

JULY

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July/August 2026
NEWSLETTER



**Milnor Lutheran and
Immanuel Lutheran Churches**

Rick Bryant

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
Rick's e-mail: bryant@drtel.net
www.Facebook.com/Milnor Lutheran Church
MLC Website: www.milnorlutheran.com

Rick's Column

Greetings and Peace to you all,

I have spent a great deal of my life trying to convince others to believe in Jesus. To have faith that He truly died to save us and that if we truly believe and accept his grace, we need not fear death because we will live forever in God's glorious heaven. Some I have convinced, while many others could not be convinced. They throw down the gauntlet and demand that I give them proof. That is the challenge of all challenges because I was not there when Jesus walked the earth. When it comes to believing in the resurrection of Jesus, we cannot simply seek knowledge and scientific facts, although they do exist. Nobody comes to faith in Jesus because they had first-hand knowledge of him. Not one of us has been to Jesus house for supper and conversation. It has to be our heart that is pulled into a relationship with Christ. The Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 10: 9-10, "If you believe in your heart and confess with your lips that God raised Jesus from the dead then you will be saved." The heart is the source of all that we long for. It is the place where we make some of our greatest decisions. Our heart is what will lead us to Jesus, but only if we are willing to let down the walls that we have built to protect ourselves from more and more hurt. Our hearts do matter to God. It is the source of all life. That is why we must look to God with our hearts, because if we don't-the healing, the joy, the peace, and the love which awaits us, will never be there.

Today, there is no better day for us to commit our lives to Jesus, to reaffirm our faith and love in Him. And just as Christ was raised from the dead, we also may have new lives. God promises us a fresh start and a completely new life by simply trusting in Jesus and his resurrection. You don't have to wait until death to learn to live. Today, embrace the risen Christ and celebrate the new life that he offers you. They say that change is usually for the better. I have known this to be true. With the spirit of Jesus Christ within you, guiding and protecting you, you will for sure be the changed person that you always wanted to be. May the Peace of Christ be with you all

Rick



PARISH PRAYER LIST

People currently on our prayer lists are Please keep them in your prayers. *Dan Mund, Marlene Hogness, Weston Gregor, Lisa Bershok, Jill Wehlander, Dick & Pat Kuehn, Bill Larson, Greg & Arlis McFarland, Lynn Johnson, Darren Wipf and Pat Olofson.*

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



July/August Birthdays

July

2 - Mike Martinson
Shirley Mund
4 - Greyson Arth
7 - Tom Hogness
8 - Randy Syrstad
9 - Wanda Hogness
13- Abigail Lunneborg
Darick Yagow
14 - Jeri Christiansen
15 - Lillian Martinson
17 - Linda Martinson
19 - Bud Kuehn
20 - Janice Larson
23 - Jerome Johnson
Jason Kottke

24 - Donna Johnson
26 - Jeanette Buskohl
27 - Adam Martinson
28 - Tanner Martinson
Alisha Olson
30 - David Lunneborg

August

3 - Lacey Ferderer
4 - Carson Roeder
5 - Joel Halvorson
6 - Carson Deyle
Jolene Schwalk
Holden Yagow
7 - Easton Fyre
Paula Tayer

8 - Kevin Peterson
9 - Terry Dusek
12 - Brayden Larson
17 - Judy Anderson
Jim Kleingarn
19 - Debbe Ellefson
Gwyn Kuehn
20 - Lance Hogness
23 - Brinley Yagow
26 - Brenda Gibbon
27 - Tammy Martinson
29 - Brooke Peterson
30 - Dan Mund
David Robbins

MLC MEMORIALS

In memory of Gary Jenson

From: Alice Wehlander (MLC S.S.)
Myron & Lori Yagow (MLC cemetery)

In memory of Orvin Hogness

From: Debbie Ellefson(MLC cemetery)

In memory of Leon Shank

From: Debbie Ellefson (MLC cemetery)

In memory of Brian Ordahl

From: Karen Wohler
Marsha Hendrickson
Tersa Toyne-Dick

In memory of Marcus Halvorson

From: Karen Wohler
Tersa Toyne-Dick
Dayna & Bruce Speich (MLC cemetery)
Kennth Metzen

In memory of Dan Onchuck

From: Karen Wohler

In memory of Michell Kadoun

From: Rachell & Marshall Lien (MLC Cemetery)
Mike & Deb Schutt

WELCA

Day of Doing Quilters

will meet July 15th & 16th and August 18th & 19th at 9:00 a.m.

WELCA next meeting will be held August 17th at 10:00 a.m.

Yarn Angels will meet July 14th & 28th and August 11th & 25th at 1:00 p.m.



WELCA will be assembling **Health kits** again this year.

Needed items are:

Bath towels & washcloths (large size & dark colors)

Toothbrush & Toothpaste, Bath sized bar of soap

Nail clippers, combs, large bottles of shampoo.

They will be collecting through October 2026. If you can pick up a few items for those in need, it would be greatly appreciated.

BLOOD DRIVE at MLC



Blood Drive!

There will be a blood drive at MLC on Monday, July 27th, from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00p.m. Please call Bobbi Haugen (680-2806) or Dorothy (680-8082) for appointments. If you can furnish cookies, bars or other goodies for this event. Please let Dorothy or Bobbie know.

Shepherding Leaders:

July-Pat Olson and Diane Wallin

August- Brian & Paula Tayer

Bill & Dorothy Pribula

Altar Guild

July—Phyllis Springer and Tracy Nelson

August—Janice Larson and Gail McCleary



Immanuel Lutheran Church

July

Usher: Harlan Hogness

Altar Guild: Sandy Hogness

Communion: July 5th

August

Ushers: Loran Hudson and Mark Hudson

Altar Guild: Annette Hudson

Communion: August 2nd

Worship Services: 8:00 a.m. through Sept. 6th



SUMMER WORD SEARCH

S	B	W	K	I	S	U	N	W	M	K	W	V
Y	E	K	Q	H	X	A	E	S	K	O	V	P
N	A	D	A	O	B	D	N	J	I	N	A	M
G	C	L	C	T	B	W	M	D	T	U	C	O
N	H	I	P	L	Q	N	T	H	E	F	A	R
I	I	C	E	C	R	E	A	M	A	R	T	M
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S	W	I	M	N	I	E	J	T	A	M	O	A
B	A	O	E	T	C	G	U	L	D	M	N	M
R	T	A	N	E	N	S	M	H	A	U	T	P
I	H	C	A	E	I	O	P	S	V	S	L	I
S	A	Y	E	U	C	P	O	O	L	N	O	N
V	R	S	E	S	S	A	L	G	N	U	S	G

WORD BANK:	HOT	PLAY	SUN
BBQ	ICE CREAM	POOL	SUNGLASSES
BEACH	JUMP	POPSICLE	SWIM
CAMPING	KITE	SAND	SWING
FUN	PICNIC	SUMMER	VACATION

Milnor Luther Church Council Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2026 at 6 PM

Present: Jill Baldwin, Tracy Hansen, Mike Schutt, Paula Tayer, Rick Bryant

Absent: Wade Kuehn, Nate Sundquist, Jen Sundquist, Melissa Bryant

Meeting called to order by President Jill Baldwin.

Prayer/Devotion by Rick Bryant.

Secretary's/Treasurer's Reports: Secretary's report corrections reviewed (under prop & grounds, Next check of fire extinguishers by prop & grounds in 2 weeks; Ground Works bid will not be accepted due to alternate method to remediate basement water issue; prior to meeting adjournment, meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer) and sent with Rick for correction. Note that May newsletter had some errors (i.e. March council minutes instead of April; financials listed as income when it was a loss). The June newsletter will need to include both April and May Council minutes.

Treasurer's report in the black for April with overall loss since January 1, 2026. Motion to approve reports: Mike Schutt moved, Paula Tayer seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Worship (Jill): Hymns picked through August 23, 2026. Senior Recognition, 1st communion and confirmation services all went well with good attendance.

Stewardship (Paula and Tracy): No updates.

Education (Jen): Sunday School completed on April 26th. VBS scheduled June 8-11, 2026 with Red Willow leading.

Minister's Report (Rick and Jill): Rick informed the council of the need for Melissa to resign from the secretary position due to health effective ASAP. Melissa is willing to do what she can as she is able and to help train a new secretary. Discussion re: advertising position in The Teller and on church Facebook page. Deb Wagner contacted at this time and will work on The Teller ad to repeat the previous ad. Discussion had re: election of Council member to fill Council Secretary position and changes that will need to be made to the job description. Confirmation and 1st Communion went well. Rick talked of the possibility of taking June 7th as vacation day, but this is dependent on other factors.

Jill reported upcoming pulpit supply dates in Enderlin (May 17th) and Gwinner (July 5th and 26) as well as 2 upcoming burials (May 23rd and June 6th).

Properties and Grounds (Nate, Wade and Mike): upcoming projects for insurance (electrical cord

replacement in front to cross; water sensors, these have been received but unsure if installed; knock outs in electrical panels need to be filled to prevent issues; rot under sheathing in SE corner of church; batteries on fire extinguishers to be checked; EXIT signs lights to be checked/fixed); outlet cover has been replaced by the office/handicapped door. Handicap-accessible door has been installed and is working. A post is needed to install the outside door switch/panel approximately 6 feet away from the door. Mike has spoken with the installation company and the price is \$500 to \$1,500 for a post from them. Tracy will check with the Colony for the price of a similar product. Other future projects: Landscaping and Cement work cost and schedule not available in Nate's absence. No update from Curt Stubstad re: cracked colored glass above the altar. Jill will contact Synod to see if there is a list of stained glass workers.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: Several members of the congregation have approached Jill with offers to cover or partially cover the cost of needed church projects. Handicap-accessible door cost will be partially covered by endowment fund interest available. All Council members are asked to work on a list of projects to be shared with the possible donors and the congregation.

Next meeting: June 10, 2026 at 6 PM.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion by Tracy Hansen and seconded by Mike Schutt. All in favor.

Submitted by
Jill Baldwin

At time of publishing July/August newsletter July minutes not submitted. May minutes had not been approved.

May 2026	
Total income	\$7,769.19
Total Expenses	\$14,376.71
Net Income	\$6,607.52
Profit/Loss	\$4,344.94



As **America marks 250 years**, it's worth pausing to remember the blessings God has poured out on this nation. From the beginning, our founders leaned on truths larger than themselves—truths echoed in Scripture, like *"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (2 Corinthians 3:17)*. The desire for freedom, dignity, and self-governance didn't appear out of thin air; it grew from a belief that every person is created in the image of God. Across these two and a half centuries, America has walked through trials and triumphs. Yet through it all, God has continued to call us toward righteousness, justice, and compassion. Proverbs reminds us that *"Righteousness exalts a nation"*—a reminder that our strength has never been in power alone, but in our willingness to seek what is good, true, and honorable.

This birthday isn't just a celebration of history; it's a moment to humble ourselves, give thanks, and ask God to guide our next chapter. The future of America depends on hearts willing to love their neighbors, defend the vulnerable, and pursue peace. It depends on people who believe, as Psalm 33 says, that *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."*

So as America turns 250, may we remember where our hope truly comes from. May we continue striving to be a nation shaped by faith, strengthened by grace, and committed to walking in God's light.



*Trust in His timing,
Rely on His promises,
Wait for his answers,
Believe in His miracles,
Rejoice in His goodness,
Relax in His presence,
come near to God and
He will come near to you.
-James 4:8*



A Personal Note Regarding My Role as Parish Secretary

I would like to offer a heartfelt clarification regarding the May meeting minutes. I want everyone to know that **I am not leaving my position as parish secretary**. Serving our parish families is a joy and a calling, and I remain fully committed to this ministry.

As many of you know, I am preparing for a future kidney transplant. There are many steps and uncertainties involved, and the timing is never in my hands. When the day comes, I will need to take a few weeks off for surgery and recovery. This will be temporary, and I will communicate with leadership as soon as I have a confirmed date.

Through all of this, I continue to lean on the verse that has carried me through so many seasons of life: **"Trust in the Lord with all your heart."** — **Proverbs 3:5** This verse reminds me daily that **God is in control**, and everything unfolds in **His timing, not mine**. That truth gives me peace, strength, and confidence as I walk through this part of my health journey.

I love my job. I love serving our parish communities. Outside of the brief medical leave required for the transplant, I plan to continue in my role just as I always have. Thank you for your prayers, your understanding, and your support. They mean more to me than I can express.

Sincerely,
Melissa