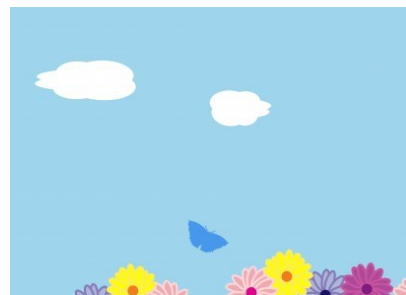


June 2020

NEWSLETTER



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

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• **Summer Office Hours:** 9am - Noon--Mon. and Thurs.
• **Office Phone:** (701) 427-9273
• **Rick's cell:** (701) 680-1966; Parsonage: 427-5524
• **e-mail address:** mlchurch@drtel.net
• **Rick's e-mail:** bryant@drtel.net
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• **MLC Website:** www.milnorlutheran.com
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Rick's Column

Greetings and peace to you all! It is my hope that this newsletter finds you all doing well. As I write this, the weather has been absolutely beautiful and today we reached almost 100 degrees! I hope that our area farmers have been able to accomplish their planting and other field tasks to get them started on a path to a great year. Our community seems to be slowly returning to normal and it appears that the worst of the Covid pandemic is behind us. It is gratifying to see the children going to the pool, folks gathering at the Keg for ice cream, and families enjoying the outdoors together.

Unfortunately, in the past week, we have lost two beloved members of our church family. Arlene Lillestol and Charles Ellefson have both left us and have received their promise of eternal salvation and now reside in the glorious heavens with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. They will be missed dearly, but we are also thankful for having shared in their lives and blessed that God granted them over 90 years of making all of us richer. Please join me in continued prayers for their families that God may grant them comfort and peace.

Unfortunately, there is no shortage of things to be praying for these days. Our great country is going through troubled times with civil unrest and anger in the hearts of many. When you pray to our Almighty God, please ask that HE bring calm, peace, and understanding to the troubled communities that are experiencing anger and

hatred toward others. Let us pray that all people learn to love one another and treat one another with respect and compassion. In our small community it may seem like there is not much we can do, but our prayers will be heard and can make a difference. We are told in **Ephesians 4:32** to *"Be kind and compassionate to one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ."* May God bless this great nation of ours.

We have resumed in-person worship services at Immanuel Church and it is wonderful to worship in person again and catch up with one another. Services at Immanuel will continue each Sunday 8:00 a.m. In-person services at Milnor Lutheran will resume on June 7th at 9:30 a.m. with several precautions implemented to keep folks safe. These measures are printed in this newsletter. I am beyond excited to see you all again and to praise God with you in our House of Worship. I would just recommend if you are not feeling well to please stay home and err on the side of caution. During the trying times of this pandemic, the good will, compassion, and generosity of our church family toward others just reaffirmed my knowing that a person could not live in a better community. The Good Lord has seen fit to keep us all safe and well during Covid-19 for the most part. Thanks be to God.

I wish to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone in our church community. During these past few months, working together, we have shown resolve

and that we have what it takes to ensure that our church and community will continue to thrive despite the hardships that we face. In light of everything, it is a great and glorious life that we live. Each day that God grants us is a true blessing, and the world is still a beautiful place with good

people and an abundance of joy and blessings still to be had. There are many more wondrous things to come. This I know for sure.

May God bless you all.

Rick

PARISH PRAYER LIST

People on our prayer lists are *Mitch Sebens, Bobbi Haugen, Jim Robbins, Stormey Martin, Jodi Albaugh, Mary Alice Mund, Norma Brekke, Ron Lillestol, McKayla Keelan, and the families and friends of Arlene Lillestol, Charles Ellefson, and Cleone Swanberg (Gary Wallin's sister, who died of complications of COVID-19).* Please keep them in your prayers.



June Birthdays

1 - Ed Larson
Kayley Peterson
2 - Judy Kleingarn
Randy Odegard
4 - Kala Banish
Shannon Berndt
7 - Toni Claus
8 - Curt Anderson
Jodi Widhalm
9 - Gail McCleery

10 - Levi Buskohl
Ryan Mund
11 - Linda Costain
Sharon Gainor
Steve Mund
Darla Schutt
14 - John Kottke
Kit Mund
15 - Kathy Ellefson

16 - Kelly Arth
Celeste Metzen
17 - Sofia Hanna
Glen Koeppe
20 - Morgan Mund
21 - LaVerne Colby
24 - Linda Robbins
28 - Chase Johnson
Dennis Odegard
29 - Tammy Bernhardt
Mary Moxness

Online Giving

If you would like to donate to our churches online, you can do so following these instructions:

- 1) Go to tithe.ly
- 2) Click on "Sign up for free in 5 minutes."
- 3) Select "Give to my church."

Click the "Give Online" button. You must create an account – it is the same one you can use as an app on your phone or on their website. Select Milnor Lutheran Church or Immanuel Lutheran Church. You can set up a recurring donation, or simply make a one-time contribution.

MLC Church Council Decision Regarding Resuming Worship on June 7th!

On May 26 the Council met (via telephone) to once again discuss resuming worship services. With no active cases of COVID-19 in Sargent County, the council decided to start services again on June 7 at 9:30. If you don't feel comfortable coming back at this time, we understand and will continue to miss you. If you are ready to worship together again, we welcome you and share these guidelines:

*Thoroughly wash hands at home. A limited amount of hand sanitizer is available in the narthex. Bringing your own supply will be helpful.

*Masks are strongly suggested. Due to high demand, masks will not be provided. Please bring your own.

*Only the main entrance will be accessible. It will be propped open (weather permitting) before and at the close of the service. Restrict bathroom usage to the bathrooms in the fellowship hall.

*Bulletins will be available, spaced apart, in the narthex. Take them with you after the service.

*Hymnals have been removed from the sanctuary and stacked in the narthex. Choose your hymnal(s) to use during this worship service (and future services) and to mark your self-assigned seating in the sanctuary. Use a sticky note to attach your name(s) to your chosen hymnal(s). Next, be seated while socially distancing at least six feet from other members.

*For safety there will be no greeting, ushering, physically sharing the peace or coffee fellowship, no Holy Communion at this time. Shepherding Families have been asked to invite readers. To help keep the Bryant household safe, Rick will not greet members after the service.

*The offering plate will be on the piano. Offering may be placed there before or after worship, or done online.

*When the service is over, social distancing should be practiced. Please leave the church directly. Visiting may be done outside at safe distances.

*Please do not attend worship if you have any type of illness or symptoms of COVID-19.

CDC guidelines have been modified recently with the most concern being centered on transmitting the virus orally. It appears "droplets" can remain in the atmosphere for some time and six feet distancing is a bare minimum. For that reason we strongly encourage the use of masks. For that reason we are excluding singing at this time. Discussion continues on how to incorporate music into the worship services. If you have vocal or instrumental offerings you'd like to share, please contact Heidi.

This is an exciting, cautious time for our congregation. If you feel safe in doing so, come join us in worshiping our risen Lord in this season of Pentecost. As always, stay faithful, stay safe, stay well and continue to pray for our planet, country and community.

Milnor Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

May 26th, 2020 @ 7 p.m. (conference call)

Present: Andrea Hogness, Don Nelson, Randy Syrstad, Diane Wallin, Travers Storhaug, Myron Yagow & Alisha Olson; Absent: Kelly Arth, Lonnie Rotenberger & Rick Bryant

Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 10th and May 5th:

Motion to approve from Randy, Alisha seconded, all in favor

Treasurer's Report for March & April: Motion to approve from Diane, Alisha seconded, all in favor

Main Discussion of Re-Opening:

- When to reopen?
 - Council had wanted to give it the month of May & revisit using county positive case numbers as part of the decision factor. There have been 3 cases diagnosed & all 3 are recovered (as of date of meeting)
 - Immanuel has been going well; they have offering plate & bulletins in the back
 - Catholic Church in Milnor started 3 weeks ago & going well-doing additional cleaning & wearing masks
 - Gwinner is only doing drive-in services through the summer
- Precautions discussed:
 - Decision was made to resume in person service starting on June 7th
 - Discussions were had on having a projector type service instead of bulletins and get the entire service including hymns on a Word or PPT document. We would need to get a copyright license for this which is \$200 for an annual license to avoid copyright violations. Discussion was held and because of the most recent CDC guidelines, decision was made to continue with bulletins and hymnals which will be placed in narthex with sticky notes for congregation members to 'check out-library style' and put by their reserved spot in the pew so both church spaces & hymnal books can be reserved each week
 - No fellowship following church
 - No sharing of the peace (by shaking hands)
 - No greeters or ushers
- We will see if Rick could put a brick in front of the door while people are entering & he would close after the service starts. Use only main entrance door (members do not use other doors to enter)
- Diane will reach out to the shepherding group leaders to let them know that we only need a reader at this time. If they are unable to obtain a reader, Rick will request a volunteer at service, read himself, or have congregation read silently
- Communion will be discussed again at a later date, there is too much risk at this time with serving communion
- Don will reach out to Barb about additional cleaning in the sanctuary and bathrooms after each service. Since there will be no fellowship, no cleaning needed in fellowship hall
- The council will check if we can make masks available for members to use but due to high demand, we will need to encourage members to bring their own.
- Travers will check with Gordy's to see if we can get pre hand sanitizer, but again members are encouraged to bring their own
- Social distancing guidelines apply
 - Members are encouraged to select their spot at church and put a hymnal with stick note by their spot to reserve that space
 - Hands should be washed thoroughly
- June Newsletter to go out with above guidelines

Committee Business

- Worship & Shepherding (Kelly, Lonnie)
 - New process of worship set up
- Stewardship (Diane, Andrea)
 - New process of worship set up
 - Church sponsored parking lot for Great Plains Food distribution in April & next is scheduled for June 3rd. Andrea posted event on our Facebook page & posted for volunteers
 - Senior Recognition to congratulate our seniors was posted on Facebook

- Education (Randy, Alisha)
 - Confirmation & First Communion - Will wait to see how starting services back up goes and keep discussing. It will happen, it's just a matter of when! Reformation Sunday was mentioned as possibility which is at the end of October
- Properties/Grounds/Parsonage (Myron, Travers, Don)
 - Parsonage sewer bill will be in soon
 - Parsonage Yard next steps will be discussed at next meeting after some rock is removed
 - Church mowing is being done by Lincoln Smith. Due to COVID-19 and sewer expenses, Lincoln has offered to donate his time to the church this year for mowing. Council is very appreciative but has suggested that he keep track of how many times he mows so that we can still pay him at the end of the year as we know more about our expenses.

Pastor's Report

- Pastor Rick on vacation

Old Business

- Sound System update from Randy. Site on Sound came to the church in May and provided a quote. The estimate is between \$3-4,000. With this quote there could be 7-8 speakers throughout the church including fellowship hall and kitchen. This topic will be revisited when we can determine if we can obtain funds to help pay for it

New Business

- Stained glass windows- there is trim that is looking bad, needs sanding & small paint job. Will ask for volunteers on newsletter and Facebook

Next Meeting: Normally scheduled for Wednesday, June 10th, but since we just had meeting will have via conference call on Tuesday, June 23rd, 7 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Diane, Randy seconded, all in favor

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Hogness
Secretary

MLC Financial Report

May Income	\$ 11,244.51
May Expenses	5,616.38
Net Gain	5,628.13
Year-to-Date Gain	\$ 20,802.38

MLC MEMORIALS

In memory of Paulette Lien

From: Curt & Vi Mahler (MLC)
Gary & Phylis Springer (MLC)
Gary & Pat Olson (MLC)

In memory of Josephine Herbst

From: Andrea & Steve Hogness (MLC Improvement)

In memory of Neola Cross

From: Neola's Family (Yarn Angels)

In memory of Francis Lee

From: Monty & Bobbi Haugen (Yarn Angels)
Marjorie Johnson (Yarn Angels)
Steve & Celeste Metzen (Yarn Angels)

In memory of Suzi Lee

From: Monty & Bobbi Haugen (Yarn Angels)

In memory of Rosemarie Gregor

From: Phyllis Gelinske (Yarn Angels)

In memory of Karen Johnson

From: Steve & Celeste Metzen (Yarn Angels)

In memory of Arvid Kjos

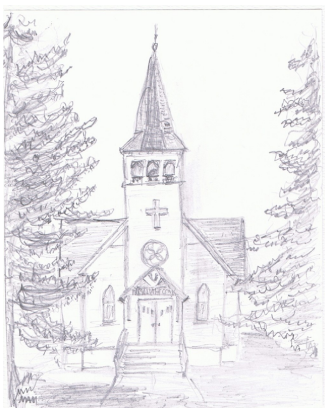
From: Phyllis Gelinske (Yarn Angels)

Volunteer Needed

The Council is looking for a volunteer to sand and paint the outside trim around the stained glass windows at the back of the sanctuary. If you can help, please contact the church office or a Council member.

Day of Doing

Day of Doing Quilters will meet June 16 & 17 at 9:00 a.m. They continue to collect children's clothing for the Reservation at Sisseton. Donations are currently stored in the library/cry room.



Immanuel Lutheran Church

June

Worship Services:

Sundays at 8:00 a.m. through August

Usher: Dan Krause

Altar Guild: Karen Krause

Communion Server: Paul Mund (June 7th)

Bridal Shower

There will be a come-and-go bridal shower for Mikaela Lien, bride-to-be of Wyatt Mund, at Immanuel Lutheran Church on Thursday, June 11th, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wyatt & Mikaela are registered at Target, Bed Bath & Beyond, and Williams Sonoma.



*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help
in trouble.*

Therefore, we will not fear....

*The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is
our refuge.*

Be still, and know that I am God!

*I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the
earth.*

Psalm 46:1-2a, 7, 10

Attention Confirmation Students: Seventh graders beginning Confirmation this fall may begin filling out and turning in Sermon Notes this summer. Sermon note forms are in the entry on a clip board in the display rack. Fill them out making sure that you include your name and date. Fold them and place in the white basket on the counter.