



Mindekirken COMMUNICATOR

2026 June
Issue 263#

A Monthly Newsletter of the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church - ELCA



Photos by Leslee Lane Hoyum and Jane Froiland

Tusen takk!

Thank you to all of our volunteers, staff, and guests for a fantastic Syttende Mai!

Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church
924 East 21st St., Minneapolis MN 55404-2952
612-874-0716 | mindekirken.org
Office Hours: 9 am - 2 pm Sunday - Thursday

PASTOR'S HILSEN



Donadee and I want to thank the congregation for the opportunity to come back as interim pastor for these past four months. It has been a privilege leading worship and preaching, attending Tuesday Open House, celebrating Syttende Mai together, and renewing friendships.

both in Norwegian and in English. I have decided on my last Sunday to focus the whole Sunday morning worship on hymn singing.

We are praying that God would bless the ministry of Jesus Christ at Mindekirken. We pray that you will soon get a pastor. We are thankful for all the pastors who will be filling in during the coming months.

God bless you all!
Tim Peterson



Photo by Sharon Johnson



We will now be retiring to our home in Battle Lake, Minnesota. We will continue as associate members of Mindekirken and look forward to seeing you all occasionally.

We do have one special event on our calendar in September. Gracia Grindal is leading a hymn seminar at the Mount Carmel retreat center in Alexandria. And I have the privilege of playing the piano for it. We will be learning about hymns and doing a lot of singing. We hope many of you from Mindekirken will join us for this event – September 20-23, 2026.

One of my great joys at Mindekirken is the singing of Scandinavian hymns –

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.

Email 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.

Note: Beginning in June 2026, requests will be routed through the office to our guest pastors.

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.

MINDEKIRKEN MISSION OUTREACH

Starting in May 2026, we will be sponsoring two missions: CES and iHelpFriendship. Donations can be made at mindekirken.org/giving or by checks made to "Mindekirken" with the desired mission in the memo line.

Located directly in our neighborhood, **Community Emergency Service** transforms lives by serving neighbors, sharing resources, and becoming community. CES meets hunger where it is a critical need, on client's food shelves with home delivery to the homebound and Meals on Wheels to seniors.



iHelpFriendship is a humanitarian aid organization in Bohol, Philippines founded by previous Mindekirken Pastor Gunnar Kristiansen. Mindekirken is the main supporter of ihelpfriendship and our contributions are crucial for meals, education, medicine, and mental health support.



FROM THE PRESIDENT



Welcome to summer! By now we can take a few moments to breathe after all the activities of Syttende Mai! And a big thank you to EVERYONE who participated, volunteered, helped set up, served food, performed, and attended to all the details that were necessary to bring it together!

Now that summer has come, it also means that our Interim Pastor Tim Peterson has fulfilled his obligations, and is moving on to another chapter-hopefully able to fully retire soon! We thank you Tim and Donadee, for all your help and wisdom these last several months. We will miss you!

In the meantime, I'm sure everyone is wondering who is going to be leading us in the next several months as we continue to search for a full time pastor.

Many of you already are aware that Pastor Gunnar Kristiansen is returning from Norway in early July, and will be serving the congregation during July and August. We are incredibly lucky that he offered to lead us during the summer.

As for the remaining part of the summer and fall, here is our schedule of guest pastors looking ahead:

June 7 - Dennis Preston
June 14 - John Matthews
June 21 - Brian Lunn
June 28 - Kristofer Coffman

September 6 - Morten Gravdal
September 13 - Johan Hinderlie
September 20 - Johan Hinderlie
September 27 - Al Aakre

July 5 to July 26 - Gunnar Kristiansen
August 2 to August 23 - Gunnar Kristiansen
August 30 - Morten Gravdal - guest from Norway

October 4 to November 29 - Lloyd Tryland - guest from Norway

Please keep all these individuals in your prayers and when you see them, please make a special effort to thank them for their generosity!!

Also a reminder that in June, July and August, there will be one worship service at 10 am.

God's blessings to all of you, and thank you for all the ways you support Mindekirken.

Sincerely,
Laurie Agrimson

SYTTENDE MAI 2026

A special thank you to all of our Syttende Mai stage performers: Twin Cities Hardingfelelag, Peer Gynt Dancers, Barnehage, Norskeklubben, Art Bjorngjeld, Laurie Agrimson, and Carol Sersland. Mange takk!



FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dear Mindekirken Community,

What are your plans for this summer? Maybe you have a well-deserved vacation upcoming. Maybe you intend to watch the World Cup on TV. Or maybe you don't have anything planned. Whatever your schedule looks like, I pray that coming to Mindekirken is on your list.

Why? Because it's better when you're here! You see, the church is not a building - it's a body of people! At Mindekirken, we collectively choose to come together and worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to connect with each other, and to remember our Norwegian ancestry by engaging in various cultural events and programs throughout the year.

We can see the importance of this by observing what is going on in the world around us today. Right now, relations between the U.S. and NATO (of which Norway is a member of) are very tense. Even within the U.S., the political atmosphere has grown increasingly hostile, thus further dividing communities, breaking up families, and isolating individuals.

The Bible warns us what can happen if we do not stick together, hold onto our faith in Jesus, and share our values with future generations: Judges 2:20 (NIV) says "After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel." This just goes to show how important it is for us to be in community and connect with each other.

There are a number of ways we can support and strengthen the Mindekirken Community. The first is by joining us in-person on Sunday mornings for our Worship Services (followed by Kirkekaffe), as well as other in-person events and programs held throughout the year. The second way is to present the "firstfruits" of our labor and donate our tithes and offerings to the church. Deuteronomy 14:22-23 (NLT) says "You must set aside a tithe of your crops - one-tenth of all the crops you harvest each year. Bring this tithe to the designated place of worship - the place the LORD your God chooses for his name to be honored - and eat it there in his presence...Doing this will teach you always to fear the LORD your God." These not only help fund the operations of the church, thus making these services, programs, and events possible, but they also honor God!

As we look forward to what's ahead, may we also look back and reflect on God's faithfulness to us. May we love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love our neighbors as ourselves!

Adrian Wear, Mindekirken Finance Committee Chair

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 to give! Your generosity is appreciated!



mindekirkenfoundation.org/donate



Syttende Mai 2026 Grand Marshalls Cindy & Magne Hatlevik (Mindekirken Foundation Secretary and President)

JUNE 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.

6/2 Lynn Helen Fischer	6/15 Erica Espey-Sundt
6/3 Carstens Smith	6/16 Jana Aune Deach
6/4 Marcia Fuglestad	6/18 Fride Mauritzen
6/6 George Hoyum	6/18 Leslee Hoyum
6/6 Gudmund Julseth	6/22 Gail Holm
6/6 Ragni Aasland	6/24 Thor Aasland
6/7 Anne Lisa Knealing	6/25 Earl Evenstad
6/9 Lynnea Forseth	6/26 Karin Thue
6/10 Harriet Broin	6/26 Kirsti Grodahl
6/12 Mary Martin	6/26 Jean Ann Anderson
6/13 Diane Steen-Hinderlie	6/29 LeRoy Jensen
6/15 Curt Thoreson	6/30 Cindy Hatlevik



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
Tickets \$45 - purchase at mindekirken.org





Mindekirken Norwegian Language & Culture Program

Creating community and fostering Norwegian language learning for all.

NEW!
Summer Class

Accelerated Beginning Norwegian

**Every weekday for 6 weeks • June 29th-August 10th
9:30-11:30 am • Online on Zoom**

www.mnlcp.org

IN REMEMBRANCE



Astrid Featt
February 26, 1926 – April 19, 2026

Astrid was born in Orkdal, Norway and came over to the United States in 1950. She worked for Honeywell for over 30 years, retiring in 1986. She was known for her baking and

especially the dozens of beautiful Norwegian Selbu mittens she knit for the Mindekirken Treasure Chest sale.

Astrid is preceded in death by her husband Erik; brothers John, Gunnar, and Ivar; and sister Oline. Astrid is survived by nephew Idar Solhusmo and family.



Harald Bakke
March 19, 1927 – March 22, 2026

Born on March 19, 1927, at Steinsland near Bergen, Norway, Harald grew up in the fishing village. In 1952, he met Synnøve Nossen (1925–2015) from Fredrikstad, Norway, who was working as a nurse at Asbury Methodist Hospital. Together with Synnøve, he was a member of Mindekirken for more than sixty years,

serving as ushers, participating in church life, and serving on the building committee for the "new" addition.



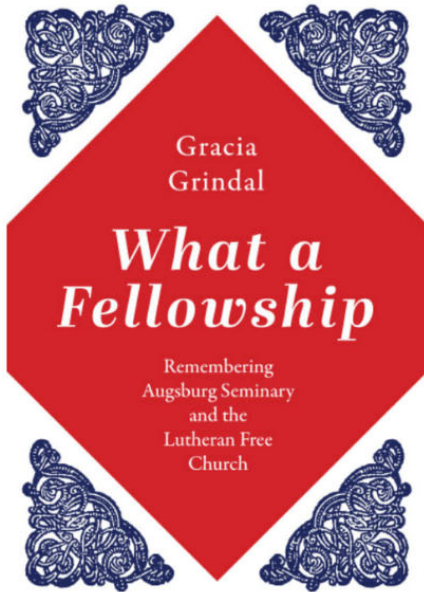
Randi Larsen
October 3, 1940 - December 26, 2025

Born in Namsos, Norway, on October 3, 1940, she moved to the United States in 1960. In 1958, at age 18, Randi travelled to Minnesota for an extended stay with relatives. During that visit, she met Leif Larsen at a dance hosted by a Norwegian group. They became engaged, were married

in Norway (1960), and moved back to Minnesota.

Randi was renowned by both friends and family for her baking skills, which included extremely addictive waffles and Norwegian Christmas cookies. She took time to teach her grandkids how to make Peppernøtter. This became an important Larsen family tradition that they are carrying forward for the benefit of all.

SPONSORS

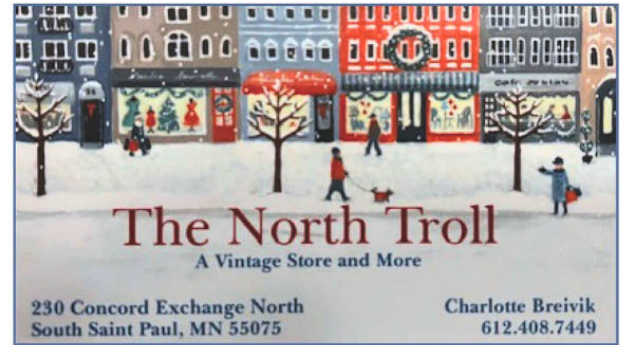


Poet, historian, and hymn writer Gracia Grindal weaves personal memoir and the history of Norwegian Lutheranism in the United States into a lively and insightful account of the Lutheran Free Church and its seminary.



Gracia Grindal

Available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, FortressPress.



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Email office@mindekirken.org for more information.



Powered by Norway House

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

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Mindekirken 2026 Congregational Council

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 Nancy Watkins

June 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



JUNE SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- June 7 -

Guest Pastor Dennis Preston
10 am Bilingual Service
with Communion

- June 21 -

Guest Pastor Brian Lunn
10 am Bilingual Service
with Communion

- June 14 -

Guest Pastor John Matthews
10 am Bilingual Service

- June 28 -

Guest Pastor Kristofer Coffman
10 am Bilingual Service

Note— in June, July, & August, there will be only one Sunday service at 10 am



COMMUNICATOR MAILING

If you would like to receive an emailed copy of the Communicator in lieu of the mailed paper edition, please contact office@mindekirken.org.

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