

December 2024

NEWSLETTER



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

Rick's Column

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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. Thanksgiving is right around the corner and we are all eager to reconnect with family and friends while sharing in a wonderful meal. I wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving. We are certainly blessed in so many ways in our little community.
Yes, we are truly blessed, but we have also endured hardship recently with the passing of several beloved members of our community. We pray for their families that Christ may bring them healing and the knowing that their loved ones have not died, but have gone to be with Jesus and a grand re-union awaits us. Losing a loved one is the hardest thing we ever endure. But this loss takes on a great meaning during the Holiday season. It is my hope that we all check on our friends and neighbors during the upcoming Holiday season to ensure their well-being. The gift of a card or phone call is so treasured.
In church news, the season of Advent begins on December 1st. 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. 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 churches.

In December, our Sunday school kids will put on their annual Christmas program on December 8th during the 9:30 service at MLC. At ILC, the Sunday school program will be held on December 15th at the 11:00 service. 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 8th at 2:00 p.m. is the WELCA's annual Christmas Tea. All area women are invited to this event, which will feature speaker Nadia Klein, who was raised in the former USSR. Her message will be one of hope and uplifting. There will also be snacks, music, and door prizes.

We will cease confirmation for the Christmas holiday after our class on Wednesday, December 18th. We will resume confirmation classes January 8th 2025.

At ILC, the election of church council members will take place at the December 8th service. We will hold our annual potluck lunch after service on December 15th. The Christmas Eve service for ILC will be at 7:00 p.m. The Christmas Eve service for MLC will be held at 5:00 p.m.

I leave you with the words from *Corinthians* 12:9 "My grace is all you need, for my power is the greatest when you are weak." May His blessings be upon you all.

Rick

PARISH PRAYER LIST

People currently on our prayer lists are *Dick Kuehn, Mark Thorson, Marcus Anderson, Arlis McFarland, Pam Bolanos, John Crandall, Don Marquette, Loralie Martinson and Gary Jensen*. 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.



December Birthdays

2 - James Foley
3- Aspyn Aabrekke
Alison Kottke
Tallulah Schutt
4 - William Pribula
Kathy Rysavy
5- Teegan Olson

6-Marshall Lien
Bradley Lunneborg
8-Brian Fuhrman
Blair Michels
9-Chris Larson
14-Janis Claus
Adam Kottke

20 - Jen Sundquist
21-Douglas Martin
22-Allison Yagow
23-Allen Peterson
26-Avyn Hogness
27-Aiden Heitkamp
29-Dale Torreson
30-Melissa Lunneborg

31-Jordan Larson
Lonnie Rotenberger

WELCA

**Day of Doing_Quilters will meet
December 17th and 18th at 9:00 a.m.**

**Yarn Angels will meet
December 10th at 1:00 p.m.**

*December Altar Guild
Linda Robbins*

*Milnor Luther Church Sunday
School Program
Sunday, December 8th at 9:30
during church*

*Immanuel Lutheran
Church Sunday School
Program Sunday,
December 15th at 11:00*

*Anyone wanting to donate towards
poinsettias in honor or memory of
contact:*

*Connie Robbins (427-5536) or
Linda Costain (427-9475).*

Merry
CHRISTMAS



Christmas Tea

"O Come Let Us Adore Him. Restoring the awe of wonder of the Christmas Story."

Sunday, December 8, 2024

2:00 p.m.

***Milnor Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall***

To All Area Women

The Women of Milnor Lutheran Church cordially invite you to their annual Christmas Tea.

Come hear from Nadia Klein who was born and raised in the former USSR, Republic of Kazakhstan. Her Christmas message is sure to be inspiring and uplifting. There will also be special music, door prizes, Christmas carols, goodies, and fellowship. All women are invited!

*Admission is one non-perishable food item
for the Sargent County Food Pantry.*

Luther League Lunch Schedule

December 1st	SS Serves
December 8th	SS Serves
December 15th	Jerilyn Y, Harper B, Willow T, Hallie & Reed P
December 22nd	Yarn Angels
December 29th	Yarn Angels

Sunday School Lunches

December 1st-Talluah & Arlo S, William P, Ava B, Jacob H, Abigail L

December 8th-Lunch after program provided by the Sunday School

Acolyte Schedule

December 1st	Thanksgiving Weekend-Volunteers Needed
December 8th	Sunday School Christmas Program
December 15th	Miley Lien & Daisy Lee
December 22nd	Willow Tyler & Allison Yagow

Please be at the church by 9:20 a.m.

MLC Memorials

In memory of Kristie Johnson

From: Lynn & Mary Johnson (Yarn Angels)
Tammy & Gary Bernhardt (Alter Guild)

In memory of Jerry Bixby

From: Myron & Lori Yagow (SS)
Monty & Bobbi Haugen

In memory of Carol Hogness

From: Tammy & Gary Bernhardt (Alter Guild)
Linda Costain

In memory of Gloria Decker

From: Bruce & Dayna Speich (Cemetery)
Monty & Bobbi Haugen

In memory of Sophie Fuhrman

From: Myron & Lori Yagow (SS)
Renee Larson (Yarn Angels)
Larry Moxness
Marjorie Johnson (Alter Guild)
Jon & Kim Mund (Cemetery)
Marlene Hogness (SS)
David & Susanne Olson
Bruce & Dayna Speich (Cemetery)
Tammy & Gary Bernhardt (Alter Guild)
Linda Costain
Lou Diede (Yarn Angels)

From: Mervin & Karen Wohler
Clementine Severson
Patricia Seebens Freese (Alter Guild)
Randy & LaRae Odegard (Cemetery)
Marshall & Rachel Lien (Cemetery)
Steve & Andrea Hogness (WELCA)
Kris & Tracy Lien
K.R. & Patricia Kuehn (SS)
Monty & Bobbi Haugen
Mervin & Karen Wohler

November 13th@ 6:15pm

Present: Jill Baldwin, Loren Ellefson, Nate Sundquist, Kris Lien, Paula Tayer, Rick Bryant, Deb Wagner, Wade Kuehn
Absent: Jason Kottke

The meeting was opened with a devotion from Pastor Rick.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were reviewed. No corrections or additions. Nate Sundquist made a motion to approve the reports and seconded by Paula Tayer; all in favor, motion carried.

Committee Business

- Worship (Jill)–Lou Diede, Linda Costain and Jean Anderson have volunteered to join the worship committee. We will be meeting next Sunday after church. We have a total of 5 volunteers willing to help with organ music on Sundays. Deb is working on getting a rotation schedule put in place.
- Stewardship (Loren & Paula) – Discussed some possible options, nothing decided at this time.
- Education (Jason)–The Sunday School Program will be on December 8th.
- Properties/Grounds & Parsonage (Kris, Nate& Wade)
 - Exterior wood on bottom of the stained-glass windows. Nothing to update currently.
 - External Church Sign – door issue. This will be tabled for now.
 - Parsonage projects
 - Basement Window replacement – Nate reports that Riverside Building Center should be coming this week for estimate.
 - Window Well covers – This will be included with the Riverside Estimate.
 - Old well room mold, front door screen door and breezeway doors and window replacement–Nate will be ordering supplies. Once they come in, will reach out to the contractor for installation.
 - Outside Outlets – Tabled. Will be fixed with well room/patio repair.
 - Carpet cleaning Church and fellowship hall – waiting on an estimate.
 - Water bill review – parsonage. Cost was back to normal this month. Nothing further needed.
 - The furnace in the parsonage is having issues. This is currently being worked on.
 - It was discovered that there is mold in the basement of the church in almost every room. The mold seems to be coming through the paint. The committee will look after the meeting and determine the next steps.

Pastor's Report – Rick reports that he has completed another class for the Team Program. We have had many funerals in the past few weeks, and we have a couple more coming up.

This Sunday is Synod Endowment Day – the synod is asking for each church to make an extra donation this year to help with some additional causes. Refer to new business for decision.

Old Business

- Update on lay ministry workshops (Jill) – We had a New Testament workshop here at MLC a couple of weekends ago and lunch was served. There were 16 that attended.
- Projecting of services–Loren and Rick met with a company regarding replacement of the current audio system as well as possibility of adding Video in the front of the church for projecting services. The estimate was reviewed, and all council members were in favor of moving forward with this. Projecting would require some additional licenses, and installation would include instructions and support. Jill will plan to announce a congregational meeting the next 2 Sundays with a vote on December 4.
- Office Printer Replacement: The Booster Club gave a donation to cover the cost of replacement. Grace is coordinating with the printer company to get this installed.

New Business

- Pastors Contract is due in December. A motion was made by Loren Ellefson to increase his salary by \$1000 next year, seconded by Jill Baldwin; all in favor, motion carried.
- A motion made by Kris Lien to have the offering from this Sunday be donated to the Synod Endowment Day to go to the Campus Ministry Fund. Paula Tayer seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carried.
- The council sent a donation from our congregation to plant a memorial tree in memory of Pastor Vold.
- Grace reported that there is a CD coming due. The council voted to renew the CD at the current rate.
- The proposed budget was reviewed. Jill will send back the discussion to Grace and will review again in the December meeting.

Paula Tayer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jill Baldwin seconded; all in favor, motion carried.

Next Meeting: December 11th, 2024

Immanuel Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

November 6th, 2024

The council met on Wednesday, November 6th at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Council Members present were Tanner Martinson, Kevin Moxness, Derek Martinson, Paul Mund, and Mindy Hogness. Tanner called the meeting to order. The Secretary's Report was read and a motion to approve was made by Derek, seconded by Kevin. The Treasurer's Report was read and a motion to approve was made by Kevin, seconded by Paul.

Committees:

- **Education:** Sunday School is wrapping up their Fall lessons and moving to the Winter lessons, while also preparing for the upcoming Sunday School Christmas Program which will be held on Sunday, December 15th. Practices outside of regular Sunday School time will be on Wednesday December 11th at 5:30pm and Saturday December 14th at 9am. Note, there will be no Sunday School on December 1st.
- **Property & Maintenance:** Property & Maintenance items were discussed in Old Business.

Old Business:

- Property:
 - Plaster repair behind the pulpit
 - *11/6 Update: James will pick up supplies with Tanner's trailer.*
 - Cement under the shed
 - *11/6 Update: We'll check if more dirt is needed in the spring.*
 - Lights, Windows, Siding & Shingles will all be re-evaluated after aligning with the congregation at the annual meeting on actions taken based on the letter that we received from our insurance company regarding the roof and siding.

New Business:

- Property:
 - Insurance Letter: We received a letter from the insurance company that we must address the shingles and spire otherwise our premium will increase, though it sounds like the premium will increase regardless as the repairs will increase the value. Derek will investigate the policy breakdown and find out our options for reduction. The council is unsure what contractor can support the spire project; Tanner will ask Dusty his opinion. Additional conversation on next steps will be discussed at our Annual Meeting with the congregation.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mindy, seconded by Kevin. We closed with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 15th at 6pm.

Mindy Hogness, Council Secretary

Key Dates:

- *Sun. 12/1: No Sunday School*
- *Sun. 12/8: Council Elections during Church Service – 11am*
- *Wed. 12/11: Sunday School Christmas Program Practice – 5:30pm*
- *Sat. 12/14: Sunday School Christmas Program Practice – 9am*
- *Sun. 12/15: Sunday School Christmas Program during Church Service – 11am*
- *Wed. 1/15: ILC Council Meeting – 6pm*
- *Sun. 1/26: Annual Meeting following Church Service*

Mindy Hogness

Council Secretary

