (permanent supportive housing for seniors 55+)

Between the 6 sites, CU serves about 425 people every single day. We will open a 7th site - Silver Linings Apartments (permanent supportive housing for Seniors) in 2022.

Some statistics: In 2020, there were 19,178 different households helped by our food pantries, 1.6 million pounds of food was distributed at the pantries, 769 unique individuals who used our shelters, 2,197 client appointments with our Shelter Nurse, and a total of 19,989 night guests who slept at our shelter.

A gift list of needed items for Churches United is on the last page of this newsletter. Unwrapped gifts should be delivered to the church by December 19 and placed in the tote in the entry.



Immanuel Lutheran Church

December

Worship Services:

Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

December Ushers: Bud Kuehn and Mike Martinson

December Altar Guild: Linda Martinson

Communion: December 5th

IMMANUEL COUNCIL MINUTES

November 17, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Joel Halvorson. Members present were Joel Halvorson, Brenda Gibbon, and Derek Martinson.

The Secretary's report was read and approved. The Treasurer's report was read and approved. It was noted that the church insurance has been paid for the year.

Old Business:

- The Pancake Brunch was discussed. Net proceeds were \$950.51.
- Possible improvements to the small shed were discussed. Arlin does not have any information yet.
- Church electrical issues were discussed. More information is needed. This was tabled until the next meeting.

New Business:

- We discussed having a speaker from Churches United on December 19th (the speaker will be sharing information at Milnor Lutheran that day). The Council voted not to participate. We will hold a regular service that day.
- The Christmas Eve Service will be held Friday, December 24th, at 7:00 p.m.
- The congregation will be polled to see about a date for a possible Christmas program/potluck and whether or not to hold services on Sunday, December 26th.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be December 15th at 7:00 p.m.

Joel Halvorson
Council President

IMMANUEL CHRISTMAS EVENTS

A Christmas Potluck Dinner will be held after the morning worship service on Sunday, December 19th. Please plan to attend and bring food to share.

The Christmas Eve Service will be held Friday, December 24th, at 7:00 p.m.

There will not be a worship service on Sunday, December 26th.

Churches United Gift Ideas

Kid Gift Ideas

- ❖ Barbies
- ❖ Legos
- ❖ Craft Supplies
- ❖ Dolls
- ❖ Toy Cars
- ❖ LOL Dolls
- ❖ Superhero Toys
- ❖ Dinosaurs
- ❖ Coloring Books

Adult Gift Ideas

- ❖ Gift cards
 - ❖ Burger King
 - ❖ Cashwise
 - ❖ Hornbacher's
 - ❖ Casey's
 - ❖ Walmart
 - ❖ Target
 - ❖ Bus Passes
- ❖ Bath & Body Works Set
- ❖ Travel Mugs
- ❖ Pajamas
- ❖ Arts & Crafts Kits (Adults & Children)
- ❖ Sports Balls
- ❖ Movie Tickets
- ❖ Headphones
- ❖ Adult Backpack
- ❖ Adult Coloring Book
- ❖ Gel Pens

Stocking Stuffers

- ❖ Pocket Flashlight
- ❖ Deck of Cards
- ❖ Word Finds
- ❖ Sudokus
- ❖ Crosswords
- ❖ Fuzzy Socks
- ❖ Wool Socks
- ❖ Hair Accessories
- ❖ Chap Stick
- ❖ Batteries
- ❖ Zippo Lighter
- ❖ Instant Coffee/Tea
- ❖ Hot Cocoa
- ❖ Fidget Toys
- ❖ Winter Gear Sets

Ongoing Needs

- ❖ Belts
- ❖ Sports Bras
- ❖ New Underwear for adults & children
- ❖ Bath Towels
- ❖ Blankets
- ❖ Twin Sheet Sets
- ❖ Shampoo
- ❖ Conditioner
- ❖ Deodorant
- ❖ Razors
- ❖ Hairbrushes
- ❖ Ethnic Hair Care Products

JANUARY 2022 CALENDAR ITEMS

Wednesday, January 5	3:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class resumes
Sunday, January 9	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School resumes
Sunday, January 23	9:30 a.m.	MLC Annual Meeting following worship (Please have reports to the office by January 16th)
Sunday, January 31	11:00 a.m.	ILC Annual Meeting following worship (Please have reports to the office by January 23rd)

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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