

December 2025

NEWSLETTER

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Rick's Column

Greetings and Peace to you all, As I write this letter, Thanksgiving is two days away and we have our first storm warning of this winter season. Melissa and I extend to you all our warmest wishes for a blessed Thanksgiving. Our farmers have completed their harvest and now can breathe a sigh of relief and take some much-needed rest. Excellent harvest conditions and better than expected yields were a true gift from God.

In church news, we are now in the season of Advent. Advent means "coming," and we celebrate this season for four Sundays prior to Christmas. Each Sunday we will light a blue candle with a different theme for that day. 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 eagerness and excitement for all of us. The upcoming year is sure to be filled with many amazing things and happenings in our church and community, and I am so excited to be a part of what God has in store for us.

I cannot express enough thanks and gratitude to both of our churches for their compassion and generosity. Recently, we have taken up collections for two families enduring medical hardship and both fundraisers have been a great success. These funds will be so uplifting to these families and will help make their holiday season much brighter.

On December 7th 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. These memories last forever. Also happening on December 7th at 2:00 p.m. is the WELCA's annual Christmas Tea. All area women are invited to this



Milnor Lutheran and
Immanuel Lutheran
Churches
Rick Bryant

event, which will feature speaker Kari Hoffman, whose son Landon was thrown off the 3rd floor balcony at the Mall of America in 2019. She will speak of faith and hope, and how her family has endured that tragedy. There will also be snacks, music, and door prizes.

The Christmas program at ILC will be held on December 14th. The growth and success of this youth program at ILC is nothing short of amazing. Thanks to the staff and the children.

Confirmation will resume after Thanksgiving break on Wednesday, Dec 3rd. Then Christmas break and starting again On January 7th, 2026

MLC, the Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00 p.m. The Christmas Eve service for ILC will be at 7:00 p.m. This year, Christmas day is on a Friday. It is my hope and prayer that you all have a wonderful and blessed Christmas.

In closing, I share with you the words of
John 14:19-20 *"In a little while the world will see Me no longer, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live too. In that day you will know that I am in My Father, you are in Me, and I am in you.*

The God of peace and mercy be with each one of you.

Rick





PARISH PRAYER LIST

People currently on our prayer lists *Dick Kuehn, Orvin & Marlene Hogness, Dan Mund, Maribeth Goolsbey, Westen Gregor, Lisa(Peterson)Bershok, Bud Kuehn, Markus Halvorson, Jill Wehlander, Cathy Wunderlich, Don Marquette, Marcus Anderson, Loralie Martinson, Arlis McFarland, and John Crandall.*

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- 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



Advent Season

It is time for Christians to prepare our hearts and minds for both the celebration of Christ's birth and for the anticipation of his return.

We should focus on

Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love!

The advent season goes from November 30th -December 24th

Christmas Eve Services
Milnor: 5:00p.m.
Immanuel: 7:00p.m.

December 25th



In memory of Mary Kroshus

From: Karen Wohler
Alice Wehlander

In memory of Denise Luttio

From: Connie Foster

In memory of Harold & Marget Johnson

From: Connie & Kevin Foster-Milnor Lutheran

In memory of Janis Claus

From: Karen Wohler-Day of Doing
Alice Wehlander-Yarn Angels
Marilyn & John Lunneborg
Mike & Deb Schutt
Daved Lunneborg
Renee Larson

Tammy & Gary Berhardt





WELCA

Day of Doing Quilters will meet
December 16th and 17th at 9:00 a.m.

Yarn Angels will meet
December 9th at 1:00 p.m.

Altar Guild
Linda Costian &
Linda Robbins

Christmas Tea

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.*

This year's speaker will be Kari Hoffman, the mother of Landon Hoffman. Landon was thrown off a 3rd floor balcony at the Mall of America. She will share her story via teleconference. Kari will share how her faith helped her family get through the unimaginable incident.

The afternoon will include music, Christmas goodies, door prizes, and fellowship.

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



This Christmas season, we will be decorating with artificial poinsettias instead of live plants. In place of purchasing real poinsettias, we invite you to donate in memory of or in honor of a loved one. All contributions will go directly to support the Sargent County Food Pantry this holiday season. Contributions can be given to Connie Robbins, Linda Costain or Melissa Bryant by **December 14th or 21st**.

Immanuel Lutheran
Sunday School
Program & Potluck
will be on
December 14th



Operation Christmas Child

On November 16th, Milnor Lutheran Sunday School students grades 3-12, packed shoebox gifts-filled with fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items. They are then delivered into the hands of children during Christmas time, through local churches, every shoebox gift is an opportunity to share about Jesus Christ and God's love. Thank you to the 26 students from our church for volunteering to fill these boxes with love for other children around the world.

Luther League Coffee Schedule

December 1st, 2025: Jacob H., Layton B.,
Henry L., Myah S., & Emilee B.

Communion Helpers

December 7th- Saryce M. & Ramona J.
December 21st - Brinley Y. & Hunter L.



Tentative Dates

1st Communion- April 19th, 2026

Senior Day- April 26th, 2026

Confirmation-May 3rd, 2026

Please, mark your calendars!

Hopefully these dates all work for everyone!

We look forward to celebrating these milestones with our church youth!

*Thy word is a lamp
unto my feet,
and a light
unto my path.*
Psalm 119:105

Milnor Lutheran Church Council Meeting November 12, 22095 @ 6:00pm

Present: Jill Baldwin, Nate Sundquist, Jen Sundquist, Kris Lien, Paula Tayer, Wade Kuehn, Loren Ellefson, Rick Bryant and Melissa Bryant.

Devotion & Prayer: Rick Bryant

Secretary & Treasurer's Report: December meeting council will discuss the annual budget. Council rep will present to the congregation for review and subsequent vote at the annual meeting on January 25, 2026, the proposal to increase the maximum amount the council may spend without congregational vote from \$2,500 to \$10,000. Motion made by: Jen Sundquist seconded by: Nate Sundquist

Worship (Jill)- Hymn selection done through February. Sharing of the Peace has been added to the Worship service and well received.

Stewardship (Loren & Paula)- Money raised for the Sargent County Food Pantry from MLC was \$320.00 and from ILC \$550.00 a total of \$870.00. A Big Thank you from Goolsbey's for the donation from MLC.

Education (Jen)- Sunday School music was great! Riding for Dreams needs people to put together table center pieces for their fundraiser. It will be a great service project for confirmation students.

Pastor's Report (Rick)- November there were a total of 4 baptisms. All future baptisms will be held on Sundays unless there are emergencies or unforeseen circumstances. Motion made by Jill Baldwin. Seconded, Kris Lien Thank you to Jill for filling in and to the congregation for letting him take days off when his father passed.

Old Business:

Properties & Grounds (Nate, Kris & Wade)-

Work at the Parsonage on the old well room was presented to the congregation and was passed for the estimate of \$6,500.00. Work will begin in the spring of 2026. The egress window for the personage was tabled. There is only one, for safety issues, a second one was suggested. Stained glass windows at the

Church- Costs are still being determined. Work will begin in the spring. Contracts for Rick and Jill have been signed and should be here this week.

Hard wiring for the video was installed and will be finished at the end of November.

New Business:

Parsonage – refrigerator was delivered and installed. Handicap door- was suggested by members of the congregation. There is rough estimate of \$4000. Snow barrier by the east door – not this winter. Motion made by Jill Baldwin seconded by Nate Sundquist. Snow removal - going to ask congregation if anyone is interested in the position. This is a paid position. Mowing- IBBG will be hired next summer. Motion made by Kris Lien seconded by Nate Sundquist. Window in kitchen has been delivered and installed. The sacristy sink has been fixed. Oil candles use has been requested to be resumed. Linda Costain (Altar Guild) is having candle holders made for oil candles. Oil candles will be used for special services and seasons. Front pew- hymnal shelf has come off. Properties & Grounds committee will get it fixed. Updating of membership roll and reaching out to those who would like to become members.

Shepherding Groups are being updated. Dorothy Pribula, Shepherding Leaders and Melissa are working on this project. There will be a special offering for the Gregor family. Weston Gregor had major heart issues and is waiting for a heart transplant. Greening of the Church- congregation participate in the decorating of the church. Possible event for next year. Thermostat in fellowship hall- may have to look at changing the code.

Next meeting: December 10th @ 6:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn made by Kris Lien and seconded by Paula Tayer

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Bryant



Immanuel Lutheran Church



Christmas Blessings!

December Ushers: Mike Martinson

December Altar Guild: Linda Martinson

Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. (10th & 17th)

Worship Services: 11:00 a.m.

Communion: December 3rd and 24th

Christmas Program & Potluck:

December 14th at 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Service: December 24th at 7:00 p.m.

Dear Church family-

As we gather to celebrate the birth of our Savior this Christmas, my heart is overflowing with gratitude. The Lord has blessed me with ability to serve more actively in our churches and to share my faith with you all. Being your parish secretary is not just a role-it is a gift from God that allows me to live out my passion for Christ and to encourage others with the hope of the Gospel. I rejoice in the opportunities God has given me to speak about how Jesus has changed my Life. He has given me courage, reminding me of Paul's words: **"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes." (Romans 1:16)**

Christmas is a season of light breaking into darkness, of hope fulfilled in the birth of our Savior.

Together, we celebrate the miracle of Emmanuel-God with us. Truly,

"For unto us a child is born, unto us as son is given..." (Isaiah 9:6)

As we worship and share fellowship, may we also remember that Christ calls us to shine His light in the world. I pray that each of us will continue to grow in boldness, joy, and love, proclaiming the good news that **"The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." (John 1:14)**

Merry Christmas, dear friends. May the peace of Christ dwell richly in your hearts and homes this season and always.



With gratitude and joy,

Melissa



"Everyone Needs a Little Jesus"

What is a "Little Jesus"? He is about an inch tall and has a blue sash.

He represents an opportunity for reflection and inspiration found in the unexpected places. Jesus' teachings and love are meant to be shared and experienced. We are encouraged to live out of faith in every action and interaction. We are called to be a living testament to the values Jesus embodied- Love, Kindness, and Compassion.

What to do when you find "Little Jesus"?

You can take him with you, keep him for a little reminder of his love. Share him with others. Hide him again, hide him in unexpected places for others to find. Hide him between books, kitchen cabinets, among house plants, by the coffee machine, take a selfie, to work or school.

The confirmation students have placed over 80,

"Little Jesus" throughout the church.

This act serves as a symbolic gesture to remind the congregation of the younger generation's role and presence within our church.

Spread Kindness





December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 3:30 PM Confirmation	4	5	6
7 9:30 AM MLC SS Christmas Program 9:30 AM MLC Worship w/ comm. 11:00 AM ILC Worship w/Comm. 2:00 PM WELCA Christmas Tea	8	9 1:00 PM Yarn Angels	10 3:00 AM Confirmation 6:00 PM MLC Council Meeting	11	12	13
14 9:30 AM MLC Worship Service 11:00 AM ILC SS Christmas Program 11:00 AM ILC Worship Service NO SS	15	16 9:00 AM Day of Doing	17 9:00 AM Day of Doing	18	19	20
21 9:30 AM MLC Worship Service w/ Communion 11:00 AM ILC Worship Service NO SS @ MLC or ILC	22	23 1:00 PM Yarn Angels ?	24 5:00 PM MLC Christmas Eve Service 7:00 PM ICL Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day	26	27
28 9:30 AM MLC Worship Service no communion 11:00 AM ILC Worship Service No SS @ MLC or ILC	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	Nov 2025 S M T W T F S 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Jan 2026 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	

Milnor Lutheran Church
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December 2025

Milnor Lutheran Church

Council- President -Jill Baldwin,
V.P. Kris Lien, Loren Ellefson, Jennifer Sundquist,
Wade Kuehn, Nathan Sundquist, Paula Tayer
Tech. Support - Deb Wagner
Treasurer – Grace Prante
Custodian – Barb Odegard

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Council-President Tanner Martinson,
Mindy Hogness, Derek Martinson,
Kevin Moxness, Paul Mund
Treasurer – Derek Martinson
Custodian – Kara Bernard

ELCA Congregations

Rick Bryant

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