

November 2022
NEWSLETTER



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

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
www.Facebook.com/Milnor Lutheran Church
MLC Website: www.milnorlutheran.com

Rick's Column

Greetings and Peace to you all,

It is my hope and prayer that this newsletter finds you all well! As I write this letter, the weather has been cooler, but still warmer than usual for this time of year. The Lord has blessed us with great weather for harvesting and harvest should be completed soon. The Minnesota Vikings are having a great year and deer gun season starts next Friday. What a wonderful time of the year and we all are filled with many blessings. Thanks be to God.

On the church front, we all were saddened with the passing of Duane Lillestol. Duane passed at 91 years of age and he enriched all of our lives with his kindness, compassion, and love of God. He will be missed greatly.

On Oct 9th the annual fall WELCA Bazaar was held at MLC and was a great success. Many enjoyed the delicious soup and sandwiches and brought home the home baked goods that were offered for sale. What a great event and a great cause. We are so blessed to have our WELCA ladies.

Moving forward, church services will continue to be at 9:30 a.m. for MLC and 11:00 a.m. at Immanuel. We have started confirmation classes and we have an energetic group of eight youth who are eager to learn about what it means to be a Lutheran and a Christian. I cherish each Wednesday spent with them. Sunday school and our children's sermons will continue at MLC. May God bless the children and the amazing Sunday school staff.

On November 6 we will celebrate All Saints Sunday at both churches. We will light candles and remember all of the loved ones we have lost in the past year. November 6th is also "Fill the Pantry Blitz." This an effort to completely fill the Sargent County Food Pantry before winter sets in. Let's all bring food items, which will glorify God and get those shelves filled. On November 13th, Bryce Hogness will entertain us at MLC with his guitar playing and amazing singing voice. This will be a treat. Bryce is so talented.

I will be on vacation on November 13th. There will be no confirmation on November 16th and November 23rd.

I would like to thank the council members of both churches and everyone who works behind the scenes to help me and support me. Words cannot express my gratitude. I would also like to thank the congregation for all of your support, help, prayers, and encouragement. I am so blessed to be your pastor.

It is my hope that you all have a great Thanksgiving. Let us take time to remember how blessed we are.

In closing, I offer these words of hope from **James 1:12**: "*Blessed is a man who endures trials, because when he passed the test he will received the crown of life that He has promised those who love him.*"

May the God of love and mercy be with you all.

Rick

PARISH PRAYER LIST

People on our prayer lists are *Pastor Elwood Skarpness, Toni Claus, Mary Alice Mund, Lorie Skarpness, and Mary Engst*. Please keep them in your prayers. If you or your loved one would like to be on our prayer list, please contact the church office.



1 - Aubree Peterson
Don Wehlander
3 - Elmer Aabrekke
4 - Ernest Roder
5 - Kolten Kadoun
6 - Amy Kuehn
8 - Mary Johnson
9 - Vickie Berndt
10 - Tom Mund

10 - Blake Yagow
11 - Adam Baldwin
Orvin Hogness
15 - Tina Johnson
Chloe Smith
Karen Wohler
16 - Hap McCleery
17 - Cannon Ferderer

18 - Pat Olson
Macy Roeder
19 - Haiken Martinson
21 - Dorothy Pribula
23 - Annette Hudson
26 - Kris Lien
27 - Leah Buskohl
Lu Diede
28 - Josie Rotenberger

FILL THE PANTRY BLITZ SARGENT COUNTY FOOD PANTRY Sunday, November 6, 2022

MLC is participating in a church-based, county-wide drive to help restock the Sargent County Food Pantries, Gwinner and Forman locations. Below is a list of food items needed. Please pick up a few extra groceries for those in need and bring them to MLC on or before November 6th.

Canned vegetables	Ketchup	Pancake mix & syrup
Canned fruit	Mustard	Juice (shelf-stable)
Canned meat	Mayo	Cereal
Canned beans	Pasta	Cake and cookie mixes
Canned soups	Rice	Jello and pudding cups
Hamburger Helper	Pasta sauce	Laundry soap
Mac 'n Cheese	Flour	Dish soap
Stuffing mix	Sugar	Toilet Paper and tissues
Peanut butter	Vegetable oil	Paper towels

Time Change

**Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 6th.
Remember to set your clocks back an hour on Saturday night.**

Milnor Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Bill Pribula, Randy Syrstad, DeNae Mahler, Alisha Olson, Jason Kottke, Deb Wagner; Absent: Travers Storhaug. Meeting was opened with Devotion.

Approval of Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's report from June: Diane reached out to Grace regarding Endowment Fund money that was listed on Treasurers report as that should be listed under Parsonage fund. Motion to approve both reports with the above correction noted was made by Diane and seconded by Randy, Motion carried.

Committee Business

- Worship – November 13th Pastor will be gone. Darrell Costain will be with us sharing with us Furniture Mission of Red River Valley. Deb will reach out to him to see what equipment will be needed for his presentation. Deb will also lead service that day.
- Stewardship – 4th Qtr mission is Furniture mission of Red River Valley.
- Education – Sunday School has started. There was a great turnout for children singing on Grandparents Sunday.
- Properties/Grounds & Parsonage
 - Altar Windows – (standing item- waiting on contractor)
 - Exterior wood on bottom of the stained-glass windows. (Standing item- waiting on contractor)
 - Landscape cement timbers for flower beds- October 29th they will be bringing cement timbers into town. The plan is to replace this early spring prior to planting if unable to install on 29th.
 - Basement Project update – Patty Ellefson will stain door and baseboards. Melissa will be painting the paneled wall. Contractor is scheduled to start on basement in November.
 - Church floor tile – Diane found several possibilities from Re-Store; they will be a different color. Will investigate this further.
 - Lights on the altar – Checked with Crossroads regarding lift to change out lights. What they have won't fit through the doors. Bill reached out to MAAC and they will allow us to use their lift. Bill will pick up bulbs in Fargo and plan to change them out next week.
- Closet door is fixed.

Pastor's Report: Starting confirmation next week. Smaller class this year with 8 students between the 2 years. Pastor informed the council that he received a notification from Wartburg that there has been a change in TEAM classes. Based on the changes they are requiring an increase in cost of classes, retroactive to all the classes that he has already taken so we currently owe more money. Will use the current money outlined for continuing education in budget to cover that cost. Pastor is not currently enrolled in any classes this fall as those available have already been taken. He still has 11 credits left to complete with several being 4 day intensives where he will have to go to Dubuque, IA. Will update council as he hears more. We will need to look at this increased cost when planning budget for next year.

Old Business

- Large TV for fellowship hall update – Ordered, pick up 10/13/22. Bill will pick up wall mount. Still looking into possibility of camera with direct connection into Fellowship hall.
- Built-in cabinets fellowship hall – or Library/Cry Room update. We have talked to a couple of people – waiting on a bid to be completed.
- Outlet/network connection in Fellowship Hall - no update, waiting on Crossroads.
- Laptop purchase for Pastor – after reviewing current needs, Pastor declines any need for new device currently. Will revisit as needed.
- Hot water in kitchen – no update currently. Randy will contact plumbers to see options.
- Bishop's visit went well.

New Business

- Pastor's Contract is coming up again in Dec. Bill will work with Grace on that.
- Motion was made to adjourn meeting by Randy and seconded by DeNae. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: Thursday November 10th @ 6pm

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Wagner, Council Secretary

September Income	\$12,008.65
September Expenses	9,893.98
Net Income	2,114.67
Year-to-Date	\$20,404.09

November Altar Guild
Deb Schutt & Jasmine Smith

Day of Doing Quilters will meet November 15th and 16th at 9:00 a.m.

Yarn Angels will meet November 8th and 22nd at 1:00 p.m.

WELCA will meet Monday, November 14th, at 10:00 a.m.

Save the Date!

Sunday, December 4th at 2:00 p.m.

WELCA CHRISTMAS TEA

Milnor Lutheran Church

The speaker will be Jocelyn Birkliid, Miss Teen North Dakota. Her platform topic presentation will be "Feeding America- Operation Give Back".

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

MLC MEMORIALS

In memory of Diana Crandall

From Linda Costain (ML Cemetery)

Anissa & Brent Gregor (ML Cemetery)

Bobbi & Monty Haugen (Yarn Angels)

Andrea & Steve Hogness (ML Improvement)

Curt & Vi Mahler (ML Cemetery)

Blair & Lynne Michels (ML Cemetery)

Myron & Lori Yagow (Sunday School)

In memory of Nicolle Toso

From Myron & Lori Yagow (Sunday School)

Milnor Lutheran Sunday School

Worship Service - 9:30 a.m.

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

-Sunday School will not be held on November 6th, 13th or 27th.

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

Sunday School Lunches

November 6th--Miley L, Taylor & Kaleb O,
Ellyn S, Finn B, Rilyn E

November 13th--Greyson A, Asher & Briar R,
Tallulah S, Gwyn K, Lyla H



Luther League

-Confirmation class will not meet on November 16th or 23rd.

-The deadline for ordering Christmas wreaths is Friday, November 4th. There's an order list on the counter at MLC or you can call Jasmine Smith at 427-5038 or 540-8003.

-There are still cookbooks for sale. The price is \$20, with proceeds going to Luther League. Please call Jasmine at 427-5038 or 540-8003.

-We are looking for parents/members who would be willing to take over leadership of our Luther League program. Please talk to Rick or a council member if you're interested.

Help Us Fight Blood Cancer!

Join the Be the Match (<https://bethematch.org/>) registry to donate marrow or stem cells. **We are hosting a virtual drive.** A blood stem cell donation can be a cure for blood cancer, sickle cell, and other deadly diseases.

Guidelines to register:

- you must be **between the ages of 18-40**
- you must meet the health guidelines
- you must be willing to donate to anyone you are a match for

Please see the end of this article for more information about how to register to be a donor. The drive will last until the end of December.

In April 2022, Steve Ellefson, member of Milnor Lutheran Church, passed away from a long journey from the diagnosis of Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS). His 60th birthday would've been upcoming on November 24, 2022. Steve left behind his wife Debbe; daughters Shannon (Scott) Berndt, SaRae Ellefson, Sharlie (Trent) Toso and his grandchildren Layton, Paisley, Vaiah, Hailyn, and Tripp, all who called him Papa and were his pride and joy. In memory of Steve, we are sponsoring a stem cell/bone marrow drive through Be the Match (<https://bethematch.org/>) which is a national marrow donor program.

Steve's journey: It all began in October 2020 with severe stomach pains. This resulted in Steve taking a trip to the ER. From that ER visit, his blood count was low which led to further tests. From October to December there was a lot of testing and waiting. Steve was diagnosed with MDS in December 2020, and after being diagnosed Steve did several rounds of chemo in order to try to clean the blood, resulting in red blood cell count improvement. He was at 7.3 when he was diagnosed (normal is 14 -17.5 for males). When his blood count was low, he would need to get blood transfusions to improve his energy levels. In September 2021, the stem cell transplant preparation started at University of Minnesota Medical Center (M Health Fairview which is part of a nonprofit integrated health system). The transplant procedure was on October 5th and he stayed in the hospital until October 28th. After the transplant, Steve had to stay within 30 minutes from the hospital at all times and have a caretaker so Steve & his wife, Debbe, made their temporary home at The Residence Inn Hotel which was approximately 5 minutes from the hospital. He had daily appointments at first and those progressed to a few times a week. Debbe had to take care of the saline flushes once per day on the days he didn't have appointments. Steve was supposed to get to 100% but only got to 67% so in December, it was determined he had to do it again. His next transplant was January 28th and he was released on February 13th. On March 16th, Graft vs Host Disease (GVHD) set in. The doctors were treating this, and he was in the hospital with this until April 8th and then he had a stroke. He took a turn for the worse after that. Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS) is a group of bone marrow disorders in which the bone marrow does not produce enough healthy blood cells. The bone marrow functions as a factory that manufactures three kinds of blood cells: red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets. Healthy bone marrow produces immature blood cells called stem cells, progenitor cells, or blasts that normally develop into mature, fully functional red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets. In MDS, these stem cells may not mature and may accumulate in the bone marrow or they may have a shortened life span, resulting in fewer than normal mature blood cells in the circulation. MDS is not inherited. In fact, it is a very rare occasion when family members, including siblings, are diagnosed with MDS.

Doctors match bone marrow donors to patients based on their human leukocyte antigen (HLA) tissue type. It was explained to Steve & Debbe that in a world of Fords, Chevys, and Cadillacs, Steve was a Lamborghini (rare). His **one and only** donor was a 57 year-old female and she was an international donor (outside of the U.S.).

The process of a donor is actually very simple when you consider you could be saving a life! If you are chosen as a match, there are 2 ways to donate. The most common is Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Donation. In the 5 days leading up to the donation, you will be given injections of a drug (Filgrastin) that will increase the number of stem cells in your bloodstream. Some of your blood is removed through a needle in one arm and passed through a machine that

separates out the blood forming cells. The remaining blood is returned to the other arm. The 2nd way occurs about 15% of the time when the doctor will request a marrow donation. This is an outpatient procedure that takes about 1 hour. You do not feel any pain as you are under anesthesia. The recovery for this procedure should not prevent you from normal daily activities; most donors will feel sore only for a few days.

When you sign up online, you will receive a swab kit at your home, and you swab your own inner cheek and the kit will be returned in a postage-paid envelope. To sign up, click on the QR code below or text ELF to 61474 (Elf was Steve's famous nickname). Remember, you must be between the ages of 18-40.



A marrow or stem cell transplant may be someone's only hope for a cure. Learn how marrow donation works, the steps of a patient transplant, steps of donation, and factors that can impact the likelihood of finding a match. See <https://bethematch.org/transplant-basics/> for more details.

Any questions can be directed to Andrea Hogness – 680-0246 or andrea.hogness@gmail.com

Milnor Lutheran Stewardship Committee – Andrea Hogness, DeNae Martinson, & Diane Wallin



Immanuel Lutheran Church

November

***Ushers: Dan Mund, Landon & Wyatt Mund
Altar Guild: Dawn Mund and Melinda Mund***

Communion: November 6th

Worship: 11:00 a.m. every Sunday