



# Mindekirken COMMUNICATOR

A Monthly Newsletter of the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church - ELCA

2026 February  
Issue 259#

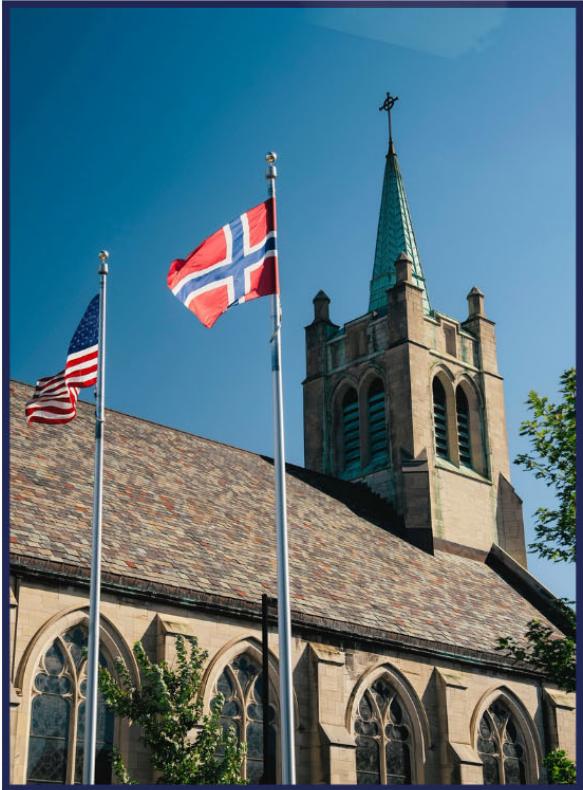
## Mindekirken Annual Meeting

Sunday February 8 at 11 am



The annual meeting will start promptly at 11 am on Sunday, February 8, after the 10 am worship service (no 9 am service on this day).

The 2025 Annual Report booklet will be available at church by Sunday, February 1 for members to take home and read prior to attending the meeting. It can also be sent via email by request.



## *Save the Date for Spring Events!*

### **- Saturday March 21 -**

Lutefisk Dinner, Presented by The Norwegian Glee Club of Minneapolis - *More details to come!*

### **- Thursday April 2 -**

Maundy Thursday Service, 7 pm

### **- Friday April 3 -**

Good Friday Service, 7 pm

### **- Sunday April 5 -**

Easter Sunday Service, 11 am

### **- Saturday April 25 -**

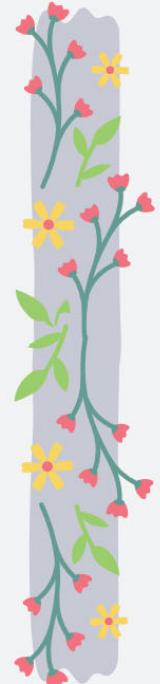
Lapskaus Luncheon & Hauge Lecture

### **- Sunday May 17 -**

Sytende Mai Celebration

### **- Tuesday June 2 -**

TOH Summer Seminar - Forged in Fire: How Mining Shaped the History of Norway



## Velkommen Pastor Tim Peterson



"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you – always, in every prayer of mine, making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now." Philippians 1:3-5

Eight years ago I had the privilege of being interim pastor at Mindekirken. Now I have the privilege of coming back to serve as interim pastor again. I will be starting on Sunday, February 8. I have agreed to serve through May.

The Christian faith is centered on Jesus, and the message of Jesus is very prominent in our sanctuary, with the altar painting of the Resurrection and pictures in the stained glass.

But we also have some distinctive Scandinavian emphases, such as our ship hanging from the ceiling, reminding us that we are on a voyage together with Christ. There may be storms, but Jesus is always there with us. And in the back window above the balcony there are pictures of Martin Luther and the Norwegian preacher Hans Nielsen Hauge.

I intend to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ during my time at Mindekirken. I intend to preach from the perspective of a Christian who has been inspired

by Martin Luther and Hans Nielsen Hauge. I intend to emphasize the distinctive aspects of Norwegian Christianity because that is our congregation's heritage and it is an inspiring heritage.

I am concerned about the recent events in Minneapolis. I have no idea what things will be like by February 8, my first Sunday with you, as the situation has been changing so quickly.

I do not have any special wisdom regarding these events. However, I do intend to lead the congregation in prayer, and I ask you to join me in those prayers. Every Sunday I intend to pray for peace and justice. I intend to pray for the immigrants. I intend to pray for the law enforcement personnel. I intend to pray by name for President Trump, Governor Walz, and Mayor Frey. I intend to pray that God would bless and guide each one of them.

"I thank my God for your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now!"

- 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.

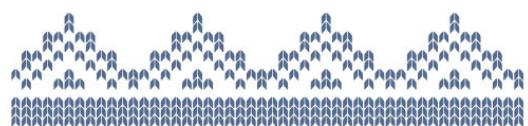
Please contact Pastor Tim Peterson [pastor@mindekirken.org](mailto:pastor@mindekirken.org) or call the church office at 612-874-0716 (option 4) if you are hospitalized, having surgery, or are in need of pastoral support.

## Have a Prayer Request?

Prayer requests can be emailed to: [pastor@mindekirken.org](mailto: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



hunger where it is a critical need, on client's food shelves with home delivery to the homebound and Meals on Wheels to seniors.

The February Mission of the Month is Community Emergency Service (CES). Located directly in our neighborhood, Community Emergency Service transforms lives by serving neighbors, sharing resources, and becoming community. CES meets

- Wendi S.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear members and friends of Mindekirken,

As my tenure as President of the Congregation comes to a close on February 8, 2026, I want to thank all of you who take part in the life of this beloved church. It has been an honor to represent you, and I am grateful for the support, encouragement, and thoughtful conversations shared along the way.

Having served on the Congregation Council for much of the period from 2004 to 2025, my love for Mindekirken continues to deepen. This is a place none of us own, but one we have all been entrusted to care for, each for a season. What sustains it is the steady dedication of people who understand that a church endures because its members choose to show up.

Whether you volunteer once a year at a favorite event or contribute more regularly, your efforts matter. Together, they make Mindekirken strong and ensure its future.

A reminder of that shared responsibility can be found at kirken's 1940 bronze plaque to right of entrance to the Nave. The names represent are those bondholders and noteholders who gave money to reduce the church debt. Between their generosity, 26-year leadership of Pastor Rasmussen and support by The Sons of Norway (Foundation) we are able to gather here today. This church is worth "fighting for."

In many ways, Mindekirken remains an old-fashioned church. The sanctuary may not always be full on an average Sunday, but we are rich in programming, fellowship, and community life. That abundance exists only because so many give of their time, talents, and care.

At its best, Mindekirken remembers what it is here to be. A church grounded in the Gospel, shaped by Norwegian language and tradition, and known for koselig warmth and hospitality. Our church is a place where people are welcomed not because they think alike, vote alike, or live alike, but because they are neighbors, families, friends, and fellow children of God.

Located in the heart of Ventura Village in the Phillips neighborhood, we are grateful for our neighbors who care for this church, attend events, and some become part of our congregation.

That shared stewardship gives me hope as I step away from this role.

Happy NEW YEAR, alle sammen!!

- *Kirsti (Kris) Grodahl, Outgoing President*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

At the cutoff deadline for the Communicator, I am still waiting for the year end reports to close out, so that I can determine where we ended up in 2025. I will be working on putting the budget together for the annual meeting which will be held on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

One analysis that I have done when looking at our numbers is that we have received a total of \$682,000 in the last five years from estate giving which is what has kept this church in the black. Our yearly expenses have exceeded the income taken in when we take the estate money out of the equation. This ranges in a shortage annually of between \$120,000 and \$146,000 between 2021 and 2024.

This has to be addressed as I do not think that we can count on estate giving into perpetuity. This will be taken up with the trustees this year.

- *Nancy Olson, Treasurer*

## JOIN OUR INCREDIBLE TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS!

Interested in volunteering during a Sunday worship service?

Please visit :

[tinyurl.com/mindekirkensunday](http://tinyurl.com/mindekirkensunday)  
or scan the QR code on the right to sign up for a slot. No need to log in, just click "sign up" next to the available job.



**Want to volunteer but don't know where to start?**

Contact the office via email at [office@mindekirken.org](mailto:office@mindekirken.org) or by phone at (612) 874-0716



## MUSIC AT MINDEKIRKEN

Jim Reilly is compiling a list of available musicians (vocal or instrumental) to contribute to Mindekirken worship services or at other occasions. Please let him know of your availability for either the 9:00 or 11:00 service (or both), and include any other information you think relevant (what voice or instrument, the kind of music you would like to perform, your own estimation of your skill level, and your connection with Mindekirken, i.e. member, friend, relative of member, etc.?). You can send this information to Jim at [music@mindekirken.org](mailto:music@mindekirken.org)

Jim would also like to compile a list of your best loved hymns in English, for the 9:00 service. Please let him know your personal list, perhaps up to a dozen hymns per person. Let him know, also, if you attend the English service with some regularity (two times a month or more), or just occasionally (one time a month or less) or not at all (for example, you might be thinking about it but have a hard time getting up that early, like he does, lol). Please send your list to Jim at [music@mindekirken.org](mailto:music@mindekirken.org)

## CONGRATULATIONS!!

We are sad to know that Marilyn Sorensen, our long-time faithful leader of the Tuesday Open House program, is stepping down after twenty years of service. The program has grown in depth and attendance over these years under her leadership. Marilyn has had an abiding interest in Norwegian American history, especially the immigrants who came before the Restauration—going back as far as 1624! And in the Mormon movement among Norwegians in Norway and the United States. Her work for the Minnesota State Department of Education prepared her to lead the Tuesday Open House program. She had worked in four fields of education for the state: as a Special Education Consultant for the Visually Handicapped, the Physically and Other Health Impaired, Developmental Adaptive Physical Education, ending as the Assistive Technology Specialist for Handicapped for the Department of Education. She began as leader of TOH in October 2005 when Pastor Jens Dale left. Dale had written a framework for the program that made it more educational and scholarly. He had established the committee which helped advise the leader and enhanced the topics presented during the meetings. Marilyn, who had held three jobs at once, came to the position well trained for the work. She is most proud of how the committee had enhanced its cooperation with the many volunteers who have worked together over the years. Under her leadership, the program has become one of the best of its kind in the congregation and the Norwegian American community. We will miss her leadership and commend her work with gratitude, and **we are happy to announce that Sandra Bestland will be filling the position. Thank You, Marilyn!**



# 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](mailto:reservations@mindekirken.org) or call (612) 874-0716 option 8



**WEATHER CANCELLATION:** In case of a snow event, check [www.mindekirken.org](http://www.mindekirken.org) or call the office for updates before coming



### February 3

#### Cookin' vit de Norskies

**Presenter: Pati Kachel**

Presentation is based on the pages of insightful information that Pati has found in several old Norwegian Lutheran Church Cookbooks. Pati ties on some vintage aprons and shares some humorous and tender tales about her growing up in her lovely Norwegian Lutheran family. This is a tribute to all Scandinavians who have been creative in their kitchens. Some silly songs about making Lefse and Lutefisk are included in this presentation.



### February 10

#### What Is Unique and Valuable About the Norwegian Christian Heritage?

**Presenter: Tim Peterson**

Tim Peterson was interim pastor at Mindekirken from September 2017 through December 2018. He then served as interim pastor of the American Lutheran Church in Oslo. He is now coming back to serve at Mindekirken from February through May. Last fall Tim and Donadee led a tour to Norway that focused on the Norwegian Christian heritage. Tim believes there is something special about the heritage of the Christian faith as it has been experienced by Norwegians. He will talk about that uniqueness and how Mindekirken is an important part of that heritage.



### February 17

#### A Musician's View of Peer Gynt

**Presenters: Sonja Thompson and cast**

In honor of the 150th anniversary of the play's Oslo premiere, pianist Sonja Thompson has crafted a fresh adaptation of Peer Gynt that places Edvard Grieg's iconic music at the center of the storytelling. This new version features live piano accompaniment and a streamlined dramatic structure that includes - in whole or in part - every movement of Grieg's score. At this week's Tuesday Open House, Sonja will be joined by members of the six-person cast to share a musical preview. She will also offer an inside look at the creative process behind compiling, shaping, and reimagining this adaptation for contemporary audiences.



### February 24

#### Impressions from Ethiopia

**Presenter: Phil Blom**

Pastor Phil Blom will share about his latest adventure in January to Ethiopia. He will talk about the installation of wells with the Water to Thrive project and also his connection to Global Health Network with providing medical equipment. He will have lots of stories to tell us about how the love of Jesus translates into action to help our neighbors around the world.

# FEBRUARY 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.

2/1 Joyce Muhl  
2/3 Donadee Peterson  
2/5 Joseph Grodahl  
2/7 Robert Worrall  
2/7 Elizabeth Sorenson Brotten  
2/7 Crystal Backus  
2/10 Carolyn Farley  
2/12 Leif Erickson  
2/12 Jason Tang  
2/15 Deborah Benson  
2/17 Danny Urban  
2/19 Jacob Holck

2/20 Curtis Aaseng  
2/20 Eldbjorg Skare  
2/20 Linda Stordalen  
2/21 Kristin Kellaher  
2/22 Tove Corbett  
2/23 Sofie Urberg Carlson  
2/25 Anne Marie Bakke  
2/26 Astrid Featt  
2/28 Philip Blom  
2/28 Kathy Stevens  
2/28 Theodore Anderson

Gratulerer  
med dagen!



*Thank you to Pastor Gunnar Kristiansen and to Music Director John De Haan for your many years of leadership at Mindekirken!  
You will be greatly missed.*



Edvard Grieg and other Nordic composers. Most of our concerts and other activities take place in the beautiful sanctuary of Mindekirken. We hope and expect that our affiliation will be mutually beneficial.

If you are unfamiliar with the Edvard Grieg Society of Minnesota, I suggest that you go to the website [egsmn.org](http://egsmn.org) for a brief introduction. It will give you some idea of who we are, what's coming up, programs we have presented in the recent past.

While you are on the website, note the announcement of the performance our readers theater condensed version of Henrik Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* at MetroNOME Brewery in St. Paul on Tuesday, February 24. Only a few tickets remain for this event, so move quickly if this is of interest to you.

I also want to invite you to become a member of EGSMN. Membership fees pay a portion of the costs associated with presenting concerts, competitions for young artists, symposia, and other events consistent with the mission of the Society. The cost is modest: \$50 per individual, \$75 per household. Membership gives you a voice in the governance of EGSMN and helps make it possible for the Society to continue offering "pay as you can" admission to everyone for most performances.

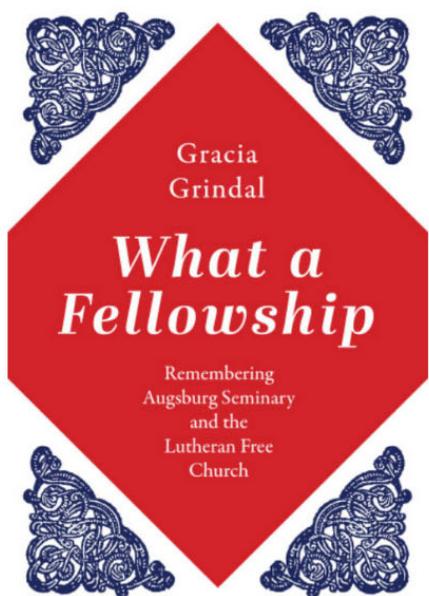
The procedure for becoming a member is simple: Just follow the QR code below OR

1. Go to the website [egsmn.org](http://egsmn.org).
2. Click on **Membership**.
3. Click on **Become a Member Today**.
4. Complete and **submit the form**.

- EGSMN board member William H. Halverson



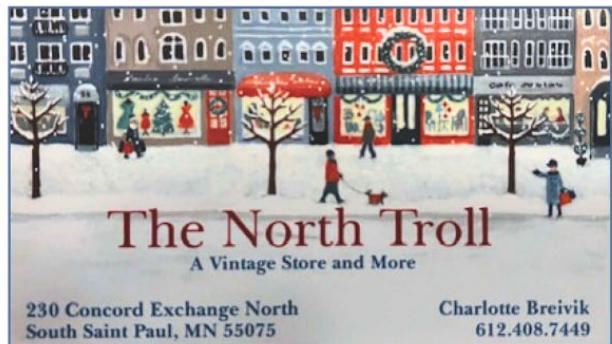
# SPONSORS



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**



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Wayzata MN 55391

Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts,  
Probate, Real Estate  
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Email [office@mindekirken.org](mailto:office@mindekirken.org) for more information.

**An article regarding Mindekirken is featured monthly in the Norwegian American Newspaper**  
[norwegianamerican.com](http://norwegianamerican.com)

## MINDEKIRKEN STAFF

### PASTOR

Tim Peterson  
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### MUSIC STAFF

Jim Reilly: Music Director  
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Hui Chen: Organist  
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Synneva Bratland: Office Staff  
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Charlotte Breivik: Husmor  
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### PROGRAMS

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Sandra Bestland: Tuesday Open House  
Coordinator  
[tuesdayopenhouse@mindekirken.org](mailto:tuesdayopenhouse@mindekirken.org)

## Mindekirken 2025 Congregational Council

### Executive Committee

Kirsti Grodahl, *President*  
Gracia Grindal, *Vice President*  
Jennifer Thue, *Secretary*  
Tim Peterson, *Pastor*

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

### Trustees

John Dalland  
Toby Hillmann  
Karen Knudsen  
Tom Peterson  
Doug Watkins  
Bob Worrall

### Deacons

Laurie Agrimson  
Kathryn McKeen  
Wendi Storhoff  
Nancy Watkins

*The 2026 Council will be in the March Communicator*

## February 2026

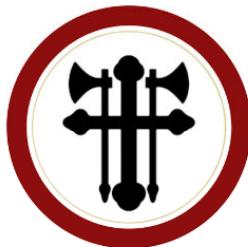
The Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church  
MINDEKIRKEN COMMUNICATOR  
924 E 21st St  
Minneapolis, MN 55404-2952

**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](http://mindekirken.org)



### FEBRUARY SUNDAY SCHEDULE

#### - February 1 -

*Guest Pastor John Matthews*  
9 am English Service with Communion  
11 am Norwegian Service with Communion

#### - February 8 -

*No 9 am service*  
**10 am Bilingual Service**  
11 am Annual Meeting

#### - February 15 -

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

#### - February 22 -

10 am Mindekirken Tour  
11 am Bilingual Family Service

### 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](mailto: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.