



Mindekirken COMMUNICATOR

A Monthly Newsletter of the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church - ELCA

2025 May
Issue 251#

GRATULERER MED DAGEN!

Celebrate Syttende Mai at Mindekirken!

Sunday, May 18



Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church
924 East 21st St., Minneapolis MN 55404-2952
612-874-0716 | mindekirken.org
Office Hours: 10 am - 3 pm Tuesday - Friday

PASTOR'S HILSEN

FROM DEATH TO LIFE



To many people, spring is the most promising of all seasons. When all nature, that seemed to be completely dead, comes to life again. All kinds of flowers

show up and spread their wonderful colors and nice smells everywhere.

In my hometown Bodø, there is a medieval church, Bodin Kirke, built in the year 1240. That church has a wonderful altar piece, it was made by wood carvers from Holland circa 1600. Interestingly enough, there are a lot of tulips that decorate the columns on that altarpiece. And these tulips tell us that the wood carvers had to come from abroad, there were no tulips in Norway in the sixteen-hundreds.

But these tulips are not there just for decoration. These beautiful spring flowers are an ancient symbol of eternal life.

Because the tulip onion just sleeps in the soil during winter and then it come out with new flowers next spring.

This is one of the reasons why I have always loved tulips. Especially those in Bodin church. Because they remind me about spring – but they remind me even more about where we can find an eternal spring, namely in heaven. So spring is the most beautiful season to me, especially if we remind ourselves about the eternal spring that is waiting for us if we believe in Jesus and his sacrifice for us! Eyvind Skeie, a very well-known Norwegian hymn-writer and song-writer made a very popular Christian Musical called, Visst skal Våren komme, (certainly, spring will come). Our own Mindekirken band has performed several of the songs there.

And yes, certainly, the eternal spring will come!

- Pastor Gunnar

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Pastor Gunnar founded and oversees a humanitarian aid organization in Bohol, Philippines which has a profound impact on improving lives.

Mindekirken is the main supporter of [ihelpfriendship](https://www.ihelpfriendship.net/) (<https://www.ihelpfriendship.net/>) and our contributions are crucial for meals, education, medicine, and mental health support. Please give generously to Mindekirken Mission of the Month on our website or earmark your offering. Tusen takk!

- Wendi S.



iHelpFriendship

Need Pastoral Care?

The Mindekirken pastoral care team wants to care for you and your family as you walk through life's celebrations and challenges.

Please contact Pastor Gunnar Kristiansen at 1gunnarkristiansen@gmail.com or call 651-955-5359, or the church office at 612-874-0716 if you are hospitalized, having surgery, or are in need of pastoral support.

Have a Prayer Request?

Prayer requests can be emailed to: 1gunnarkristiansen@gmail.com. All requests will remain confidential.

Hymn Blog by Gracia Grindal

***Hymnfortheday.com** is Gracia Grindal's blog on hymns and the text for the coming Sunday. It has a brief devotional and lots of information of favorite hymns, many from the Nordic countries. Go to the site and scroll down to the bottom of the page and you will find out how to sign up to receive the blog every week. You can search for information on your favorite hymns on the site as well.*

Home Visitation Assistant

Part of the deacon role is to assist the pastor with home visitations as needed. This summer when Pastor Kristiansen is in Norway this role will be even more important to assist and provide continuity for the rotation of interim pastors filling in during Pastor Kristiansen's absence. Michael Harty, our newest deacon, has volunteered his time and talents to assist with visitations. Michael is an ordained Lutheran minister. During his years in the seminary he particularly enjoyed home visitations. We are excited to welcome him to the team.

GREETING FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hipp Hipp Hurra for Syttende Mai everyone! Gratulere Med Dagen!!

- Kirsti Grodahl, Mindekirken Congregation President

The pictures below are a selection of Kris' favorite Syttende Mai photos (and one artist's rendering) from past celebrations here at Mindekirken—including one of Kris with her children, Joe and Kimberly, circa 1985!



BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The Bicentennial Committee urges you to attend the festivities with His Majesty's King's Guard this Mother's Day, May 11 (*details on p.5*). That event which will be a unique event in our midst will help cement the relationship between our congregation and the palace. We also urge you to look at our calendar and see the various programs we have planned for May, especially Syttende Mai. Plan also for the Tuesday Open House Summer Seminar on June 3 (*details on p.5*) that will bring to us and the community displays of the history of Norwegians in America that are quite special.

- Gracia Grindal

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Mindekirken Community –

We are three months into the new year and running a deficit to date of almost \$38,000. Most of this is related to our donations being down almost \$31,000 when comparing income to last year.

Please think of investing in your church. Or if you are meeting with your financial planner, consider Mindekirken in your plan.

We are so blessed and thankful for your contributions in the past, which enables us to provide the number of programs and events that are offered.

- Nancy Olson, Treasurer

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

Due to Covid, we have lost touch with some of our church members. As a result, we are in the process of reconnecting with our membership, updating addresses, phone numbers and a current email address.

We want to hear from you! Are there needs or special concerns we may be of assistance? Are there other suggestions to build our community? In the next month you will receive a short survey with an enclosed stamped, addressed envelope to return to our office. Your response is very important to us.

- Nancy Watkins, Deacons Chair

ARTS & EXHIBITS UPDATE

The Arts and Exhibits Committee was formed last year as a subgroup of the deacons and chaired by Erik Pratt. The committee's purpose is to curate the pictures, artwork, and crafts that have been collected over the years. They are in the process of being organized into themes and will be rotated as exhibits through the upcoming years. Outside the Fellowship Hall you may have noted the first exhibit featuring pictures of Syttende Mai. Mindekiren also has a talented group of artists. Their story and work will also be included in various exhibits.



Our first featured artist is Kari Fosse. We have seen the watercolor work of scenes from Mindekirken printed on cards. Kari is also a talented oil painter. For as long as she can remember she has always enjoyed drawing. As a little girl during the war years in Norway, art supplies were scarce. However, she found ways to improvise. For paper she would draw on the white side of bricks that her father fed to the cows. When her family visited the beach next to the fjord she would draw with collected charcoal left from bonfires. After immigrating to the U.S. she found many opportunities to develop her talents. She began with a community ed class and continued eventually graduating from the College of St. Catherine with a degree in art. Please look for her work on display throughout the church.

- Nancy Watkins, Deacons Chair

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday Open House Summer Seminar: Norwegian Immigrants and Settlement Patterns

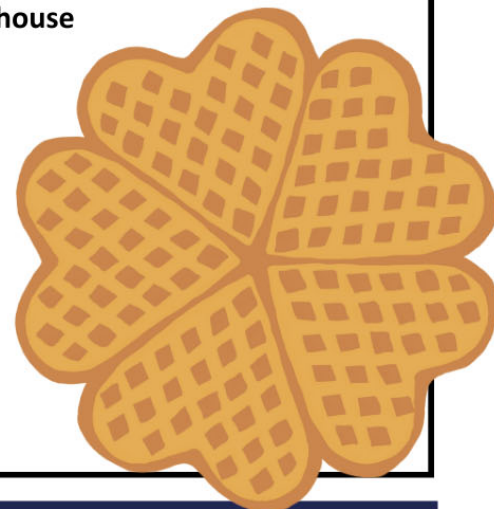
June 3, 2025, 9:00 am to approximately 3:30 pm (doors open at 8:30 am for coffee)

\$25; \$30 if purchased after May 16. Registration closes May 26.

Tickets available at mindekirken.org/tuesday-open-house

Exhibit Viewing: New Land, New Life (presented at Mindekirken from June 1-3)

- 9:00 Welcome – Marilyn Sorensen
- 9:15 New Land, New Life: How it came to be – Lowell Johnson
- 10:30 Linka's Diary Story – Margi Preus
- 11:45 Lite Norwegian Lunch
- 1:00 Settlement Patterns – John Christianson
- 2:15 Women Homesteaders – Caitlin Sakrisen
- 3:30 Closing Comments



Classica Chamber Players Concert

Sunday May 25 at 1 pm

\$20, free for students

Ticket link at [Mindekirken.org](https://mindekirken.org)

Classica Chamber Players, formerly Hill House Chamber Players, presents trio concerts including piano, violin and cello. They enjoy discovering lesser known works as well as the rich repertoire of classical and romantic piano trios.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Please join us in celebrating our May birthdays! If you have a birthday that's not listed, please notify the office so we can acknowledge your birthday.

5/2 Hans Sandom	5/16 Pam Nimmerfroh
5/2 Kari Urberg Carlson	5/19 Arlene Wilson
5/2 Martha Balfanz	5/19 Beverly Anderson
5/4 Gracia Grindal	5/20 Susan Holm-Johansen
5/4 Martin Bertilsson	5/22 Ingrid Slettemoen
5/4 David Nelson	5/22 Eileen Ronning
5/9 Jean Knaak	5/23 Kristi Lind
5/13 Dale Knealing	5/27 Julie Ingebretsen
5/14 Beatrice Hole	5/29 Doug Watkins
5/15 Charlotte Breivik	5/31 Rodger Hole

Gratulerer med dagen!

A visit from the King's Guard Third Company

Join us for a full day of celebration and performances with His Majesty's King's Guard. Events throughout the day are free and open to the public, and even include the chance to dance with young cadets from the King's Guard!



9 am at Norway House: Light breakfast
11 am at Mindekirken: Norwegian Service with music provided by the King's Guard band
12-2 pm at Mindekirken: Lunch/kirkekaffe
2 pm in the parking lot: Outdoor march & dancing

SYTTENDE MAI AT MINDEKIRKEN

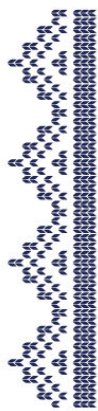
Join us for a festival worship service, *folketog* parade, music & entertainment, photo booth, informational tables, food, and special activities for children. All are welcome! *Velkommen!*

In the church sanctuary:

- no 9 am service on this date
- 10:30 am Prelude Concert
- 11:00 am Festgudstjeneste/Festival Worship Service
- Concluding with the mass choir of the Norwegian Glee Club of Minneapolis, Kvinnekor, and Mindekirken Choir joining together for Grieg's *Landkjenning*

On the street:

- 12:15 pm/immediately following the service *Folketog* (Walking Parade) with flags around the neighborhood—about an eight block loop
- Groups in the spirit of celebrating Norway are encouraged to bring their banner to carry in the parade



In the church parking lot:

- 1:00 pm Picnic Lunch - featuring *varme pølser* (hotdogs), chips, brus (soda), is (ice cream), and *kaffe* (coffee)
- Donation requested of \$5 cash or \$6 using credit card per adult
- Children eat free!

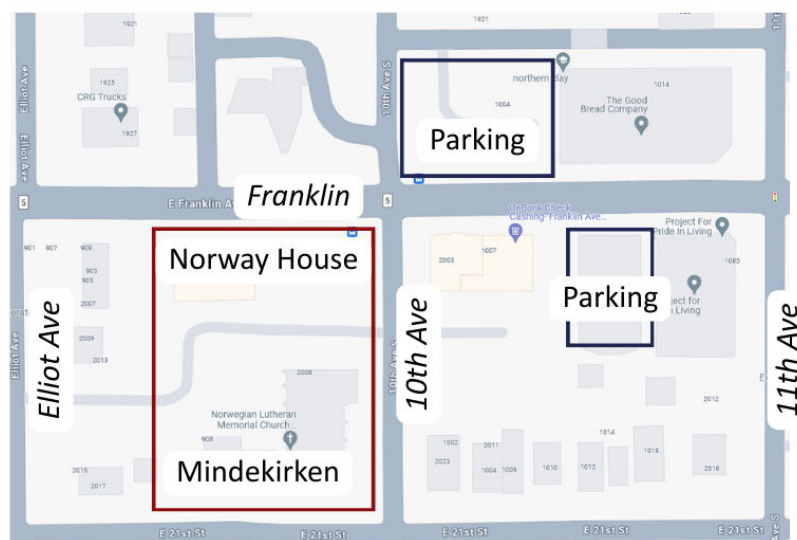
Throughout the afternoon on the church grounds:

- Activities and gift bags for children
- Music and folk dancing
- Photo booth
- Informational tables from the Mindekirken Norwegian Language & Culture Program (MNLCP), Skogfjorden/Concordia Language Villages, Daughters of Norway, American College of Norway, and more!

PARKING INFORMATION

The church lot is for limited mobility parking only. Please arrange to carpool or use public transportation if able.

Parking is available in the lot of The Good Bread Company, at the NE corner of Franklin & 10th (diagonal from the church) and the PPL lot (off Franklin between 10th & 11th). Street parking is also available. Please remember to remove all valuables from your car.



2025 GRAND MARSHALLS

ANNE JOHNSON & BOB WORRALL

Anne began coming to Mindekirken in 1972 and Bob started coming with Anne after they got engaged. They were married in Anne's home church, in Dovray, MN in 1979, but then became Mindekirken members soon after.

Bob has served on many committees as well as the boards of deacons and trustees and he was our Sunday School teacher for 25 years. Bob has helped a lot with church upkeep and maintains our 100 year old boiler. Bob has also participated in the church band. Two things he has not done are preach and cook lutefisk. He says to do either would be sacrilege.

Anne also has many skills, especially her baking. We are blessed with her help in the kitchen for many fundraising events. Anne also sings in the choir and has provided leadership for church missions and member birthday recognitions. She also serves on the Tuesday Open House board.

Anne was a nurse-midwife for 45 years and Bob was an elementary school art teacher. You can see some of his art pieces around church. Anne and Bob have three grown children, twin daughters, Christine and Sarah and a son, Andrew. They have six grandchildren, four of whom have participated in Lucia services.

Bob and Anne are real blessings to the church, sharing their talents. Look for them riding in a 1929 Ford in the Syttende Mai parade on the 18th!



Above: Anne & Bob at a recent Syttende Mai at Mindekirken



Left: Bob & Anne in the Mindekirken Membership Directory from 1980.

Join the Parade Band!

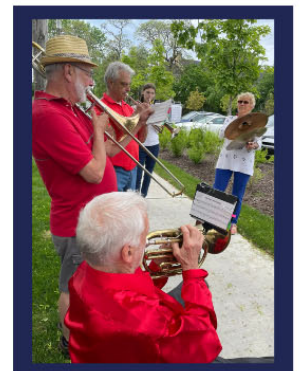
**To all musicians - an open call to all marching instrumentalists -
The Syttende Mai Parade Band will march again!**

Mindekirken is celebrating Norway's Constitution Day on Sunday, May 18th. Bring your instrument and lyres, we can supply the sight-readable music (and an assortment of lyres if you need one). Dress for marching (red, white, & blue is great) and fun! Bunads (Norwegian national costumes) are welcomed.

Band Music: PDF music is available by request in advance. Please email office@mindekirken.org to request a part.

Performance:

We will meet on Sunday May 18 at Mindekirken in the downstairs Oslo room by 11:15 for a short warm-up. Cases may be left here. Parking will be tight—see page 6 for parking locations. We will proceed outside to the street at 11:45 to be in place by 12 ready to start the parade when given the signal. Done by 1 pm (8 blocks walking flag parade). Complimentary picnic lunch to all musicians following parade performance at the church! Picnic entertainment includes folk music, folk dancers, games, and socializing. Please notify Maggie at the church office (office@mindekirken.org, 612-874-0716) or Kari Urberg Carlson (kariuc@icloud.com) that you will be coming so we can have music ready for you.



TUESDAY OPEN HOUSE

Schedule

10:30 a.m. Doors open
11-11:30 Lunch served
11:45 Announcements & Brief
12-1 Devotion
Program

Arrive early to find a seat, enjoy coffee, and socialize before lunch starts. A donation of \$10 is requested at the entrance to the Fellowship Hall.

RESERVATIONS

To make a reservation, please send an email to reservations@mindekirken.org or call (612) 874-0716 option 8

WEATHER CANCELLATION: In case of a snow event, check www.mindekirken.org or call the office for updates before coming



May 6

Julius B. Baumann: Energy and Inspiration | Presenter: Lawrence Moe

Julius B. Baumann (1869-1923) was born in Northern Norway and came to the Midwest in 1891, working first as a lumberjack, later as a county official in Cloquet, MN. Without much formal education, he nevertheless had a remarkable passion and ability to learn from his wide reading, and from his ceaseless activities including membership and leadership in multiple associations both local and national. Overflowing with inspiration, Baumann crafted over 250 poems in Norwegian, celebrating such topics as family, friends, Christmas, love, hope for peace, the beauty of the seasons, and the memories and perspectives of Norwegian-Americans. His poems circulated across the US through the many Norwegian-language newspapers and magazines of his day, and his three books. He has been called "the most beloved of all American poets who wrote in Norwegian." In this talk, Dr. Moe discusses the experiences and accomplishments of this notable man.



May 13

Eidsvoll 1814: The Men, The Myth, The Monarch, The Manor | Presenter: Sandra Bestland

"Eidsvoll 1814" is the story of the rise of nationalism in Norway. Signed on May 17, 1814, the Norwegian Constitution is the second oldest constitution still in use. It was written by two men and ratified by 112. Among the assembly were farmers, lawyers, merchants, priests, soldiers, a gambler, a nobleman, a horse master, a sheriff, a surgeon, a watchmaker, a teenager, and an acquitted murderer. Sandra will reveal intriguing details about the lives of the more prominent assemblymen, plus give a tour of the manor using photos from her visit to Eidsvoll in 2023. Sandra's quest to research "Eidsvoll" began after a Zoom meeting in 2020 when she learned that she is a descendant of an Eidsvollman.



May 20

That My Children May Know | Presenter : Pati Kachel

Pati Kachel is a professional traveling storyteller who specializes in telling the true life stories of inspiring Christian women of history. For the bicentennial of the first Norwegian immigrants coming to America, Pati explored the story of her own family. They came seeking a better life from Nordland, Norway in 1868. They pioneered their way westward across the American frontier to establish their homestead on the fertile prairies near Paynesville, MN. In this presentation Pati authentically portrays her paternal Great-Grandmother, Ane Marie Anderson. She tells her life story in the first person narrative voice. The setting of this story is in 1915, when Ane was 54 years old - recalling her life experiences as a daughter, sister, wife and mother...so that her children may know that they are Norwegian-Americans.

Tuesday Open House on Vacation for the Summer!

Tuesday Open House will be on Vacation from May 21, 2025 until September 9, 2025. Thank you to all who have volunteered to help and also those who attend on a regular basis. We have had a great year with many interesting speakers and have enjoyed our friendships with fellow attendees.

We do have one more event with the Summer Seminar tradition begun four years ago. The Summer Seminar will be on Tuesday, June 3, 2025. The theme is "Norwegian Immigrants and Settlement Patterns". A very nice description of the full program is described in a May Norwegian-American Newspaper. There are four great speakers and they will have interesting things to share so think about attending on the first Tuesday in June. After that our marvelous volunteer staff will be taking the rest of the summer off to enjoy all their summer activities. Hope everyone will return in the fall after having a great summer. Have a great summer!

- Marilyn Sorensen



Mindekirken
Norwegian Language & Culture Program

Join us on a language adventure!

Language classes meet for 2 hours a week for 10 weeks.
We offer three 10-week terms per year.

2024/2025 Term Start Dates:

Fall - September 9th

Winter - January 6th

Spring - March 24th



Connect with us, learn more about our program and register for
classes at www.mnlcp.org - **Velkommen til oss!**



2025 Syttende Mai Banquet

Saturday, May 17 at Norway House

Our program will feature **St. Olaf College**, a world-class higher education institution that was founded by early Norwegian immigrants in Minnesota. As St. Olaf celebrates its 150th Anniversary this year, **President Susan Rundell Singer** will share its origin story and its deep ties to Norway, as well as how it has evolved while continuing to honor its Norwegian heritage.

Reserve your tickets before May 9:
norwayhouse.org/calendar/2025-syttende-mai-mn-banquet



SUNDAYS' 10:00 HOUR

Please join us on Sundays during the 10am hour – the “in between” hour – between the English and Norwegian services.

We are changing our 10am format a little in 2025. Our tour will now be held on the fourth Sundays and our Norwegian pronunciation will be expand into several types of Norwegian classes held monthly.

First Sundays of the Month: The first Sunday of each month will continue to be the Sunday Forum, with a guest speaker or program.

Second Sundays of the Month: *(this class will not meet this month because of the visit from the King's guard)* The second Sundays of the month will now be a Norwegian class. We have new concepts for Norwegian classes that we will be introducing. They are designed to provide something for all levels of Norwegian abilities.

Third Sundays of the Month: *(this class will not meet this month because of Syttende Mai)* Introduction to the Norwegian church service. This class is to help build familiarity of the Norwegian 11am Gudstjeneste. The class covers everything from pronunciation and translations to theology and Norwegian church history.

Fourth Sundays of the Month: Mindekirken Tours. Our tour guides delve into the history of Mindekirken while discussing the building and art found in the building. All are welcome!

We hope to see you on Sundays at 10am!

- May 4 -

“Favorite Folk Songs” with Pastor Gunnar

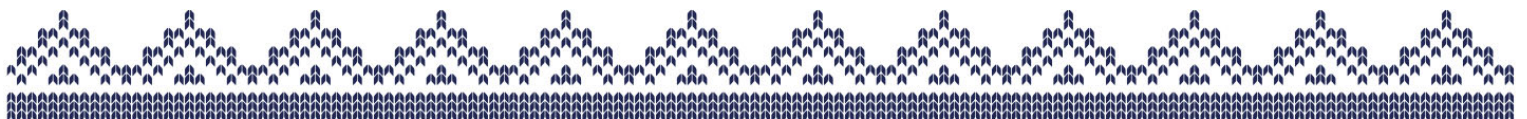
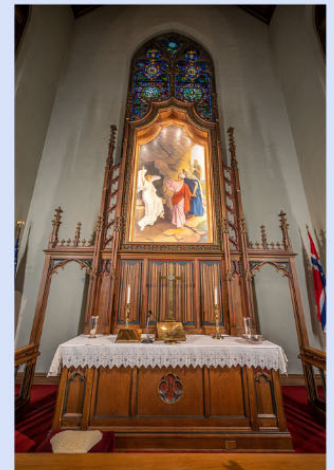
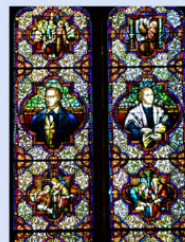
Pastor Kristiansen is well known in our church community for his guitar and love of singing. Over the years, he has given a number of presentations in which he has sung and discussed folk songs. Before we let him go at the end of the year to enjoy his retirement, we will turn the mic over to him one more time. In this special Sunday Forum, Pr. Kristiansen will perform and discuss some of his favorite folk songs from Norway, Sweden, England, Israel and the U.S.



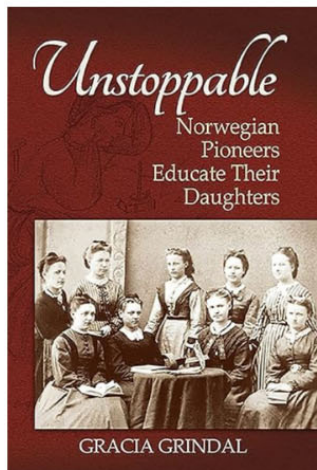
- May 25 -

“Why I love giving tours of Mindekirken” by Jon Bjorum

My favorite classes in college were all History. When I first took the tour of Mindekirken, I was fascinated by how much history was shown. Now when I give tours, I am excited to tell the history of each object and each room. From St. Olav's cross, to the immigrant trunk, and to the Hardanger altar cloth, they all have a connection to Mindekirken and our Norwegian heritage. And of course, the windows in the sanctuary!



SPONSORS



GRACIA GRINDAL



Gracia Grindal

As the Bicentennial continues, there are books on the immigrants that tell their stories, many forgotten today. This book studies how the founders of Luther College worked to educate both young men and women. David Preus, late president of the American Lutheran Church said, "Unstoppable is an invaluable addition to U.S. immigrant history. Numerous letters from pioneer pastor's wives are a primary source of information. These talented women covered all facets of the Norwegian-American immigrant lives in their letters and sketches... I was absorbed by the book from beginning to end!"

Available at Fortress Press, on Amazon, Barnes and Noble websites, among others.



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Email office@mindekirken.org for more information.

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Mindekirken 2025 Congregational Council

Executive Committee

Kirsti Grodahl, <i>President</i>	Nancy Sand Olson, <i>Treasurer</i>
Gracia Grindal, <i>Vice President</i>	Nancy Watkins, <i>Deacons Chair</i>
Jennifer Thue, <i>Secretary</i>	Toby Hillmann, <i>Trustees Chair</i>
Gunnar Kristiansen, <i>Pastor</i>	

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Michael Harty
Wendi Storhoff
Nancy Watkins

MAY 2025

The Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church
MINDEKIRKEN COMMUNICATOR
924 E 21st St
Minneapolis, MN 55404-2952

Return Service Requested

MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- May 4 -

9 am English Service with Communion
11 am Norwegian Service with Communion

- May 11 -

No 9 am service today
11 am Norwegian Service with
His Majesty the King's Guard Band
2 pm Outdoor march & dancing

- May 18 -

No 9 am service
10:30 am Prelude Concert
11 am Syttende Mai Festival Worship Service
12:15 Parade & festivities, followed by picnic lunch &
entertainment

- May 25 -

No 9 am service
11 am Bilingual Family Service with Communion

***Note: In June, July, & August, there will be
only one Sunday service at 10 am***

SUNDAYS AT 10

- May 4 -

Sunday Forum: "Favorite Folk Songs" with Pastor Gunnar

- May 11 -

no 10 am programming
Join us for performances from the King's Guard

- May 18 -

no 10 am programming
Join us for Syttende Mai festivities!

- May 25 -

Mindekirken Tour: All are welcome for our monthly tour of
the church, where we explore Mindekirken's history, building
and artwork.

COMMUNICATOR MAILING

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