



Mindekirken COMMUNICATOR

2026 March
Issue 260#

A Monthly Newsletter of the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church - ELCA

Presented by The Norwegian Glee
Club of Minneapolis

Lutefisk Dinner Spring 2026

Saturday March 21

12 - 3 pm

\$27 (\$13 ages 7-12, free ages 6 &
under)

Buffet style, featuring: Lutefisk, meatballs,
coleslaw, lefse, potatoes, coffee & dessert

Tickets required:

Mail in ticket form available
at mindekirken.org & in the
Mindekirken office



Lapskaus Luncheon & Hans Nielsen Hauge Lecture

Saturday April 25, 2026

Lapskaus Luncheon at 12 pm
Tickets & more info at mindekirken.org

Hauge Lecture at 1:30 pm
The Inspiration Hans Nielsen Hauge Can Bring to Us Now
Presented by Pastor Tim Peterson



We are excited to announce that our interim pastor Tim Peterson will be our 7th Hauge Lecture presenter this April. Since his time with us as Interim Pastor previously, he has studied the life and works of Hauge and helped us establish a connection with the Hauge Museum in Norway. Tim has long cherished his Norwegian heritage and has memorized the Gospel of Mark in Norwegian and English and spent some time presenting that in Norway as well as in America. Last year he led a tour to Norway's religious sites, exploring the long tradition of Christianity there.

Holy Week at Mindekirken

- Thursday April 2 -
Maundy Thursday Service, 7 pm

- Friday April 3 -
Good Friday Service, 7 pm

- Sunday April 5 -
Easter Sunday Service, 11 am

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



Thank you for welcoming Donadee and me back to Mindekirken!

I was reminded at the Annual Meeting that there is a lot that needs to be done in our

congregation. People have many ideas. There was talk of new initiatives, of making changes, of having meetings to decide on future courses of action.

We want to do a better job in welcoming new people. We want to improve our finances. We want to find a new pastor. We want to be more involved in mission in our community. We want to update our constitution. We want better publicity.

I think that's all very good.

My encouragement to the congregation in all these initiatives is to remember our identity – our purpose – our mission as a congregation.

Why are you a part of Mindekirken? Why do you come to Mindekirken? Why do you volunteer? Why do you give your money?

We are a people following Jesus. We support our congregation because we want the message of Jesus Christ to be proclaimed.

But why be involved at Mindekirken instead of some other congregation?

Is it our style of worship? Our beautiful

sanctuary? Our music? The ministries we are involved with? The people who come here? The way we do kirkekaffe?

Mindekirken has a very obvious kind of uniqueness, with our focus on Norwegian language and culture. Are we supporting Mindekirken because we want to maintain the language and culture of our ancestors?

If supporting Norwegian heritage is important, why should we support that heritage at Mindekirken instead of at Norway House or Sons of Norway or any of our other Norwegian-American organizations?

For myself, I think there is something special in the combination of the Christian faith and the Norwegian heritage. During my first five Sundays at Mindekirken I am trying to emphasize the blessing of our Norwegian Christian heritage.

But you need to answer these questions for yourself. Mindekirken needs more involvement. Mindekirken needs more financial support. Mindekirken needs you and many other people.

What is your reason for being committed to Mindekirken?

- Pastor Tim Peterson

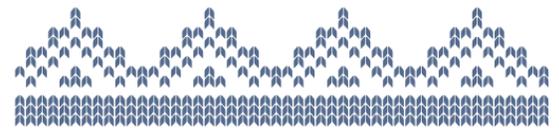
Need Pastoral Care?

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 Tim Peterson pastor@mindekirken.org or call the church office at 612-874-0716 (option 4) if you are hospitalized, having surgery, or are in need of pastoral support.

Have a Prayer Request?

Prayer requests can be emailed to: pastor@mindekirken.org
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, scroll to the bottom of the page, and you will find out how to sign up to receive the blog every week. You can also search for information on your favorite hymns on the site.

MISSION OF THE MONTH



The March Mission of the Month is Connect with a Child.

Connect with a Child is a holistic care program in Kenya that provides education and support primarily to orphaned children. Mindekirken was blessed with a visit and concert by students in their Hakuna Matata choir just a few years ago. Our Mission of the Month gifts will support the well-being and future of Kenyan youth.



I feel very honored to be nominated President of the congregation, and I thank you for this opportunity! So for those who don't know me, here's a little about me.

I'm a native Minnesotan, born in Minneapolis. Our family including 6 children, moved to Vancouver, Washington in 1962, for a better climate (said my father), but I continued to dream and long for Minnesota from where I felt happy as a child.

I am a lifelong musician and professionally, became a nurse. In 1993, I had the chance to come back to Minnesota to help my mother's parents. Years later, I attended graduate school at UWEC and became a nurse practitioner. Finally, after nearly 40 years of caring for patients, I retired last May.

Being of Norwegian ancestry, I was drawn to Mindekirken starting around 2005 when I became reacquainted with Bill Halverson, who was giving a lecture about Edvard Grieg at Mindekirken. He and his wife were old friends of my parents. From there I started attending concerts occasionally, met Russ Erickson and many friendly people there.

I was baptized as a child, was confirmed in the Lutheran church, went to church regularly as a youngster, but did not experience true faith until I experienced a crisis as a teenager. I started reading the Bible in earnest. A deep belief in God took hold of me. Over the years, I went to many churches but did not join. Ultimately, after attending Mindekirken regularly in 2021, I realized it was "home". My life changed and I'm so grateful to all who embraced me as part of the "family". And that is how I see our congregation; we are family!

I am the mother of two sons: Nathan and Kelby Howell. In 2024, I married Tom Lanman, a long time member of Mindekirken, after developing a dear friendship.

We live in challenging times. Know that I'm here to support you, and that I believe prayer works. We are in this together, and I look forward to getting to know you better.

- Laurie Agrimson, Mindekirken President

ORGAN COMMITTEE

Organ committee members have been repeatedly approached with questions about the timing of the new Allen Organ installation. In particular we have had numerous people ask if it will be ready for Syttende Mai. We are happy to report that the Allen Organ Company has indicated they expect the construction and delivery to be completed by the end of March. Installation including adjustments to optimize the sound for our space should be completed by early May.

In the meantime some preparatory work will need to be completed. Some electrical work will be required to ensure wiring that meets current code standards is available at the current organ console site, and also to the speakers in both pipe chambers and high on the rear pillars in the balcony. Inconspicuous shelving for the pillar speakers will also be installed. The most challenging task will be the removal of the current organ console and some or all of the pipes in the pipe chambers.

We will be without the services of an organ for a number of weeks during the removal of the Wurlitzer organ and installation of the Allen Organ. During this time hymn singing and choir accompaniment will be exclusively with the piano by our excellent pianists. The Mindekirken band or the piano will provide music for the prelude. Other special music for the offertory and postlude will continue to be done on the piano.

We are developing plans for the unveiling of the new organ with a formal organ recital and other activities around Syttende Mai. Please watch for further details in the coming months!

Organ Committee: Martha Balfanz, John De Haan, Gracia Grindal, Kris Grodahl, Gunnar Kristiansen, Monte Mason, Darlene Nordos, Jim Reilly, Kari Urberg-Carlson, and Doug Watkins

TREASURER'S REPORT

We just had the annual meeting in February. The 2025 figures and proposed 2026 budget were included in the annual report. You may request a copy of the report be emailed to you if you are not able to pick up a copy at church.

You will see that we have mainly paid our operating expenses out of the generosity of people who left the church money through their estates. Our income, which is primarily your monthly giving and our fundraising events – the two largest being the Treasure Chest Sale and the Lutefisk dinner, does not meet our operating expenses. There are only a few ways to resolve the issue – increase giving, create new programs that produce income, or reduce expenses. Investing and utilizing funds to maximize the money that we have.

There has been no financial plan, that I am aware of, and the church has not had a finance committee in a number of years. I am planning to start one, if you are interested in being a member, please contact me or our new president, Laurie Agrimson.

Thank you for your generosity in supporting the church and consider us when doing your estate planning.

- Nancy Olson, Treasurer

WINTER PAINTINGS



Tom Maakestad's show of winter paintings at Mindekirken will run until the first day of spring, March 20th. With this deadline in mind he has offered the following opportunity to Mindekirken: sales made between now and the end of the exhibition will result in a donation of 25% of purchase price to Mindekirken. Interested parties should contact the artist at 651 260 8021.

TUESDAY OPEN HOUSE SUMMER SEMINAR

Forged in Fire: How Mining Shaped the History of Norway

The story of mining in Norway entails a long history of extracting minerals from bogs and also from deep underground. The story involves Royalty, Sami, imported Germans, the Statue of Liberty, harsh conditions, and warfare in a land rich with mineral deposits. The earliest evidence of mining in Norway began in the Stone Age when greenstone found along the Western coast was used to make adze and other tools. In the Iron Age, bog iron was smelted and formed to make household items, agricultural implements, weapons, and armor. Use of bog iron continued into the Viking Age to build light, flexible, and seaworthy ships. The vast quantities of copper that were found in Røros in the Early Modern Era were mined for 333 years, while the 80-plus silver mines in pre-industrial Kongsberg made up the largest mining area in Norway. In the 21st-century, Norway's potential for exploration of deep-sea mining is highly controversial. What will the future hold for Norway, one of the wealthiest countries in the world?



- Tuesday, June 2nd, 2026
- 8:30 AM Coffee and sweet treats
- 9:00 AM to 11:45 AM Presentations
- 11:45 AM Lunch
- 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM Presentations

Place: Fellowship Hall at Mindekirken The Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church
924 E 21st St, Minneapolis MN 55404

Stay tuned. Ticket prices and more details to follow.

TUESDAY OPEN HOUSE

Schedule

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

Arrive early to find a seat, enjoy coffee, and socialize before lunch starts. A donation of \$15 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

March 3

My Country 'Tis of Thee

Presenter: Joel Quie

Joel is currently writing a novel about America that chronicles the lives of four families and their search for home. Titled, 'My Country 'Tis of Thee', it spans nearly 200 years and covers the challenges and courage of immigrants from Europe and Africa as well as Native families. Joel's Norwegian ancestors and their contributions to their new country feature prominently in the novel.

March 10

Life is Short and So Am I

Presenter: Lucy Rose

We are living longer than any generation before us. How do we live these "extra" years? There is a "use it or lose it" principle for cognitive ability—when we stimulate our brains, we continue to grow dendrites, even in old age. As an author, speaker and artist, Lucy Rose shows how we can create our lives as a work of art.

March 17

How Nordic Lutheranism Lit One's Way

Presenter: Dianne Steen-Hinderlie

Have you ever been approached by someone asking to make a documentary of your life? Diane's cousin, Dr. Rich Steen, a former manager of computer services at Harvard, did just that. Diane will share her life experiences, from pageant wins to serving as a missionary with her first husband Pr. John P. Hinderlie, to her ground-breaking work to institute the first training program for family childcare homes. A singer and a musician, she started prenatal-plus music classes in three churches. Diane has a long family legacy of ministry that reaches back five generations to a Haugesund emigrant. As Diane said, "The beat goes on."

March 24

Norwegian-American Lutheran Church Architecture

Presenter: Pastor Al Aakre

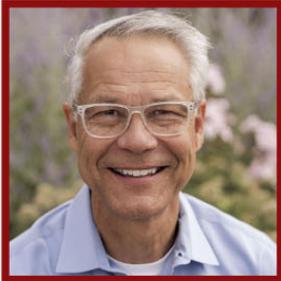
Pastor Al Aakre of the Eidsvold-Svea Lutheran Parish in Bay City, Wisconsin will present on church architecture within Norwegian-American Lutheranism. The presentation will explore the larger theological, social, and ethnic influences upon design through the disappearance of altar-pulpits (prekestolalter) from Norwegian-American churches. The presentation will consider what makes a sanctuary "truly" Norwegian-American Lutheran as opposed to anything else.

March 31

Anchor Chain of the Blücher

Presenter: Chris Johnson, president of Vesterheim

The journey of an object to Vesterheim. In this presentation Chris will talk about a piece of anchor chain from the German cruiser Blücher, that was sunk in the early hours of the invasion of Norway in 1940, and how it eventually ended up at Vesterheim.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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

3/1 Tom Lanman
3/2 Elizabeth Cardwell
3/5 Hunter Berg
3/6 Becca Holland
3/7 Karin Holt
3/8 Astrid Urberg Carlson
3/19 Harald Bakke

3/21 Mary Ellen Knatterud
3/21 Barbara Severson
3/22 Dick Enstad
3/25 Peter Anderson
3/26 Jorunn Henriksen
3/26 Jorn Sindre Remmem
3/30 Bette Buckman Braem
3/31 Kristofer Coffman



SNAKKER DU NORSK, ELLER VIL DU?

Har du lyst til å øve på norsk? Vi møtes den andre lørdagen i måneden fra kl. 09.30 til 11.00 på Norway House i Minneapolis. Sjekk kalenderen for detaljer: www.norwayhouse.org/events-calendar

Vil du lære norsk? Det finnes mange klasser og ressurser www.mnlcp.org eller norsk@mnlcp.org

Vil du bli med å tilbe Gud på norsk med andre? www.mindekirken.org



MINDEKIRKEN FOUNDATION

Give to the Mindekirken Foundation

The Foundation provides a permanent source of giving to fund special building projects (i.e., roof, lighting or carpet), many of which typically do not receive financial support from the church budget. Use the QR code below to give! Your generosity is appreciated!

mindekirkenfoundation.org/donate

The 2026 Foundation Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, March 22 after the 11 am service.



GRIEG SOCIETY NOTES

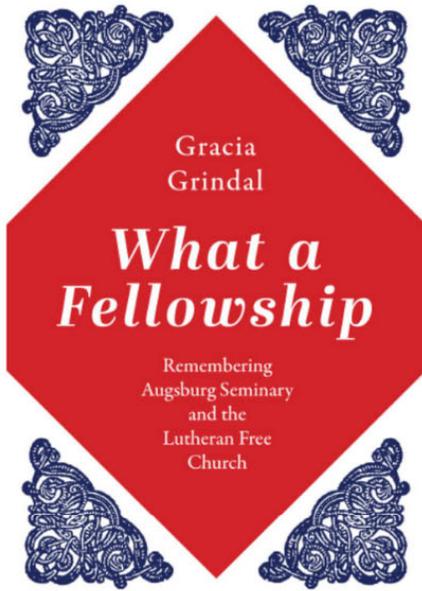
The Edvard Grieg Society of Minnesota (EGSMN) has been an independent 501(c)3 organization only since July, 2025, but we have actually been in existence for over twenty years. Let me tell you a bit about our history.

We first came into existence as a program of Norway House, which was officially founded in 2004. The visionary Norwegian Americans in the Twin Cities who first developed the dream of a Norway House realized that bringing this dream to reality would take some time. Meanwhile, they wanted to start reaching out to the community, to present some Norwegian cultural programs. EGSMN was created in 2005 for this purpose. Its primary mission was to promote the awareness and appreciation of the works of Edvard Grieg and other Nordic composers. It also envisioned presenting performances of Nordic music by contemporary composers and artists from abroad as well as from the U.S. Each year since 2005 the Edvard Grieg Society has presented a series of programs featuring visiting and local artists and scholars performing and talking about the music of Grieg and other Nordic composers. Its activities were planned and led by an Advisory Committee appointed by the Board of Directors of Norway House. Performing artists have included many well-known soloists and ensembles from Norway as well as from the States.

In 2024 it was decided that EGSMN could better fulfill its mission as an independent partner rather than as an integral part of Norway House. Many members of the Advisory Committee became founding members of the new Edvard Grieg Society of Minnesota. We are pleased to be a part of Norway Block and look forward to many years of partnership with our neighbors.

- EGSMN board member William H. Halverson

SPONSORS

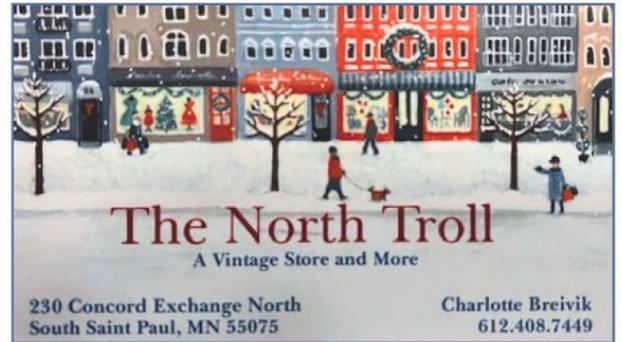


Poet, historian, and hymn writer Gracia Grindal weaves personal memoir and the history of Norwegian Lutheranism in the United States into a lively and insightful account of the Lutheran Free Church and its seminary.



Gracia Grindal

Available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, FortressPress.



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THE NORWEGIAN AMERICAN

Powered by Norway House

Check out Mindekirken's monthly column in the Norwegian American norwegianamerican.com

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Sandra Bestland: Tuesday Open House Coordinator
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Mindekirken 2026 Congregational Council

Executive Committee

Laurie Agrimson, *President*
 Doug Watkins, *Vice President*
 Jennifer Thue, *Secretary*
 Tim Peterson, *Pastor*

Nancy Olson, *Treasurer*
 Nancy Watkins, *Deacons Chair*
 Toby Hillmann, *Trustees Chair*

Trustees

Scott Hawley
 Toby Hillmann
 Tom Peterson
 Bob Worrall

Deacons

Gracia Grindal
 Kristi Lind
 Kathryn McKeen
 Carstens Smith
 Nancy Watkins

March 2026

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

Return Service Requested

MINDEKIRKEN WEEKLY

Want even more Mindekirken? Scan the QR code or contact the office to sign up for our weekly emails and stay up to date!

Sign up can also be found on the bottom of all pages at mindekirken.org



MARCH SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- March 1 -

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

- March 8 -

9 am English Service
11 am Norwegian Service

- March 15 -

Guest Pastor Dennis Preston
9 am English Service with Communion
11 am Norwegian Service with Communion

- March 22 -

Guest Pastor Dennis Preston
9 am English Service
11 am Norwegian Service

- March 29 -

Palm Sunday
11 am Bilingual Service



COMMUNICATOR MAILING

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The Communicator is also available on our website, along with past editions.
Please also contact the office for any address changes or requests.