

April 2026

NEWSLETTER



**Milnor Lutheran &
Immanuel Lutheran Churches
Rick Bryant**

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Rick's Column

Greetings and Peace to you all,

When I was serving in Afghanistan, a common sight from the helicopter I traveled around in were shepherds, grazing their sheep in a river bottom valley. In scripture, Jesus talked a lot about shepherds. A native of Afghanistan told me that the shepherds had a name for each one of his sheep, and when he called, the sheep would come. Without a doubt the shepherd loved those sheep. He took care of them, and they provided for him and his family. They had an understanding and a relationship.

From what I know about human beings, we are all desperate for relationships. Relationships give us knowledge that we are not traveling alone. One of the most common things I hear people say when faced with divorce or the death of a loved one is, "I'm terrified of being alone." That is one of beautiful things about our churches. We are family, we are friends, and we are neighbors. We feel loved, because we are.

Human relationships are a great blessing, but the fact remains that we need more. We all have a void within us that no human relationship can ever fulfill. That is, because we are created for relationship with God—the shepherds voice that we know and the shepherd who takes the sheep to where the lush pasture is.

When I was in my 20's, my faith suffered. I became distant from God in the busyness of life.

I must admit, at first it was liberating. No more bothering to pray, no more going to church when there were more enjoyable things to do, no more worrying about sin. Promptly, I entered one of the darkest chapters of my life. Rock bottom came and through God's grace, I understood that I needed the good shepherd to take care of me. Jesus tells us, "I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." Our friends, neighbors, and family are such blessings to us, and we should thank God for them. But they alone can never fulfill what we truly long for. Alongside them, we need God to make our lives complete and whole. God is only one who can lead us out to find pasture. It is biblical and we all know deep down it is truth. All of us here in our amazing church family are blessed beyond measure. We have a loving and caring Good Shepherd who laid down His life for us. We are His precious sheep, and He will never abandon us to have to fend for ourselves. He will guide us to where we need to go, because he promised to. And so, let us listen for His voice, and there, we will find rest and peace in the arms of our Good Shepherd, and we will wander no more. May the God of mercy and love be with you all.

Rick



PARISH PRAYER LIST

People currently on our prayer lists are *Dan Mund, Weston Gregor, Lisa Bershok, Jill Wehlander, Greg & Arlis McFarland, Darren Wipf*

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.

We all walk through joys and burdens that aren't always visible, and everyone of us stands in need of prayer in one way or another. As we move through the days ahead, may we hold one another gently in our thoughts and lift each other in faithfully in prayer.

"Carry each other's burdens and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ."
-Galatians 6:2

April Birthdays



- 2 - Camryn Hogness
- 3 - Taylor Olson
- 4 - Pat Kuehn
- 5 - Brandon Yagow
- 7 - Layton Berndt
- 8 - Cole Fyre
- 10 - Lori Yagow
- 12- Kasey Lien
- 15 - Steve Hogness

- 16 - Guy Christiansen
- 18 - Dan Krause
- 19 - Andrea Hogness
- 20 - Dustin Heitkamp
- Micah Johnson
- 21 - Joy Christiansen
- Arlin Mund
- 24 - Lyla Peterson

- 25 - Charley Hogness
- 26 - Kathy Stockstad
- 27 - Carol Peterson
- 28 - Jeanne McCauley
- Eli Rotenberger
- 30- Monty Haugen



HOLY WEEK

April 2, Maundy Thursday- On this day, Jesus instituted the Eucharist during the Last Supper with his disciples. It is also a time to reflect on the themes of service and sacrifice. **Worship Service: ILC 7:00p.m.**

April 3, Good Friday- The solemnity of this day recalls the crucifixion of Jesus and his ultimate sacrifice for humanity. **Worship Service 7:00p.m. @ MLC**

April 5- Easter Sunday- Sunrise Service This joyous day celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, symbolizing the victory of life over death and hope for believers. **Sunrise Service at MLC 6:30a.m.**

Easter Sunday Worship service at ILC 8:00a.m. Easter Sunday Service Worship Service at MLC 10:00a.m.



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SUNDAY BRUNCH

**Sunday, April 12, 2026
10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**Pancakes, Sausage, Scrambled Eggs,
Coffee & Juice
Free will offering**



WELCA



April Altar Guild

Deb Schutt & Eileen Vail

April Shepherding Leaders

Paula Tayer & Dorothy Pribula



This Easter Season we will be decorating with artificial **Easter Lilies** instead of live plants. We invite you to donate in memory of or in honor of a loved one. All contributions will go directly to the Sargent County Food Pantry. Contact Connie Robbins, Linda Costain, Jolene Schwalk or Melissa Bryant **by April 5th**.

Day of Doing Quilters

will meet April 15th and 16th at 9:00 a.m.

Yarn Angels

will meet April 8th and 22nd at 1:00 p.m.

Congratulations to the Senior Class of 2026!

Students graduating this year are: *Leah Buskohl, Carter Elenberger, Jace Fyre, Cecelia Johnson, Karleigh Kadoun, Avery Laundrt, Chloe Smith, Myah Sundquist, Josie Rotenberger, Jerilyn Yagow.*

We will be celebrating our graduates on **Sunday, April 26th** They will receive a quilt of their choice for the Day of Doing Quilters, with cake and coffee after worship service.

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and future." Jeremiah:29:11



Sunday, April 12th, MLC Sunday School Students will bring small metal pails to the congregation in the pews in which to place your change. (Go to the bank/credit union) and cash in a \$5.00 or \$10.00) or whatever amount you prefer so that you have noisy money to give to the Vacation Bible School program.



The altar guild has noticed that the artificial poinsettia plants are missing. We would really appreciate it if they could be brought back.
Thank you!

Milnor Lutheran

April 5: No Class- Sunday School singing during Worship Service followed by Brunch

April 12: Class, Sunday School helping with Noisy Offering

April 19: Class

April 26: Last day of Sunday School

Coffee Schedule:

April 12: Carly & Kassie C. Nico
M, Easton F, & Gwyn K.



Immanuel Lutheran

April 5: No Class, Sunday School singing during Worship Service

April 12: Class

April 19: Class

April 26: Class

May 3: Last Day of Sunday School



First Communion April 19, 2026

At Milnor Lutheran & Immanuel

"I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever in believes in me will never be thirsty."

-John 6:35



Congratulations to the First Communion students!

MLC: Kali Heitkamp, Briley Lien, **ICL:** Kinzley Orth
Kenna Peterson, and Abigail Lunneborg



RED WILLOW MINISTRIES

Summer 2026 Schedule

Att.: All 6th & 7th graders

All current 7th grade must attend Camp this summer!
(unless you did last summer)

6th grade you have this summer and next summer!

JUNE 21st – 28th: DISCIPLES

JULY 19th – 24th: DISCIPLES

More Info & Registration:

REDWILLOWMINISTRIES.COM/CAMPS

If this is your first time attending, WELCA will cover your camp fee! This is a confirmation requirement. Any questions contact Meissa @ 446-6787 or mlchurch@drtel.net

Confirmation May 3rd, 2026

Students being confirmed this year are Layton Berndt, Aiden Heitkamp, Reese Hogness, Ramona Johnson, Alison Kottke, Taylor Olson & Eli Rotenberger.

1 Timothy 4:12 – Let no one look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

Congratulations!

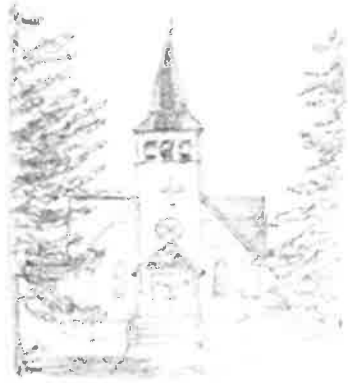
April Acolyte Schedule

April 5: Easter, volunteers

April 12: Saryce & Layton

April 19: Brinley & Taylor

April 26: Hunter & Eli



Immanuel Lutheran Church

April

Ushers: Joel Halvorson, Derek Martinson

Altar Guild: Kylie Martinson

Communion: April 5th

**Sunday School: April 12th, 19th & 26th
at 10:15 a.m.**

Worship: Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service: April 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Worship: April 5th at 8:00 a.m.

Immanuel Spring Brunch: April 12th; NO WORSHIP

Easter List 1



X	S	A	L	V	A	T	I	O	N	S	X	M	N	B	
N	T	O	J	D	T	O	I	K	U	Q	V	O	D	N	
Y	V	W	Z	V	P	B	A	P	E	P	I	C	A	L	Angel
E	V	W	P	Z	S	O	A	Z	X	T	R	Q	Y	W	Bible
S	S	O	R	C	W	U	L	A	C	G	H	Z	G	E	Cross
J	E	B	F	Y	V	Q	N	E	W	Y	J	X	I	N	Disciples
X	E	L	D	Y	F	G	R	D	A	D	I	O	J	V	Faith
T	Z	S	P	F	Z	R	K	D	A	N	A	D	I	P	Good Friday
I	L	P	U	I	U	A	I	Y	N	Y	N	W	V	B	Holy
P	A	R	D	S	C	R	H	J	B	P	G	F	I	R	Jesus
G	M	M	E	A	F	S	T	R	D	Y	E	B	V	B	Lamb
P	B	R	I	D	Y	N	I	W	Z	K	L	T	D	Z	Love
N	W	K	O	H	N	A	A	D	R	E	F	M	P	N	Palm Sunday
S	H	O	R	K	M	K	F	H	O	L	Y	J	B	A	Resurrection
K	G	X	Y	A	D	N	U	S	M	L	A	P	K	T	Salvation
															Sunday

**Thank You Message for
Lent Supper Volunteers**

Thank you to everyone who helped prepare and serve our Lent Suppers. Your kindness and dedication made our Lenten worship richer and our fellowship stronger. You truly embody the spirit of Christ's love.

“Serve one another humbly in love.” — Galatians 5:13



April Luther League Coffee Schedule

April 19: Braylon W, Jacob H, Harper & Saryce M, \$ Henry L.

April 26: Cece, Shiloh, Rhiannon & Ramona J, Daisy L, & Willow T.



NATIONAL
**DONATE
LIFE MONTH**
APRIL

April is National Donate Life Month—

a time to honor the extraordinary generosity of organ, eye, and tissue donors and to celebrate the countless lives transformed through transplantation. For me, this month carries a deep personal connection. My life today is possible because of two remarkable gifts: a kidney from my mother and a pancreas from a young man from Florida who tragically passed away. Their generosity gave me a second chance at life in October 2008, and I have felt God's hand in every year since.

Those 18 years have been filled with blessings I never would have experienced without transplantation. I've watched Emma and River grow into incredible adults. I witnessed Emma marry Andrew—something I once feared I wouldn't live to see. I've been able to be present for all the people who mean the world to me. I've been able to work again, to contribute, to show up, to live. Every day has been a gift, and I thank God for each one.

Today, I am awaiting my second kidney transplant, and I am far from alone. Many in our community are waiting for the call that could save their lives. Little Weston Gregor is waiting for a heart. Others are waiting for kidneys, livers, lungs—hoping for the chance to experience the milestones and everyday moments so many take for granted.

In this season of waiting, my faith anchors me. Proverbs 3:5 reminds me to "Trust in the Lord

with all your heart." Even when the path is uncertain, I know God is guiding my steps. I trust His timing, His provision, and His purpose in all things.

The need is great, but the impact of one decision is extraordinary:

- One organ donor can save up to 8 lives.
- One tissue donor can heal or improve up to 75 lives.
- Another person is added to the waiting list every 8 minutes.
- Thirteen people die each day waiting for a transplant.

These numbers are powerful, but the true impact is measured in birthdays, graduations, families kept whole, and futures restored blessings that donors make possible.

Becoming a donor is simple. You can learn more and register at Life-source.org, Donate Life, or by checking the box when you renew your driver's license. Most importantly, talk with your family about your wishes, one conversation can make all the difference.

As I look ahead, I do so with gratitude and trust. God has carried me this far, and I know He'll continue to guide every step. My hope is that sharing my story inspires someone to give the gift of life—a beautiful way to love others and reflect God's grace.

With faith and hope,
Melissa Bryant



Give thanks. Give life.