



Mindekirken COMMUNICATOR

A Monthly Newsletter of the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church - ELCA

2026 November
Issue 267#



MINDEKIRKEN LUTEFISK DINNER

Saturday November 21

Three Seatings: 12:30, 2:30, 4:30

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

Tickets & more info at mindekirken.org

**Make sure these events are on your calendar
for November - December!**

Treasure Chest Sale

Saturday, November 7 from 9 am - 1 pm

Bake Sale

Saturday, December 5

Sunday Service with Santa Lucia Pageant

Sunday, December 13 - 11 am

Nordic Choirs Julekonsert

Sunday, December 20 - 2 pm

Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 24 - 4 pm

Juletreff

Sunday, December 27 - 12:30 pm

MNLCP Winter Term Begins - Norwegian Classes

Monday, January 4

BAKE SALE DUGNAD

Bakedugnad på Mindekirken

Saturday, November 28th

9:00am - 2:00pm

Each year, our Mindekirken community comes together to bake hundreds of dozens of cookies as we work toward our shared goal of raising funds to support Mindekirken.

The purpose of this collective baking session at Mindekirken is to bring together people with an interest in baking. We will have a variety of "expert-led" stations that will focus on baking specific types of cookies using traditional recipes. We hope that volunteers will be able to stay for the duration of the bakedugnad. A light lunch will be provided.



**Free! Signup at
mindekirken.org**

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings from your President! Hoping you are well and enjoying the fall. May you still be able to harvest a few vegetables before winter comes!

I want you all to know about an exciting event coming up in Norway. It's the Norwegian Jubilee in 2030, which marks 1000 years since Saint Olaf was martyred at Stiklestad. Although most of us don't think about him (King Olaf II Haraldsson) very often, he was an important figure in uniting Norway and Christianizing the country. (At Mindekirken, we have a depiction of him in one of our beautiful stained glass windows. We also celebrate Olsok Sunday every year, which commemorates his life.) One could say that Olaf started as a Viking, then became a King, and then was declared a saint by the Pope a year after his death, which was on July 29th, 1030. He had a fascinating life and many Norwegians were inspired by his eventual faith and devotion to Christ. Many countries across the world still honor his name and the history of that time. Saint Olaf lived several hundred years before Martin Luther, so millions of Catholics also will be remembering him. There has been a petition to our current Pope Leo XIV to declare a special year of jubilee from 2030-2031. The significance of a jubilee year is to declare a period of special grace centered on prayer, pilgrimage and reconciliation. We can also reflect on the last 1000 years, and ask ourselves, 'What kind of society do we want to have in the next 1000 years?' If you can think of possible ways to make the 2030 Jubilee special between Mindekirken and the Norwegian people, please share your thoughts at president@mindekirken.org.

I also wanted to make mention of the call committee who have made several invitations to Norwegian pastors in the last year. We continue to be told that there is a shortage of pastors in Norway. Thankfully we have had many wonderful pastors filling in, including Pastor Tryland and Pastor Gravdal, and several others. If you would be interested in helping or serving on the call committee, please let me or Maggie know. We are open to suggestions and we ask for your prayers for guidance.

Lastly, we want to thank everyone who is helping to support Mindekirken, whether it is your time, talent, or treasure. We need all of you to contribute in whatever capacity you are able.

May God bless and keep you safely in His arms,

Laurie Agrimson, President

Need Pastoral Care?

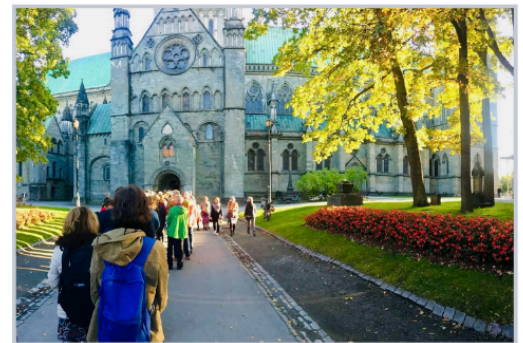
The Mindekirken pastoral care team wants to care for you and your family as you walk through life's celebrations and challenges.

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: Requests will be routed through the office to our guest pastors.



MINDEKIRKEN MISSION OUTREACH

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.



MINDEKIRKEN MEMBERS AMONG THOSE HONORED BY NORWAY HOUSE

Mindekirken has special reason to celebrate at this year's annual Norway House Vinterfest Dec. 1, 2026. Two members will be recognized for outstanding contributions to the Norwegian-American Community: Gracia Grindal, Going Viking Award, and Nancy Sand Olson, Silver Skis Award.

Gracia Grindal — Going Viking Award

Gracia Grindal is among three recipients of the 2026 Going Viking Award. The annual award is presented to individuals and organizations that exemplify bold adventure, purposeful ambition and courageous action, which build and sustain the Norwegian-American community. Inspired by Norway's history of exploration, the award recognizes those who venture beyond the expected and inspire others to do the same. The other 2026 recipients are Kjell Bergh and Melissa Hortman, who will be honored posthumously.



The Norway House Founders' Committee selected Gracia Grindal for her outstanding writing, scholarship, Norwegian-English translations and leadership. She has devoted much of her life to preserving Norwegian heritage and connecting Norwegian Americans with contemporary Norway. Her contributions to Mindekirken are significant. During her years of leadership, including serving as council president, she wrote *Mindekirken: Against the Current*, documenting the congregation's history from its founding through 1970, when Norwegian was no longer its primary language. It highlights an important chapter in the church's story when against all odds, the congregation retained its Norwegian identity and Lutheran faith through changing times. Among her many talents, Gracia's hymnology scholarship also has enriched Mindekirken's worship and musical heritage. Through sabbatical studies focused particularly on Nordic hymns, Gracia became a leading American authority on the subject. She prepared two collections of translated Nordic hymns for Mindekirken, which pass on to the next generations the music that gave Norwegians and Norwegian Americans hope and solidified their faith.

Furthermore, Gracia translated and helped produce Egil Hovland's opera about Hans Nielsen Hauge, *Fange og Fri* (Captive and Free), which played to sold-out audiences in Willmar and Minneapolis. In 2025, a libretto she wrote about immigration was set to music and performed by Vocal Art in Bodø, Norway, offering another example of her ability to connect Norwegian and Norwegian-American experiences through the arts. These accomplishments represent only a portion of Gracia's remarkable contributions that continue to strengthen the American and Norwegian connection.

Nancy Sand Olson — Silver Skis Award

New this year is Norway House's Silver Skis Award for outstanding volunteerism. Although the award is intended to recognize one volunteer annually, a tie vote produced two worthy recipients for its inaugural presentation: Nancy Sand Olson and Herb Morgenthaler. It takes its inspiration from a 1206 event during the Norwegian civil war era. Two Birkebeiner loyalists skied across the treacherous mountains to save the infant heir to the Norwegian throne, Håkon Håkonsson, from the opposing Bagler party. Their endurance and determination became part of Norway's national story. In much the same spirit, the Silver Skis Award honors those whose quiet perseverance, generosity and commitment have helped build and sustain Norway House.



At the heart of the award is the Norwegian concept of *dugnad*—the tradition of people coming together and contributing their time and talents for the good of the community. The award recognizes not a single act of service, but years of dedication to connecting the United States with contemporary Norway. Nancy exemplifies the spirit of service. For years she has generously given her time, talents and heart to Norway House. As a former board member and treasurer of both Norway House and the Edvard Grieg Society, she helped maintain financial records and establish sound financial practices during the organizations' early years.

Furthermore, Nancy partnered with Norway House's development team to research software to modernize... *(cont. on next page)*

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...the organization's management of donor relationships. She has long been a driving force behind the Midtsommer Gala, first chairing it, and by attending to event details and seating arrangements, all of which lead to a successful event. She has become well known for her Norwegian baking, especially lefse and Krumkake, which has become a beloved tradition at the Norway House silent auction.

Perhaps most importantly, Nancy is someone who consistently shows up—not just for events, but for the people who make up the Norway House and family, including during times of loss. Her dependable presence and willingness to help have made her an invaluable part of the community.

Mindekirken congratulates Gracia and Nancy on these well-deserved honors and their dedication to the church and the entire Norwegian-American community. Consider attending the Vinterfest at Norway House Dec. 1 to celebrate our honorees. Tickets available through Norway House at www.norwayhouse.org/event-calendar/vinterfest-2026.

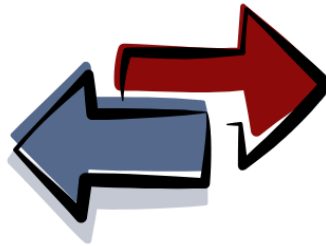


LEIF 2026



Thank you to everyone who made LEIF 2026 a great success--see you next year!

Left: The Mindekirken Choir and Latvian Church Choir performing during a service at the Latvian Church, Right: The Mindekirken Choir and Suomi 100 Finnish Chorus



Pastor exchange! On Sunday, November 22, we will welcome Pastor Mark Abelsen from Trinity Lutheran in Spring Grove, while Pastor Lloyd Tryland will preach at Trinity Lutheran.

NOVEMBER 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.

11/6 Sophia Benson	11/14 Tom Peterson
11/6 Anna Benson	11/18 Kari Friel
11/10 Heidi Froseth	11/19 Finnley Henrikssen-Myers
11/12 Haakon Deach	11/19 Arne Selbyg
11/14 Jeannette Henrikssen	11/20 Sharon Aaseng
11/14 Marit Kringstad	11/25 Leroy Sandven
11/14 Bente Madson	11/28 Ethan Belland-Hagberg



Gratulerer med dagen!

IN MEMORY

Janet Storhoff Weber: August 14, 1947 – August 23, 2026

Mindekirken associate member Janet Storhoff Weber, age 79, of Savage, Minnesota, died after a brief illness on Sunday, August 23, 2026.

Jan was proud of her Norwegian heritage and traditions, including food, needlework, and music, which she generously shared with others. Jan was preceded in death by her parents, sister Lola Johnson, brother Wally Storhoff, and brother Stafford Storhoff. She will be deeply missed by her loving husband Larry Weber, family, and friends.



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



November 3

From Prison to Pioneer: The Life and Missionary Legacy of Lars Olsen Skrefsrud

Presenters: Neeraj & Nijhar

Neeraj and Nijhar from the Prayer League (WMPL) will talk about the conversion experience of Lars Olsen Skrefsrud who became a Norwegian missionary among Santals in India. In his work as a missionary, Skrefsrud made contributions in the area of language and culture, Bible translation, education and literacy, and Indigenous leadership. His work is echoed in the Prayer League's slogan, *Across Nations, Lives Transformed*.



November 10

Strange Encounters of the King Harald Hardrada Kind

Presenter: Dr. Lawrence Moe

Dr. Moe draws on medieval sagas and modern scholars to chronicle King Harald Hardrada's audacious, far-flung, and colorful career. At age 15, Harald was wounded at the Battle of Stiklestad, where his half-brother Olaf—later canonized as Norway's patron saint—was killed. Harald amassed a fortune as a Viking and a mercenary, which fueled his return to Norway in 1046 to claim the crown. His life ended in 1066 during a failed attempt to conquer England, a fateful year that marked the end of the Viking Age.

November 17

Master Woodcarver

Presenter: Jock Holmen

Jock Holmen began his professional woodcarving and woodworking career over 40 years ago in Chicago. Jock trained under several Norwegian and American master woodcarvers in the USA and in Norway. His company name, Norwegian Termite, shows his pride in his heritage as well as his quirky sense of humor.

Jock spends considerable time and effort with each client to create a one-of-a-kind piece of art. He achieved his Vesterheim Gold Medal in 2010. In addition to commissioned work, Jock teaches classes in flat-plane figure carving, Norwegian acanthus, timber carving, lettering, and other carving techniques at folk schools throughout the Midwest.



November 24

The Road to Revolution: How 13 Colonies Came Together to Declare Their Independence

Presenter: Frank Sachs

This year we celebrate 250 years since the revolutionary idea that people should be governed by laws and not ruled by a king. Join historian, speaker, and educator Frank Sachs as he takes us from Plymouth Rock to Philadelphia to tell the story of how thirteen separate English Colonies came together after 150 years to declare their independence from England.



Mindekirken Norwegian Language & Culture Program

Creating community and fostering Norwegian language learning for all.

Lær norsk med oss!

We offer Norwegian language learning opportunities for all ages, including:

- Beginning to Advanced classes
- Online & In-person classes
- *Kvinnekor* (women's choir)
- *Norskeklubben* (for young learners)
- Private Lessons

**Winter classes start January 4th.
Registration opens on December 1st.**

Join us for our **Winter Kick-off** on
Sunday, **Dec. 27th** from 11:30am-2pm at
Mindekirken (register for classes, buy books,
ask questions), and stay for the **Juletefest**,
which starts at 12:30pm and ends at 2pm.



MNLCP.org

VOLUNTEERS

As we return to our busy fall schedule, we're looking for ushers for 9 am and 11 am services. Training provided, no experience needed!

We are always looking for volunteers for our big fall/winter events, including the Treasure Chest Sale, Lutefisk Dinner, and Bake Sale. Available positions include kitchen help, serving, checking in guests, and cash handling. Contact Jane@mindekirken.org for more info about volunteering with us!



SANTA LUCIA PAGEANT

Mindekirken invites children of all ages - pre-K through high school - to participate in our annual Santa Lucia program!

Participation is free, but registration is required.

Register at mindekirken.org/lucia

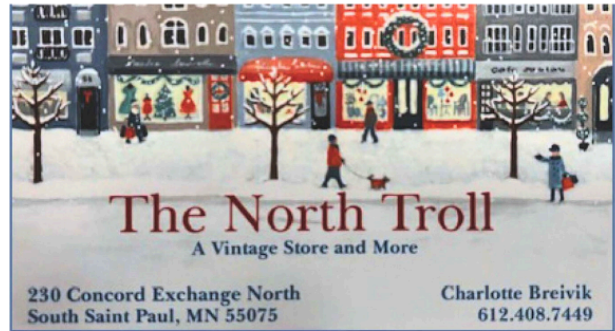


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THE NORWEGIAN AMERICAN

Powered by Norway House

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

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!

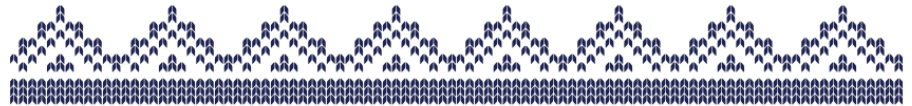


mindekirkenfoundation.org/donate

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To help support this publication, space is available to share your business card with over 1500 subscribers in your target market! We ask for a donation of \$50 per issue or \$140 for 3 months.

Email office@mindekirken.org for more information.



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Sandra Bestland: Tuesday Open House Coord.
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Mindekirken 2026 Congregational Council

Executive Committee

Laurie Agrimson, *President*
Doug Watkins, *Vice President*
Jennifer Thue, *Secretary*

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

Trustees

Scott Hawley
Toby Hillmann
Tom Peterson
Bob Worrall

Deacons

Kristi Lind
Kathryn McKeen
Carstens Smith
Nancy Watkins

November 2026

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

Return Service Requested



NOVEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Lloyd Tryland is the Guest Pastor unless noted otherwise

- November 1 All Saints' Day/Allehelgensdag -

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

- November 8 -

9 am English Service
11 am Norwegian Service

- November 15 -

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

- November 22 -

9 am English Service, Guest Pastor Mark Abelsen
11 am Norwegian Service, Guest Pastor Mark Abelsen

- November 29 -

11 am Bilingual Service, Guest Pastor John Matthews

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

