

# January

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# January 2026

# NEWSLETTER

- 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](mailto:mlchurch@drtel.net)
- Rick's e-mail: [bryant@drtel.net](mailto:bryant@drtel.net)
- [www.Facebook.com/Milnor Lutheran Church](http://www.Facebook.com/MilnorLutheranChurch)
- MLC Website: [www.milnorlutheran.com](http://www.milnorlutheran.com)



Milnor Lutheran and  
Immanuel Lutheran Churches  
Rick Bryant

## Rick's Column

Greetings and Peace to you all,

Happy New Years! As I write this letter, mother-nature reminded us who is in charge as we were hit by a blizzard that caused us to cancel services at both churches! Christmas and the season of Advent are now behind us. It is my hope that each and every one of you experienced the Christmas you hoped for.

I think we can all agree that we truly enjoyed the Christmas concert recently put on by our Sunday school and students at both churches. I wish to thank all involved for providing us with such a well-put-together and enjoyable event. The hard work put forth by the Sunday school and the students does not go unnoticed. Thank you for being such a gift to our churches.

Here on the church front, we now enter a somewhat quiet period before Lent starts. Lent kicks off with Ash Wednesday on February 18<sup>th</sup>. The Lenten season then concludes on Easter Sunday, April 5th. Confirmation classes will resume on Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. The kids have had a well-deserved break, but we look forward to getting back to learning about being a Christian in the ELCA. They are truly an amazing bunch of folks, and we are getting a lot of learning done!

As always, in the month of January, both churches hold their annual meetings. ILC will hold their annual meeting on Sunday, Jan 25<sup>th</sup>, followed by a potluck dinner, which we all look forward to. Please bring a dish if you are able.

MLC will also hold their annual meeting on Sunday, January 25th. There are four openings for church council. Some of the current members are

willing to do another term. If you are interested in serving on the MLC church council, please see myself, Melissa, or any current church council member. Service on council can be a very rewarding experience and a great way to serve God, community, and our fellow parishioners. We are blessed with the fact that we rarely face severe challenges or encounter stressful issues to deal with. We have fun and friendships are made. Our churches operate in beautiful harmony.

Please continue to pray for those on our prayer list, as well as for our community, country, and the world. God does hear our prayers, I promise.

I wish to thank you all for an amazing and blessed 2025. Our churches continue to prosper and grow stronger. 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 worshipping, living, and serving with you.

In closing, I leave you with words from

**2 Corinthians 1:4** *"He comforts us in all our troubles, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any kind of trouble, through the comfort we ourselves receive from God."*

May God's peace be with you all.

Rick



People currently on our prayer lists *Dan Mund, Weston Gregor, Lisa Bershok, Bud Kuehn, Annette Hudson, Curt Anderson, Jill Welander, and Lorlie Martinson. Family of Orvin Hogness, Family of Markus Halvorson, and family of Don Marquette.*

Please keep them in your prayers.

If you or your loved would like to be on our prayer list, please contact the church office.



1-Alysha Schutt  
Jesse Arth  
Connor Koepe  
2- Bryce Hogness  
Jim Foley  
3-Hartley Hogness  
4- Jenni Hana  
Jessica Heitkamp  
Curt Mahler

5-Willow Tyler  
6-Luelle Martinson  
7- Bobbi McCleery  
8- Matthew Olson  
Trip Toso  
10- Vi Mahler  
William Peterson  
Richard Olson

13-Jill Baldwin  
15-Randall Johnson  
18-Deb Schutt  
19- Alison Roder  
20- Briley Lien  
22- Brittney Odegard  
Evelyn Pyle  
23- Larry Moxness  
Jasmine Smith

26-Clay Hogness  
Lennox Hogness  
Arthur Peterson  
27- Karen Krause  
Linda Schutt  
28- Keith Johnson  
29- Marlene Hogness  
30- Bryggen Martinson  
Bruce Speich

In memory of Janis Claus  
From- Pat Olson  
Marjorie Johnson  
(Day of Doing)

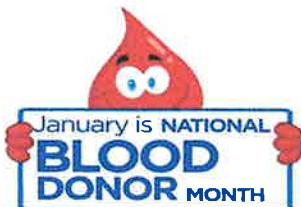


In memory of Orvin Hogness  
From- Scott & Shannon Berndt  
& Family  
Myron & Lori Yagow  
(MLC Sunday School)

I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT. I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE. I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH.  
2 TIMOTHY 4:7

### ***January is National Blood Donor Month!***

A time to thank those who give and to encourage new donors. Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood, yet only a small percentage of eligible people donate. If you are able, please consider giving the gift of life. Your generosity brings hope and healing to those in need.



### **Milnor Community Blood Drive**

Location: St. Arnolds Catholic Church

Date: Tuesday, January 13

Time: 12:00a.m.- 6:00p.m.

To make an appointment call:

Connie @ (701) 427-9489 or

Louise @ (701) 427-9269

**Milnor Lutheran Church Council Meeting**  
**December 10, 2025 @5:30p.m.**

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

**Devotion & Prayer:** Led by Rick Bryant to open meeting

**Secretary & Treasurer's Report:** Read & reviewed reports. Discussion was held regarding the rental contract for the church & fellowship hall, specifically focusing on the clause about cleaning after events. The council decided to include wording that either requires renters to clean up after themselves and leave the space in acceptable condition or request cleaning services and to make sure that Barb is informed about what the renters have agreed to. A motion to approve was made by Kris Lien and seconded by Loren Ellefson; motion carried unanimously.

**Worship:** (Jill)many members of the congregation expressed bringing back the gold candle holders and oil candles. The council agreed to reinstate the practice of passing the plate for offering during worship service. Motion made by Wade Kuehn, seconded by Loren Ellefson; all in favor.

**Stewardship:** (Loren & Paula) Updates Milnor Lutheran contributed to the Sargent County Food Pantry, and Val Bojork was able to purchase 108 pounds of ground beef with these contributions.

**Education:** (Jen) Sunday School Christmas program took place on December 7, 2025. Sunday School classes will resume on January 11, 2026.

**Pastor's Report:** (Rick) Rick informed the council that he will be taking the morning of Sunday, December 21, 2025, worship service off to attend family Christmas out of town. Jill Baldwin will lead the regular worship service; Rick will conduct the Blue Christmas Service at 7:00p.m.

**Properties/Grounds:** (Wade, Kris & Nate) The handicap door was tabled for future discussion. Amy Kuehn was hired for snow removal this year. Wade will procure salt for the parking lot.

**New Business:** The upstairs men's bathroom fan is making noise; the committee will investigate the issue. The sacristy sink has been cleaned and is now functioning properly. Members are advised not to dump wine down the drain and to run hot water through the sink regularly. The annual budget was reviewed by the council and will be presented to the congregation at the upcoming Annual Congregation Meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026 after worship service.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Loren Ellefson, seconded by Kris Lien.  
Next meeting will be held on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026 @ 5:50p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Bryant

**MLC ANNUAL MEETING**

The MLC Annual Meeting will hold Sunday, January 25th, following worship. Please have reports into the church office by January 18<sup>th</sup>.



# WELCA

**Day of Doing** Quilters will meet January 20th and 21st  
at 9:00 a.m.

**Yarn Angels** will meet January 13th and 27th at 1:00 p.m.

**January Altar Guild**

Jolene Schwark & Deb Wagner

**JANUARY SHEPHERDING SCHEDULE**

Leaders: Connie Robbins and Linda Robbins

January 4, 2026: Ushers: Janice Larson, Linda Robbins, David & Connie Robbins

Lector: Bobbi Fuhrman,: Communion Servers: Linda Robbins

January 11, 2026: Ushers: Jodi Ost & Ernie Roder & Cheryl Roder Lector: Jodi Ost

January 18,2026: Ushers: Tracy & Kevin Hansen Lector: Diane Wallin

Communion Servers: Hunter Lien & Saryce Biss

January 25,2026: Ushers: Jim & Judy Kleingard Lector: Linda Schutt

**ACOLYTES FOR JANUARY**

January 11: Alison Kottke & Brinley Yagow

January 18: Hunter Lien & Saryce Biss

January 25: Reese Hogness & Aiden Heitkamp

*Thank you to everyone who serves and supports our church.*



As we welcome 2026, I pray the Lord fills your year with peace, joy, and renewed hope. A new year reminds us of God's ongoing work in our lives and in our churches, and we step forward with gratitude for His faithfulness and excitement for what He has in store. It has been so wonderful to see everyone searching for "Little Jesus" and discovering all the creative places He keeps reappearing. Your joy and enthusiasm have been a blessing to watch.

Thank you to the women of WELCA for hosting a beautiful Christmas Tea and for all you do for our church and community. We are also grateful for the Day of Doing volunteers and our wonderful Yarn Angels, whose kindness and creativity bless people throughout the area. Your service shines Christ's love in so many meaningful ways.

***"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." — Romans 15:13***

May this promise guide our hearts as we enter the year ahead.

Blessings to each of you in 2026.

Melissa

## ***Milnor Lutheran Sunday School***

**Sunday School - 10:30.**

-Sunday School resumes on Sunday, January 11th, at 10:30 a.m.  
-No Sunday School on January 18th.

### **Coffee & Fellowship Servers**

**January 11,2026- Briley L., Avyn H., Cannon F., Kail H.**

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

## **Luther League**

**Coffee & Fellowship Servers**

**January 18,2026- Jerlyn Y., Brooks & Charlie H., Jace & Cole F.**

**January 25,2026- Layton B., Josie & Eli R., Braiden M., Karleigh K.**

**If you have any questions, please contact Alisha Olson @ 701-866-7789.**

\*For each youth (up to 2 youth per family), please bring 2 dozen treats per youth.

\*Each family is responsible for helping in the kitchen: prep & serve, clean up etc.  
(prepare/start coffee, make lemonade, set out treats, etc.)

\*If you must switch Sundays to serve, you are responsible for finding your own replacement.



Class: January 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> @ 3:30p.m.  
We are so proud of our confirmands this year!  
They have been busy doing lots of volunteer  
jobs and are willing to help wherever they can!

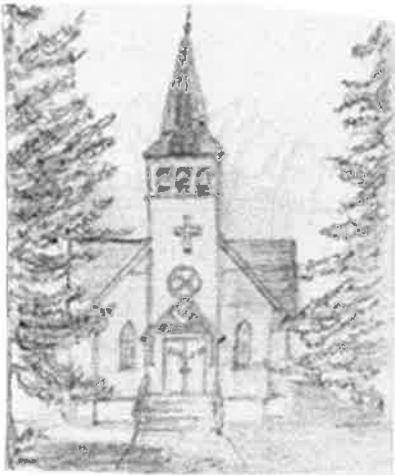
***Confirmation this year is on April 19<sup>th</sup>,2026!***



Thank you to all  
who supported  
the Luther League  
by purchasing  
Christmas wreaths  
this season!

**Save These  
DATES**

**April 19<sup>th</sup>,2026- 1<sup>st</sup> Communion  
April 29<sup>th</sup>,2026- Senior Day  
May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026- Confirmation**



## Immanuel Lutheran Church

### **January**

**Sunday School: 10:15a.m.**

**Worship Services: 11:00 a.m.**

**Communion: January 4th**

**Annual Meeting & Potluck: January 25<sup>th</sup>**

### **Sunday School**

**January 11- Class**

**January 18- No Class**

**January 25- Class**

## **Immanuel Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes**

**December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025**

The council met on Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Council Members present were Tanner Martinson, Kevin Moxness, Paul Mund, Mindy Hogness, and Derek Martinson. Tanner called the meeting to order. The **Secretary's Report** was read and a motion to approve was made by Kevin, seconded by Paul. The **Treasurer's Report** was read and a motion to approve was made by Paul, seconded by Kevin.

### **Committees:**

**Education:** The Sunday School Christmas Program & potluck will be held on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. The 2026 schedule has been posted to Facebook page.

**Property & Maintenance:** See Old Business.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Property:**

Insurance Letter: We have not heard from them since we submitted a response to their letter. The

booklet outlining the new premium was received. We haven't seen a statement for this year though and thus haven't paid. Last year, we paid on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Siding:** Contractor August Peplinski out of Valley City will be adjusting the quote per our revision requests. The council gave him a verbal commit and will re-review the revised quote in the Spring ahead of the project.

### **New Business:**

Council Member Elections were set for Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>

Annual Meeting & Potluck was set for Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Paul, seconded by Kevin. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

**Mindy Hogness,  
Council Secretary**

The Immanuel Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner will be held Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Following worship. Please plan to attend and bring food to share.