



Mindekirken COMMUNICATOR

2026 July/August
Issue 264#

A Monthly Newsletter of the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church - ELCA



Summer at Mindekirken

Repairs are underway on our 100 year old slate roof- here's to the next 100 years!

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

GUEST PASTORS

While our pastor search continues, we are grateful for the following substitutes:

Pastor Gunnar Kristiansen

July 5 - August 23

Pastor Morten Gravdal

August 30 & September 6

Pastor Johan Hinderlie

September 13 & 20

Pastor Al Aakre

September 27

Pastor Lloyd Tryland

October 4 - November 29

Tusen
takk!



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



Greetings and *Happy Summer* to all our friends and visitors to Mindekirken! I'm very thankful for all of you who contribute to our church being a place of warmth, fellowship and a community of faith.

I want to particularly thank everyone who has been including my uncle Carl in your thoughts and prayers for strength as he continues a journey with stage IV prostate cancer. Three weeks ago, I was unsure if he would survive until my brother Kim could visit in mid-June. Through the prayers and support of our friends at Mindekirken, and family who came to town, my uncle has had better control of symptoms, has regained some mobility, and currently is as sharp as a tack. He is being cared for at a small residential hospice in Oakdale. I am now even more certain than ever that Prayer Works! We also want to thank members and friends for their prayers and support for some of our members who are recovering from serious illnesses.

Mindekirken has made some progress on some of the projects that have been much needed: the organ has been installed, the boiler system is in the process of being improved, and our slate roof is in the process of being repaired. We still have some other work that needs to be done, and as you might expect, everything is more expensive. The council takes seriously the wise use of our resources and gifts. If you're willing to help a little more with any of these areas, we certainly appreciate it and see it as a blessing to our church.

In July and August, Pastor Gunnar Kristiansen will be joining us again as our guest pastor. Please come and visit him and take time to worship with us! Until then, may God's peace and love abound, surround, and astound you.

Sincerely,
Laurie Agrimson
Mindekirken President



Laurie and brother Kim (visiting from Portland). Our uncle Carl takes a rest while talking by phone to his brother in Hawaii.

SAVE THE DATE - FALL 2026

Rømmegrøt Luncheon
Saturday, September 26

Treasure Chest Sale
Saturday, November 7

Lutefisk Dinner
Saturday, November 21



SAVE THE DATE
for the 2026 Leif Eriksson
International Festival,
held Oct. 4-18!

Join members of Minnesota's vibrant Nordic-American communities for an exciting lineup of programs highlighting vibrant and cultural traditions.

Performances include Cheryl Paschke, Daniel Greco, and more!

For more information, visit LEIFmn.org

ORGAN INSTALLATION UPDATE

Our Allen organ installation is essentially complete! All the pipes were removed from the pipe chambers above and behind the live streaming area on the left, and the pulpit on the right. There pipes were replaced by multiple speakers in each pipe chamber, and additional speakers behind the painting above the altar. We are very pleased that there are no visible changes to this area. None of these speakers are visible from the nave where the congregation sits, and the facade pipes on each side were not disturbed, so the only visible change is the different console.

The Wurlitzer's horseshoe shaped organ console has been removed and replaced by the rectangular Allen organ console. The Allen Organ Company did a good job of staining the console to closely match the existing woodwork in the church. The console connects to the speakers with a 20 foot long "umbilical cord". This allows the console to be moved to different locations as desired to accommodate a large Christmas tree or groups of performers such as the Santa Lucia pageant or the Julekonsert.

We had an unanticipated surprise when we discovered the Wurlitzer console rested on unfinished subfloor, with the finished flooring only running up to and around the console. We are considering various flooring options and will fill in the unfinished area over the summer.

Thank you to Bob Worrall, Scott Hawley, Erik Mitchell, the Organ Committee members and others who volunteered their time and energy to bring this project to completion and keep costs down. We also owe a debt of gratitude to the foresight and generosity of those who contributed to the Organ Fund over the years. Thank you.

A celebratory "unveiling organ recital" is being planned for this fall. Please watch for updates!

Pictured below: Before & After



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



JULY & AUGUST 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.

7/3 John Casey	7/18 William Wangensteen
7/3 Linda Erickson	7/19 Ketil Eiane
7/4 Lynda Johnson	7/21 Magne Hatlevik
7/9 Leslie Oliver	7/21 Sonja Liv Cool
7/10 Turid Omseth	7/22 Marilyn Gronner
7/10 Cenith Carlson	7/26 Reidun Zollicoffer
7/13 Irene Hegge	7/27 Jon Bjorum
7/16 Jorunn Raddum	7/30 Joseph Jensen, Jr.
7/18 Raymond Olson	7/31 Per Dag Hole

8/2 Craig Weflen
 8/2 Martha Arneson
 8/3 Sharon Hoffman
 8/3 Kai Robert Johansen
 8/3 Ann Maren Sather
 8/4 Julian Ronning
 8/4 Sarah Halvorson Brunko
 8/5 Einar Johansen
 8/5 Lynndelle Pratt
 8/9 Terry Parker

8/14 Les Tufte
 8/14 Janet Storhoff Weber
 8/17 Mary Amundson
 8/21 Harold Arneson
 8/23 Marilyn Starr
 8/23 Kari Torkelson
 8/24 Ellen Zimmerman
 8/27 Peter Storvick
 8/30 Peter Lee



Gratulerer med dagen!

TREASURE CHEST NEEDS YOUR TREASURES!

As we prepare for Mindekirken's annual Treasure Chest Sale this November, we're looking for donations of high-value items to help make this year's fundraiser a success. Do you have heirlooms, handmade sweaters or other hand knit items, antiques, collectibles, or other "big ticket" treasures that are ready for a new home?

These special items often generate significant support for the programs and ministries of Mindekirken, making a meaningful difference in our community.

If you have an item you'd like to donate or would like to discuss whether something might be a good fit for the sale, please contact Jane at events@mindekirken.org. Thank you for helping turn your treasures into opportunities that benefit our church and community!



Above: A sample of items to be sold at our butik in 2026

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





Mindekirken - Minneapolis Norwegian Language & Culture Program

Creating community and fostering Norwegian language learning for all.

Sommer Samtalestunder

Do you want to practice your Norwegian over the summer?
Join us for these monthly discussion classes!

Beginning Level

Wednesdays, 3 - 5 pm CST, ONLINE
June 24th, July 22nd and August 19th

Advanced Level

Mondays, 6:15 - 8:15 pm CST, ONLINE
June 22nd, July 20th and August 17th

Learn more and register at MNLCP.org.

EDVARD GRIEG SOCIETY OF MN

Please join us for the following summer concerts:

- Aug. 5, 7:30 pm – Alisa Jordheim's concert with pianist Eric McEnaney – tickets for \$25 – <https://sourcesong.ticketspice.com/wednesday-recital-alisa-jordheim-and-eric-mcenaney>
- Aug. 6, 2-5:00 pm – Alissa Jordheim masterclass – free and open to the public – <https://www.sourcesongfestival.org/2026-festival-events/2026/5/14/masterclass>
- Aug. 4, 4-5:30 – Lecture: Dan Dressen and Nordic Repertoire – free and open to the public – <https://www.sourcesongfestival.org/2026-festival-events/2026/8/4/lecture-dan-dressen-and-nordic-repertoire>

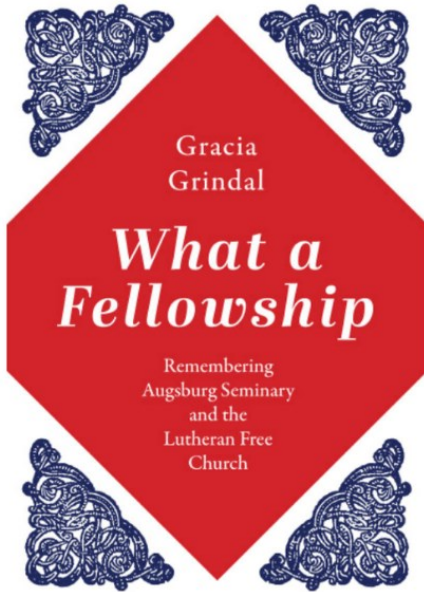
Westminster Hall, located in Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1200 South Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis.



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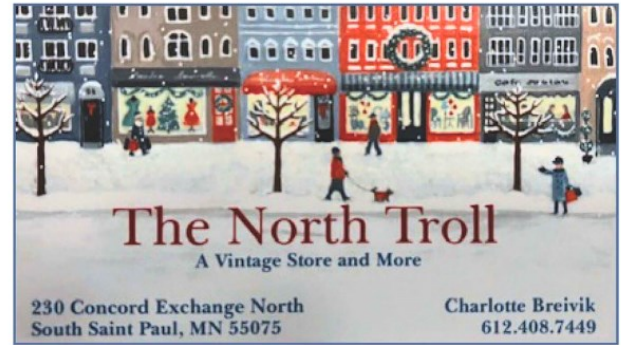


Poet, historian, and hymn writer Gracia Grindal weaves personal memoir and the history of Norwegian Lutheranism in the United States into a lively and insightful account of the Lutheran Free Church and its seminary.



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

MINDEKIRKEN STAFF

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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

July/August 2026

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

Return Service Requested

JULY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Guest Pastor Gunnar Kristiansen

- July 5 -

10 am Bilingual Service
with Communion

- July 12 -

10 am Bilingual Service

- July 19 -

10 am Bilingual Service
with Communion

- July 26 -

10 am Bilingual Service

AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

*Guest Pastor Gunnar Kristiansen
unless otherwise noted*

- August 2 -

10 am Bilingual Service with Communion

- August 9 -

10 am Bilingual Service

- August 16 -

10 am Bilingual Service with Communion

- August 23 -

10 am Bilingual Service

- August 30 -

10 am Bilingual Service
Guest Pastor Morten Gravdal

**In July & August, we
will have only one
service (bilingual) 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.

