

January 2023
NEWSLETTER



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

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Rick's Column

Greetings and Peace to you all,

Happy New Year! As I write this letter, Christmas and the season of Advent are now behind us. It is my hope that each and every one of you had a wonderful Christmas filled with family, friends, good food, and of course, Jesus Christ.

To say that this has been a challenging winter so far is an understatement. Mother Nature has seen fit to dump snow measured in feet and throw in temperatures well below zero. It seems now two weeks later we are finally getting back to normal. This has without a doubt stressed livestock and our local ranchers. Please remember them in your prayers.

I truly enjoyed the Christmas program put on by our Sunday School students. I wish to thank all involved for providing us with such a treat. It is by no means an easy task, but our Sunday school staff always comes through. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. This extends to Immanuel as well. We had a small Christmas program at Immanuel and it was amazing!

Here on the church front, we now enter a somewhat quiet period before Lent starts. Lent kicks off with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd and comes to a close with Easter on April 9th.

Confirmation classes are starting back up on Wednesday, January 4th. The kids have had a well-deserved break, but we look forward to

getting back to learning about all things God. They are a good group of kids, and I look forward to Wednesdays with them.

Tis' the season for our annual meetings. ILC will hold their annual meeting on Sunday, Jan 29th. This meeting is usually followed by a potluck dinner, which I always look forward to. MLC will hold their annual meeting on Sunday, Feb 5th. If you are interested in serving on the MLC church council, please see me, Heidi, or any current church council member. We have three council member openings. Serving on council can be a very rewarding experience and a great way to serve God and our fellow parishioners. We are blessed with the fact that we rarely face severe challenges or encounter stressful issues to deal with. Our churches seem to run in beautiful harmony. Thanks be to God.

I wish to thank you all for an amazing and blessed 2022. Our churches continue to grow and remain very healthy and vibrant. It is such a joy and an honor to walk with God with each and every one of you. Melissa and I are so blessed and we thank God for the honor of serving as your Pastor.

In closing, I leave you with words from **2 Peter 1:3**: "For His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who call us by His own glory and goodness." May God's peace be with you all.

Rick

PARISH PRAYER LIST

People on our prayer lists are *Pastor Elwood Skarpness, Mary Alice Mund, Lorie Skarpness, Mary Engst, and Mark Thorson*. 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 - Evelyn Banish	10 - Vi Mahler	23 - Jasmine Smith
2 - Bryce Hogness	William Peterson	26 - Clay Hogness
4 - Jennie Hanna	11 - Bob Schutt	Lennox Hogness
Jessica Heitkamp	Diane Wallin	27 - Karen Krause
Curt Mahler	13 - Jill Baldwin	28 - Keith Johnson
Grace Prante	18 - Deb Schutt	29 - Marlene Hogness
7 - Kaleb Olson	19 - Kris Fuhrman	30 - Bryggen Martinson
8 - Matthew Olson	23 - Larry Moxness	Bruce Speich

MLC Thanks to Donors

Thank you to everyone who donated toys and monetary gifts to Furniture Mission of the Red River Valley. Their young clients will be comforted by receiving a cuddly toy while their families recover from a traumatic event. Your monetary gifts will help pay off a loan needed to purchase a second truck. Thank you to Day of Doing and Yarn Angels for your faithful support of Furniture Mission. Check out Furniture Mission's thank you note on the bulletin board.

Thank you, too, to those who participated in our Be the Match campaign. Be the Match registers donors between the ages of 18-40 to be tested for sharing marrow and stem cells in the fight against blood cancer. If you haven't registered, it's very easy and it's not too late. Any questions can be directed to Andrea Hogness 680-0246 or andrea.hogness@gmail.com or bethematch.org.

Thank you for all the ways you have cared and shared throughout 2022!

Milnor Lutheran Stewardship Committee
Andrea Hogness, DeNae Martinson and Diane Wallin

MLC Notes

- The MLC Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, February 5th. Please have your reports and information in to the office by Sunday, January 29th.
- Noisy Offering will be coming up this spring, so please start saving your change and watch for more info.
- If you've brought food to church lately, please check to see if any of the pans, etc., in the kitchen are yours.

Milnor Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes December 14, 2022

Present: Bill Pribula, DeNae Martinson, Rick Bryant, Alisha Olson, Diane Wallin, Grace Prante, Deb Wagner, Randy Syrstad, Kelly Arth; Absent: Jason Kottke, Travers Storhaug

Opening Devotion: Meeting opened with prayer from Pastor Rick.

Approval of Meeting Minutes and Treasures report from November: No changes needed, motion was made to approve by Diane Wallin and seconded by Alisha Olson. Motion carried.

Committee Business

- Worship -nothing new to report. Met last week to select hymns.
- Stewardship – We had a good turnout for presentation on Furniture Mission of the Red River Valley. We are currently collecting toys for Christmas giving.
- Education – Sunday school is off until second weekend in January. Sunday School Christmas program went well this past 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 – (Standing item – tabled until spring)
 - Basement Project has been completed. There are a couple of boxes of floor tile left over. Rick will try and take those back for refund.
 - Church floor tile – Diane found a couple of new color options. She will bring them in for us to see.
 - Lights on the altar – What is left will need to be done via ladder. Brian Tayer has offered to help with this. Randy will coordinate with him to get rest switched out.

Pastor's Report – Confirmation canceled due to weather today. Pastor is registered for 2 classes starting in January. One class is an intensive that will be a 4-day class down in Iowa, the second class is online. Currently he has a credit on the account that will cover one of the classes. He has not seen any paperwork yet for Synod Scholarship money.

Old Business

- Large TV for fellowship hall – We are still waiting for Crossroads to get their wiring done.
- Direct stream video camera – sound has already been upgraded in fellowship hall. No update on this currently.

- Build in cabinets Library/Cry Room update –Nate Sundquist has agreed to do this work and plans to do it during the winter months.
- Outlet/network connection in Fellowship Hall- no update available from Jason. Per prior email, we are on the work list for Crossroads so waiting on them. Once they run the cable for Ethernet port, then DRN will come in and connect it up to the access point in Fellowship Hall.
- Pastor's contract is completed, and Grace will get that sent out to the synod.

New Business

- Annual meeting date set for February 5th. We have 3 Council Members whose terms are up: Diane Wallin, Kelly Arth & Travers Storhaug. Much discussion had on how to engage members to serve on council. Pastor will announce in church the next few Sundays for people to consider serving on council.
- Discussed that we have a lot of new faces in church, but that we haven't had an official "New Members" Sunday to welcome new members for several years. Pastor Rick will follow-up on this.
- It was reported that there are some lights outside that are not working. Both pole lights from Ottertail are working. Deb has noted that the light outside the door between church and fellowship hall does not go off, but the main door is normally working. Per Grace we had outside lights worked on in January 2021. Bill will follow-up and get further clarification.
- Budget reviewed with Grace. Grace will send out official copy once the reviewed changes are made. Kelly Arth made a motion to approve the budget with the changes & Denae Mahler seconded. Motion approved.
- Mission fund - we still have \$2000 left for 2022. Decision was made to donate \$1500 to Lutheran Disaster Response. \$500 to Sargent County Food Pantry.

Next Meeting: January 11th @ 6:15pm

Deb Wagner
Council Secretary

November Income	\$ 9,906.61
November Expenses	16,136.36
Net Loss	(6,229.75)
Year-to-Date	\$12,018.65

January Altar Guild
Deb Wagner

WELCA

Day of Doing Quilters will meet January 17th and 18th at 9:00 a.m.
Yarn Angels will meet January 10th and 24th at 1:00 p.m.



MLC's Day of Doing Quilters recently displayed 58 adult-sized quilts and 39 children's quilts in the sanctuary. They were delivered to Furniture Mission, YWCA, Churches United, Parkside Home in Lisbon, and Four Seasons Care Center in Forman. Yarn Angels also sent 16 hand-crafted afghans to Furniture Mission. Thank you to all the women who donate time and talents to these ministries.

JANUARY SHEPHERDING SCHEDULE

Leaders: David & Connie Robbins; Linda Robbins

January 1 -- Ushers: David & Connie Robbins; Lector: Lois Jenson

January 8 -- Usher: Linda Robbins; Lector: Linda Costain

Communion: Linda and Linda

January 15-- Ushers: Judy & Jim Kleingarn, Tracy & Kevin Hansen; Lector: Judy Kleingarn

January 22-- Ushers: Ernest Roder, Cheryl Roder; Lector: Jodi Ost

Communion: Cheryl and Jodi

January 29-- Ushers: Fuhrman Family; Lector: Bobbi Fuhrman

MLC MEMORIALS

In memory of James Anderson
From Monty & Bobbi Haugen (ML Cemetery)

In memory of Lyleen Lukes
From Don & Judy Olson (ML Cemetery)

In memory of Susan Storhaug Campbell
From Don & Judy Olson (ML Cemetery)

In memory of Marian Millerhagen
From Don & Judy Olson (ML Cemetery)

In memory of Diana Crandall
From Connie Foster (WELCA)

In memory of Becky Mund
From Connie Foster (WELCA)

In memory of Danell Dougherty
From Marshall & Rachel Lien (ML Cemetery)

In memory of Gary Olson
From Don & Judy Olson (ML Cemetery)

In memory of Steve Ellefson
From Connie Foster (Sunday School)

In memory of George Overby
From Mervin & Karen Wohler (MLC)

In memory of Deanne Else
From Jolene Schwalk (MLC)
Connie Foster (WELCA)

In memory of Anne Ringdahl
From Jim & Ione Foley (MLC)
Connie Foster (WELCA)
Monty & Bobbi Haugen (Day of Doing)
Don & Judy Olson (ML Cemetery)
Jolene Schwalk (MLC)
Alice Wehlander (Sunday School)

In memory of Lisa Gibbon
From Don & Judy Olson (ML Cemetery)

In memory of Evangeline Spitzer
From Jolene Schwalk (MLC)

In memory of Ruby Stockstad Hokana
From Don & Judy Olson (ML Cemetery)
Diane Wallin (MLC/Furniture Mission)

In memory of Tim Tayer
From Linda Costain (ML Cemetery)
Monty & Bobbi Haugen (ML Cemetery)
Ed & Janice Larson (Day of Doing)
Dale Torreson (MLC)
Myron & Lori Yagow (Sunday School)

In memory of Jean Holmgren
From Connie Foster (WELCA)
Don & Judy Olson (ML Cemetery)

In memory of Duane Johnson
From Don & Judy Olson (ML Cemetery)

Milnor Lutheran Sunday School

Worship Service - 9:30 a.m.

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

-Sunday School will resume on Sunday, January 8th, at 10:30 a.m.

-They will not meet on Sunday, January 15th.

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

Sunday School Lunches

January 8th--Allison & Holden Y, Brooks & Avyn H, Kenna & Lyla P, Ellyn S, Lyla H, Eli R

February 5th--Aiden & Kail H, Greyson A, Hunter & Briley L, Tallulah S, Gwyn K





Immanuel Lutheran Church

January

Ushers: Orvin Hogness and Don Wehlander

Altar Guild: Marlene Hogness

Communion: January 8th

Worship: Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

Annual Meeting & Potluck: Jan. 29th after worship

IMMANUEL COUNCIL MINUTES

December 28, 2022

The Immanuel Lutheran Council met December 28th, 2022 at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Present were Mindy Hogness, Derek Martinson, Brenda Gibbon, Jim Berndt, and Landon Mund. Derek called the meeting to order.

The Secretary's Report was read and a motion to approve was made by Jim, seconded by Mindy. The Treasurer's Report was read by Derek. Brenda made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Landon. No Pastor's Report was read.

Committees:

- The Stewardship Committee met and reviewed the proposed budget for 2023.
- An Education Committee was discussed with plans to bring back a Sunday School class at Immanuel. Brenda made a motion to re-form the committee, seconded by Mindy. Kylie Martinson, Kelsy Martinson, and Mindy Hogness will lead the Sunday School class.

Old Business:

- On December 11th council replacements were nominated. Kevin Moxness and Tanner Martinson were elected to replace Derek Martinson and Jim Berndt on the council.

New Business:

- An idea to have the cash from the Christmas Eve Service offering go to the Sunday School was brought up and discussed by the council. A motion to approve was made by Brenda, seconded by Jim.
- The 2022 and 2023 Church Budgets were presented by Derek and reviewed by the council. Landon made a motion to approve both budgets, seconded by Jim.

The meeting was adjourned and we closed with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will take place on January 18th at 6pm.

Landon Mund
Council Secretary

The Immanuel Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner will be held Sunday, January 29th, following worship. Please plan to attend and participate in the business of the church and bring food to share and enjoy some fellowship. Please have reports and information for the Annual Report to Heidi by January 22nd.