



# Kviteid Voice

**Kviteid Lutheran Church**  
**November 2024**  
**Volume 34 | Number 11**

## **Greetings from Pastor Kristine Isder**

### **Up and Down Religion**

Some religions teach that we need to do something to work our way up to God. That fits with our human nature of wanting to “do” something. We are used to taking matters into our own hands, checking things off the list to accomplish a task or project.

As Lutherans, we believe it’s not a ladder we can climb. We can’t work our way up to God. God is like a big down arrow – God comes down. The arrow only goes one way – down. No matter how hard we try, no matter what we accomplish, we can’t work our way up to God. The chasm is too wide.

God comes down to us. God comes down the ladder we can’t go up.

At our Fall Theological Conference, the presenter worked through the Augsburg Confession, the basis of our Lutheran faith.

*“But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.”* (Romans 5:8)

This is the heart of the gospel: even when it is impossible for us, it is possible for God. Jesus doesn’t love us because we deserve it or because we’ve done enough – Jesus loves us precisely in our failure as sinners.

We approach life as a series of achievements. In a world measured by merit, we seek assurance through action, always asking, “What must I do?” This is the human condition – trying to secure our future, striving to justify ourselves through effort.

However, true flourishing comes not from achievement but from a life grounded in grace and relationship with God.

*“But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”* (Ephesians 2:4-5, 8)


When confronted with grace’s radical call, we are stunned, for it dismantles the systems of merit we trust. Grace invites surrender, and we flinch, unable to let go.

No one can enter God’s kingdom by their own effort. None of us can meet the law’s demands.

*continued on page 3*

# STEWARDSHIP

## Contributions, Gifts, Memorials & Worship



### FINANCIAL UPDATE

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General Fund  
2024 Financial Responsibilities  
\$251,736

Checking Register  
for the General Fund

9/1/24 balance:       \$3,523  
 September income:   \$14,373  
 September expenses: \$14,378  
 9/30/24 balance:     \$3,518

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Cashflow loan to date: \$7,000

### Worship Offerings & Attendance



September 22	\$1,354	90
September 29	\$1,594.78	86
October 6	\$897	68
October 13	\$1,233	58
October 20	\$785	52

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Thank you for your financial support of the church. Contributions may be mailed to the church office if you are unable to make it to worship. You can also contribute online on our website.

### Online Giving ...



Visit our website at  
***milanslutheranchurch.com***

### MEMORIALS and GIFTS



*None to Report*

# PRAYERS

## We offer up prayers for ...

This section removed for member privacy.

# LOCAL NEWS

## Pastor, Staff & Officers

### Greetings from Pastor Kristine

*continued from page 1*

Our striving for eternal life only reveals our inability to save ourselves. The harder we try, the more we fail. The more we fail, the harder we try. We are trapped in a cycle of merit and self-justification.

Despite our failure to meet the law's demands, and our inability to save ourselves, Jesus looks at us and loves us.

God sees our brokenness, our reluctance to surrender, and our weakness, and still chooses to love us. Grace does not wait for us to be perfect; it comes to us in our imperfection and accomplishes what we cannot, making us right with God.

*"But God proves his love for us*

*in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us."* (Romans 5:8)

The fruit of faith is gifted to us by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit inspires us to release what we cannot hold onto and instead place our trust in God's grace.

As the Holy Spirit's presence works in our lives and bears fruit through our actions, there *are* things for us mortals to do.

We are invited to join in Jesus' mission, not because of what we have done, but because of what God has done for us and continues to do.

This promise transforms how we live in the present. We live generously, no longer striving to secure our future, but trusting in God's abundance. And while we

may face challenges or loss, we are sustained by the hope of the kingdom, where grace reigns and God's love knows no limits.

Where we can't do enough, when we are in bondage to our sin, addicted to our wealth and comfort, where we are too selfish, too curved in on ourselves, when it is impossible for us to save ourselves, God looks at us with love and gives us grace.

We are promised an inheritance far greater than anything we could achieve on our own. It is not the result of our merit or effort, but the gift of God's grace.

The good news of the Gospel is that it's not up to us, but up to God, and for God, all things are possible. God comes down to us because we can't go up to God.



## 2024 Kviteseid Staff & Officers



### Office Staff

**Pastor Kristine Isder**  
pastor@milanslutheranchurch.com

**Parish Assistant:**  
**Theresa Erickson**  
office@milanslutheranchurch.com

### Building Staff

**Custodian: David Thompson**  
**Organist: Judi Bohm**

### Volunteer Leadership

**Sunday School Choir Dir:**  
**Jessica Trager**

**Sunday School Supt.:**  
**Talia Schuerman**

**Contributions Secretaries:**  
**Heidi Hanson**  
**Luther Opjorden**

### Church Officers

**President: Tom Moe**  
**V. Pres: Rob Schwendemann**  
**Secretary: Sherry Norby**  
**Treasurer: Andy Streed**

### Board of Deacons

**Jon Hanson, Cindy Kanten,**  
**Andrea Westra, Cheryl Erp,**  
**Heidi Spray**

### Board of Trustees

**Brandon Ascheman, Bryan**  
**Schuerman, Cory Heinrich,**  
**Ray Trager, Ryan Erp**

### Board of Education

**Sue Streed, Emily Heinrich,**  
**Tiffany Moen, Michelle**  
**Ascheman, Shea Joyce**

### Helping Hands Board

**President: Nancy Schneck**  
**Vice President: Sue Vetter**  
**Secretary: Cathy Olson**  
**Treasurer: Theresa Erickson**  
**Karla Schwendemann, Patee**  
**Spray, Naomi Streed, Char**  
**Johnson, Sue Streed**



# WORSHIP NEWS

## November Schedules

### All Saints Sunday & New Member Sunday

Sunday, November 3  
Worship at 9:00 a.m.

We will remember those who have joined the church triumphant, recognize the newly baptized, and receive any new members.

*If you are interested in becoming a member of Kviteseid, talk to Pastor Kristine.*

Coffee, Juice & Fresh Rolls will be served by the Helping Hands Board following worship in the Fellowship Hall

### DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

ends Sunday, Nov. 3



*Remember to set your clocks back one hour.*



#### Group 7

**Captain - Ken Lee**  
**320-226-3970**

**Robert Blom**  
**Josh Moen**  
**Matt Norby**  
**Paul Spray**  
**Andy Streed**



Thursday, November 28  
Thanksgiving Worship at 9:00 a.m.

This year the Thanksgiving Offering (envelopes and cash) will go to the general fund of the church.

In the past, the Thanksgiving Offering has been given to Lutheran Campus Ministry of Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall MN and University of Minnesota, Morris, MN.

This year we will receive a special offering for Lutheran Campus Ministry during the month of November. Please note on your check or envelope that you are giving to Lutheran Campus Ministry. Please make all gifts before November 30.

These funds help support the college youth to take an active role in service and mission work, giving back to their community and sharing God's love with others.



#### Veteran Recognition

Sunday, November 10

Worship at 9:00 a.m.

Join us as we recognize all of our military veterans during our Sunday morning worship service.

### JINGLE OFFERING

every Sunday for kids

### NOVEMBER Worship Assistants

#### Deacon Communion Setup

**3 - Heidi Spray**  
**10 - Andrea Westra**

#### Acolytes

**3 - Thatcher Erp**  
**10 - Eva Trager**  
**17 - Carter Moen**  
**24 - Parker Spray**  
**28 - Thanksgiving**  
**None Needed**

#### Lectors

**3 - Connie Fragodt**  
**10 - Gabby Augeson**  
**17 - Tom Moe**  
**24 - Isaac Hanson**  
**28 - Thanksgiving**  
**Jen Tostenson**

#### Media Operators

**3 - Eva Trager**  
**10 - Alex Joyce**  
**17 - Rich Isder**  
**24 - Mason Erp**  
**28 - Thanksgiving**  
**Missy Ervin**

#### Video Recorders

**3 - Theresa Erickson**  
**10 - Rich Isder**  
**17 - Jon Hanson**  
**24 - Rich Isder**  
**28 - Thanksgiving**  
**Jon Hanson**

*Schedules are also available online at [milanslutheranchurch.com](http://milanslutheranchurch.com)*

**Reminder:** It is your responsibility to find a replacement if you are unable to be there the day you are scheduled.

# LOCAL NEWS

## Helping Hands

### Helping Hands

Fall is here...wait a minute...where did it go? It will be back, I'm sure!!!

Thank you to those who volunteered to deliver quilts, layettes and bandages to their proper locations. It is very much appreciated!

Thank you to Service Group 3, chairpersons Theresa Erickson, Rob/Karla Schwendemann, Ray/Jessica Trager, and other helpers, for serving the funeral lunch for Betty Molden. It was much appreciated by Betty's family.

We have had two quilt work days which went very well. Thank you to those who came to share their time and talent. I hope you will come when we decide to do it again! More than 15 tops were finished in those two days! Excellent!

The annual meeting of the Helping Hands Board will be held on November 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions or ideas for us to work on, please contact one of the board members before that time. Thank you everyone for your cooperation throughout this past year. It couldn't be done without "the many" to help with projects.

All Saints Day and New Member Sunday will be November 3. There will be coffee fellowship following worship in the Fellowship Hall with the Helping Hands Board serving coffee, juice and fresh rolls to everyone!

Service Group 4, chairpersons, Robert/Jill Blom, Brian/Teresa Olson, Craig/Char Strand, is next for funeral serving. Thank you very much for your service.

Happy Fall everyone! It will be here one of these days!!

### Hurricane Response

In late September, Hurricane Helene hit the coast of Florida as a Category 4 hurricane and moved inland, leaving devastation throughout the southeastern United States. The storm caused dangerous flooding, washing away whole towns and roads, leaving millions of people without power, and driving thousands from their homes.

Hurricane Milton hit Florida on Oct. 9, bringing heavy rain, winds and tornadoes. This storm was particularly devastating because many communities were still recovering from Hurricane Helene.

Lutheran Disaster Response works with its partners to provide

immediate relief, such as water, food, clothing, gift cards, tarps and other needs. Since many hurricanes also require a long-term response, Lutheran Disaster Response provides support on the long road to recovery with disaster case management, construction management, attention to unmet needs, and emotional and spiritual care.

*What can you do to help?*

Pray for the safety of communities impacted by hurricanes. Pray that God will deliver comfort to those who mourn and strength to those working diligently to rescue survivors.

Give. Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to those affected by hurricanes and related disasters, such as mudslides, severe storms and flooding. Gifts will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by hurricanes.

Checks can be sent to: Lutheran Disaster Response, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. Write "Hurricane Response" on the check's memo line.

For more information, go to: <https://elca.org/hurricanes>.

### Military Boxes

Military boxes will be packed on Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Plans are to send 16 boxes. Items that can be sent are candy, jerky, raisins, licorice, microwave popcorn and baked goods (4-6 in a baggie). Monetary donations are also appreciated. Please have items to church by noon on Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Honoring **ALL** who Served  
**Veterans Day**  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11


# FUNERAL

## SERVICE GROUPS

**Serving the next funeral will be Group 4.**

Service Group 4 chairpersons are:

Robert & Jill Blom	793-6740
Brian & Teresa Olson	734-4615
Craig & Char Strand	734-4758





# LOCAL NEWS

## Faith in Action

### Alternative Gifts

We can give a gift of hope to others through alternative gifts.



There are many places where we can give animals, honey bees, fruit-tree seedlings, blankets, mosquito nets, school supplies and much more to help people in need.

Give the gifts that mean the most to you, or choose gifts to give in honor of someone special. Your gifts support the ministries of the ELCA in nearly 80 countries around the world, including the United States.

Among these are ELCA Good Gifts, Lutheran World Relief and Heifer International. Information is available on the table in the narthex.



Poinsettias to decorate the church for Christmas can be purchased and given in memory or in honor of loved ones. After Christmas, those of you who purchased a poinsettia may take one home with you to enjoy throughout the rest of the holiday season.

If you would like to purchase one, contact the church office (734-4455). All poinsettias will be red this year. The cost is \$20.00 per poinsettia. Checks should be made out to Kviteseid Lutheran Church. A limited number of poinsettias have been ordered for your purchase.

### Church Cleaning Fellowship Dinner

— September 29, 2024 —



This section removed for member privacy.

### Looking Ahead

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 15  
at 9:00 a.m. during worship

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#### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE WITH COMMUNION

Tuesday, December 24  
at 4:30 p.m.

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#### CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Wednesday, December 25  
at 9:00 a.m.

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#### ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 19  
at 9:45 a.m. following worship

This section removed for member privacy.

# LOCAL NEWS

November

## Thank You

Thank you to all who gave to the layette project. We made 50 layettes this year. What a great number!

We will be doing this again next year. So keep layettes in mind. Any questions, give me a call at 320-289-3066.

Thank you again!

- Cathy Olson

## Youth Gathering

### 2024 Synod Junior High Youth Gathering

Friday and Saturday,  
November 22-23

Willmar Conference Center  
Willmar

**Theme "Forever Unbroken"**  
(based on Romans 8:37-39)

All students in 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to attend.

This event is coordinated and planned by the SW MN Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO).

The event includes YOUTH LED mass gatherings including singing, growing in faith, student faith talks, building relationships and hanging out with other youth from our very own synod. There is also nightlife featuring

swimming, games, food, dancing, service projects and much more.

The speaker is Rachel Kurtz.

Music will be provided by the SWMN Synod Youth Band.

More information is available on the synod web site: [swmnelca.org](http://swmnelca.org).



## Coffee Fellowship

Join us for coffee and fellowship following worship Sunday mornings in the narthex at 10:00 a.m. Please sign up to serve treats to enjoy along with the coffee. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex. The ushers will make the coffee.

## TWC Bible Study



Wednesday,  
November 13

1:30 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall

## Board Meetings

Wednesday,  
November 20

Deacons - 6:00 p.m.

Trustees - 7:00 p.m.



Please come help take down the church fall decorations on

Friday, November 29

at 10:00 a.m. Others are welcome to come help as well, including our youth.

## Big Bend Meatball Supper

Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>  
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.



Meatballs, corn, green beans, mashed potatoes & gravy, dinner roll, lefse, coleslaw and apple crisp

\$14.00 per plate

Basement seating or take-out orders available.

Call 320-793-6621 to place a take-out order (call day of supper only)

## Contribution Statements

Third Quarter contribution statements were sent out in mid-October. You should have received yours by mail. Statements were only sent out to those with contributions of record. Please check your statement carefully with your records and let the church office know if there is a discrepancy.





# LOCAL NEWS

## Southwest Minnesota Synod

### Synod News

#### Equipping Congregations Day

Saturday, November 2  
at Peace Lutheran Church  
in New London

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The theme is **“Gather Us In”**

"How can we get more people back in worship again?" Most of us are asking this question. Why? Not only because we miss seeing one another; that's important! We also believe that worship is the primary gathering of God's people around word and sacrament. Worship gathers us in - all of us, no matter who we are, where we come from, what we think, whatever the burdens we carry. We come, just as we are. But we don't stay in worship. The word and sacraments send us out to love God and our neighbors every day. And so we get to live in a beautiful rhythm of God gathering us in and then sending us back out into God's mission.

This Equipping Day will focus on many aspects of worship, from specific how-to ideas, to creative imaginations, to ways to welcome all people and extend the kind of hospitality that leads people to want to come back again and again and be part of this loving community.

Attend your choice of 2 workshops:

- No Stage Fright Here: Integrating Drama into Worship
- How Do You Talk about Generosity in Worship?
- Worship 2.0: Simple Ways to Connect Today
- “Let the Children Come...”
- Hospitality
- Assisting Minister Training

**All are welcome:** Congregation members, council, Christian educa-

tors, worship & youth leaders, pastors, friends, everyone!

Interested in attending? Talk to Pastor Kristine.

For more information, go to <https://swmnelca.org/2024/09/20/2024-equipping-congregations-day/>

#### ELCA Conference of Bishops Emphasizes the Need to Speak the Truth

The Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met Sept. 24-28 at the Lutheran Center in Chicago. The conference, an advisory body of the ELCA, comprises 65 synod bishops, the presiding bishop and the secretary.

In key business, the conference issued a statement stressing the need to speak the truth:

In a perfect garden, created by God for the sake of humanity, evil entered in the form of deception and lies. Christians refer to this story, found in the biblical book of Genesis, as the *fall of humanity*. This foray into human sin began when Adam and Eve, the first humans created in the image of God, were deceived.

Humans have contended with the powers of deception ever since.

Yet we are a people who know and proclaim the power of God at work in the world. We proclaim the power of Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, the one who said, "I am the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6).

We know that the power of truth is greater than the power of deceit.

We, the members of the Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, speak with one voice to condemn the hateful, deceptive, violent speech that has too readily found a place in our national discourse. We lament the ways this language has led to hate-fueled action.

We refuse to accept the ongoing normalization of lies and deceit.

We recommit ourselves to speaking the truth and pointing to the one who is truth. We find courage in our collegiality and implore the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as well as our partners and friends, to join us as we:

- Pledge to be vigilant guardians of truth, refusing to perpetuate lies or half-truths that further corrode the fabric of our society.
- Commit to rigorous fact-checking, honoring God's command to "test everything; hold fast to what is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21).
- Reject the use of humor that normalizes falsehood, remembering that our speech should "always be gracious" (Colossians 4:6).
- Boldly advocate for the marginalized and oppressed, emulating Christ's love for the least among us.
- Courageously interrupt hate speech, standing firm in the knowledge that all are created in God's image.
- Lean in with curiosity, engage with those who think differently and "put the best construction on our neighbor's action" (Luther's explanation of the Eighth Commandment).
- Amplify voices of truth.

Emboldened by the Holy Spirit, may we resist deception and lift up the truth that all members of humanity are created in the image of God.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all as we respond to the Spirit's invitation into this intentional commitment against deception and for truth.

In Christ,

- The Conference of Bishops  
of the Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America





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# KVITSEID LUTHERAN CHURCH

## **Sunday Schedule**

- ✝ Worship at 9:00 a.m. ✝
- ✝ Online Worship at 9:00 a.m. ✝
- ✝ Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. ✝
- ✝ Coffee Fellowship at 10:00 a.m. ✝

Church Office Phone: 320-734-4455 ✝ [www.milanslutheranchurch.com](http://www.milanslutheranchurch.com)



**Pastor Kristine Isder**  
Parsonage phone: 320-734-4667  
[pastor@milanslutheranchurch.com](mailto:pastor@milanslutheranchurch.com)

**Parish Assistant - Theresa Erickson**  
[office@milanslutheranchurch.com](mailto:office@milanslutheranchurch.com)

