

Greetings from Pastor Kristine Isder

Is It In The Bible?

There are many quotes that are attributed to being in the Bible that really aren't.

"If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all." **Not in the Bible.** Thumper says it in the movie "Bambi", but it was around before then.

It's not in the Bible but it's good advice. Don't say the negative things you want to say. Imagine how much more pleasant this world would be if everyone followed it!

The flip side of it is to intentionally say something nice about someone or something. Try looking for the positive instead of the negative.

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." **In the Bible.** Jesus speaks these words in two different ways. "Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31

"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets." Matthew 7:12

This saying is known as the golden rule. It should probably be called the platinum rule because of its instructions on how to treat others.

All religious traditions have some version of this rule.

One popular understanding is the silver version: kind of "don't do to others what you yourself don't want done to you."

An expanded version is "do to others as they want done to them." We should be asking the people we engage with how they would like to be treated and proceed from there. That involves getting to know the other person. The golden rule remains golden for a reason – because it asks us to think of how we are treating other people. It compels us to place ourselves in their shoes and gain understanding before we act.

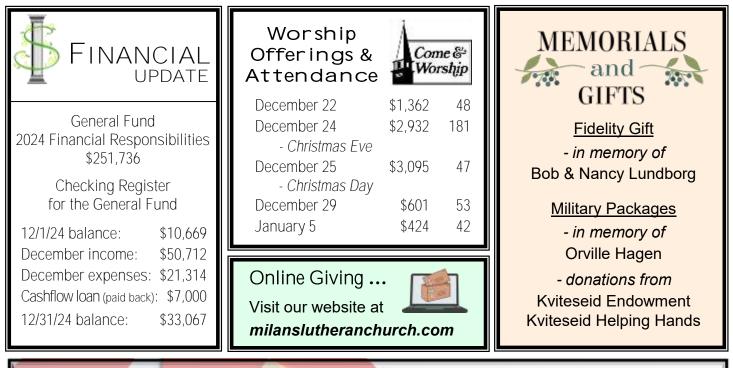
"Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you." In the Bible. "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:6-7.

How do we do that? Through prayer. "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

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STEWARDSHIP

Contributions, Gifts, Memorials & Worship



PRAYERS We offer up prayers for ...

This section removed for member privacy.

LOCAL NEWS Pastor, Staff & Officers

Greetings from Pastor Kristine

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God has been with us in the past and will be with us in the future.

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me! (ELW #733)

Pastor Transition

The synod staff will walk with Kviteseid and Big Bend through the transition. It is a Seven Step Process:

- 1. Saying goodbye well
- 2. Interim and discernment
- 3. Complete congregation mission assessment and ministry site profile
- 4. Forming the call committee
- 5. Considering candidates
- 6. Extending the call
- 7. Welcoming your new pastor

There are many congregations in the synod in pastoral transitions. Pastor Seyward Ask is the synod minister for our conference and will be assisting the congregations.

The starting point will be a joint council meeting in February or March with Pastor Seyward Ask to talk about the call process.



Thank you to those completing their terms on church council for your years of service to the congregation. Your time and efforts have been appreciated.

Thank you to outgoing council members:

President: **Tom Moe** Secretary: **Sherry Norby** Board of Education: **Sue Streed**

2025 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: Judi Bohm V. Pres: Rob Schwendemann Secretary: Jessica Trager Treasurer: Andy Streed

Board of Deacons

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

<u>Board of Trustees</u> Cory Heinrich, Ray Trager, Ryan Erp, Brandon Ascheman, Bryan Schuerman

<u>Board of Education</u> Emily Heinrich, Tiffany Moen, Michelle Ascheman, Shea Joyce, Savannah Moen

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

WORSHIP NEWS February Schedules

Deacon Communion Setup

February

Worship

Assistants

- 2 Heidi Spray
- 9 Cheryl Erp

Acolytes

- 2 Thatcher Erp
- 9 Carter Moen
- 16 Parker Spray
- 23 Iver Heinrich

Lectors

- 2 Gabby Augeson
- 9 Isaac Hanson
- 16 Jen Tostenson
- 23 Char Strand

Media Operators

- 2 Eva Trager
- 9 Alex Joyce
- 16 Rich Isder
- 23 Mason Erp

Video Recorders

- 2 Rich Isder
- 9 Theresa Erickson
- 16 Jon Hanson
- 23 Rich Isder

Schedules are also available online at milanslutheranchurch.com

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



Sunday, February 2 during worship

Church Board Meetings

Wednesday, February 19

Deacons - 6:00 p.m. Trustees - 7:00 p.m.



February Ushers



<u>Group 7</u> Captain - Ken Lee 320-226-3970

> Robert Blom Josh Moen Matt Norby Paul Spray Andy Streed

Lenten Services

Lent begins on March 5. We will again have Wednesday night Lenten services jointly with Big Bend with suppers.

The theme this year is:

What Does It Mean to Be an ELCA Lutheran?

Come and learn about what we believe.

Easter Cantata

A choir is being formed to put on an Easter Cantata! Stay tuned for more information.



Fat Tuesday at Big Bend

Kviteseid members are invited to Big Bend's Fat Tuesday celebration on March 4. Ash Wednesday worship will be at 7:00 p.m. with imposition of ashes and holy communion. Waffles and sausages will be served before worship

starting at 5:00 p.m. Kviteseid members are invited to attend all or part of the activities.



LOCAL NEWS **Helping Hands**

Helping Hands

BRRRR!!! That is about all I have to say about that!!! Thank you to Group 1, chairpeople, Ryan/Cheryl Erp, Gary/Kim Heimdahl, Josh/Tiffany Moen, for decorating and undecorating following the Christmas season. Well done!! Thank you to the older Sunday School kids for their amazing help!

Be sure to put quilting on your calendar for Monday, Feb 10,



Tuesday, Feb 11, Monday, Feb 17 and Wednesday, Feb 19! No experience necessary! Come

and join in the fun! Bring your own lunch and if you would like, something to share for coffee! Thank you very much to the generous souls who donated a sewing machine and funds for a new sewing machine! Now we can have three people sewing to keep up with the gals (we would love to have some guys come to help, too!!) who do the tying!! Come! It will be fun!!! Thank you to Thrivent for their grants to keep enough batting and fabric for quilting!

Thank you to our wonderful Altar Guild people! You do a great job all year, but in particular during Lent and Easter. It is amazing how often the paraments need changing during that time of the year! Thank you for all you do!!

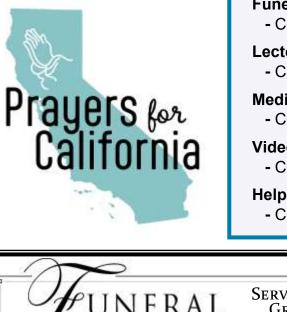
There will be a Syttende Mai Tea again this year and it will be on THE day — Saturday, May 17! Be sure to put it on your calendar and be mindful when scheduling other events! It takes many people and

you and your assistance are all appreciated! Thank you so much!

The Helping Hands Board will be serving supper on Ash Wednesday, Mar 5 and also Wednesday, Mar 19. Big Bend congregation will be having Lent worship and serving supper Mar 12, Mar 26, as well as Fat Tuesday, Mar 4. If you are able to step up and get a few friends together to serve on the other Wednesdays (Apr 2 and/or Apr 9) at Kviteseid, that would be appreciated!

The 2025 Service Group books have been mailed and so the new chairpeople are in charge. Thank you very much to those people who accepted that responsibility. You are much appreciated!

Stay warm!! It will get better -just you wait!!!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Consider being a part of one or more of the following teams

Visitation Ministry

- Contact Char Strand

* * * * * * * * * * *

Ushers

- Contact Tom Moe

Funeral Ushers

- Contact Pastor Kristine

Lectors

- Contact Heidi Hanson

Media

- Contact Judi Bohm

Video Team

- Contact Pastor Kristine

Helping Hands

- Contact Nancy Schneck



LOCAL NEWS Youth

Jingle Offering



New this Sunday school year is a jingle offering for kids to put coins in during worship.

The kids will decide where the money will be sent. From September 8 through December 15, we have received \$87 for the jingle offering.

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, February 12

1:30 p.m.

Meet at the church in the fellowship hall



This section removed for member privacy.

Bible Camp



Calling all kids to register for Bible Camp!

At Green Lake Lutheran Ministries, there is something for everyone, and we are eager to show you what we have been preparing for you! Let's go on this adventure of faith, growing stronger every day, and sharing God's love with everyone we meet!

Come along as we take on the challenge of living a faith that's unstoppable, catches on like a bubbling wave, and is filled with God's never-ending love and strength. We can't wait to have you join us this summer at one of our beautiful sites, to pause, reflect, and experience an amazing community with our staff and with each other.

2025 Theme Verse: Now to God who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to God's power that is at work within us, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (NIV, Ephesians 3:20-21)

For more information, there are brochures at church or check out their website: *http://www.gllm.org/*

Registration is open. Early bird \$65 discount ends February 13.

To help offset the cost of Bible Camp for those who would like to attend, the following help is available to those who attend a full week of camp:

Helping Hands	.\$100
Endowment Fund	.\$150
Pastor Kristine & Rich	.\$100
Kviteseid Church	.\$150

This section removed for member privacy.

February 2025

LOCAL NEWS 2024 Annual Meeting

Kviteseid Lutheran Church 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes January 19, 2025

Rob Schwendemann, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

Motion was made by Judi Bohm, seconded by Bruce Loose, to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

Pastor Kristine gave devotions.

Motion by Michelle Ascheman, seconded by Jon Hanson, to approve the 2024 minutes. Motion carried.

The following reports were given:

Pastor's Report – The theme was "What has God been doing through us and with us during 2024 at Kviteseid and beyond our congregation?" Joint Lenten services were held with Big Bend Lutheran Church again this year; five new lectors were added with four of the five being youth of the congregation. Pastor Kristine was honored for the 10th anniversary of her ordination. In the spring, four young people received their first communion, three young people were confirmed, and two graduating seniors were recognized and received quilts. Three joint lakeside services were held at Milan Beach Resort. Many Micronesian youth have been attending Sunday School and Confirmation classes. In December, Pastor Kristine announced her plans to retire effective June 30, 2025.

<u>Treasurer's Report</u> – The church ended the year \$33,000 in the black.

<u>Deacon's Report</u> - The Deacons arranged for pulpit supply, assisted with communion and interviewed the confirmands. They also made and distributed nine welcome baskets to area people who are not members of Kviteseid. Three new people joined our church. Jingle offering was started by our youth.

<u>Board of Education</u> – They combined the K-3rd graders and 4-6th graders for Sunday School rotation and it seems to be going really well. The youth served two meals during Lenten season. Vacation Bible School had a camping theme and was well attended. The Christmas program included all the youth having speaking parts and recording the song that went with the shadow program. It was very well received. The youth made pocket crosses that were packed in the military boxes

and also offered free to the congregation. They assembled "Birthday Cake Kits" and brought to the

local food shelves. Members of the teen group were gifted a Bible from the church.

Trustees - They installed a new dehumidifier in the basement mechanical room, donated and recycled several items for Milan's city-wide cleanup day and replaced some parts on the church projector. Repairs were made to the flat roof area over the pastor's office. New soffit and fascia were installed on the education wing and a landscaping project will begin in the Spring of 2025. Thanks to David Thompson, church custodian, Judi Bohm, organist, Theresa Erickson, parish assistant and Pastor Kristine for her 10 plus years as our pastor.

Helping Hands – Approximately 28 quilts were distributed to various people and groups, approximately 300 people attended the Syttende Mai Tea, netting around \$3,500. Donations totaling \$2,500 were given to Marie Sandvik Center, Rice Hospice, Lutheran Social Services, Strengthening the Family, Heartland Girls Ranch, Chippewa County Food Shelf, Lac Qui Parle County Food Shelf, Swift County Food Shelf, Global Health Ministries, Layettes, Military boxes and the FLY Backpack program. Also, they will contribute funds towards the purchase of additional white tables for the fellowship hall. Several suppers and lunches were served. Military boxes were mailed to 16-18 military personnel four times during the year. More than 300 rolled bandages and 50 layettes were de-

livered to Global Mission. The Service Groups decorated and undecorated the church for the Fall and Christmas season. May baskets were delivered to

more than 40 people in our congregation who suffered loss or illness this year. Please step up and help in the kitchen if you see they are short of help during funerals, etc.

Endowment Board – The fund balance as of 12/31/24 is \$386,297.19. In 2024, the fund distributed \$24,000 to several area associations. Cathy Olson thanked the Board for their contribution to the FLY Backpack program which serves 150 school children. Since its inception, the Endowment Fund has earned \$128,934.35 and distributed \$112,850.05 to many organizations, ministries, bible camps, food shelves, missions, families and people in need.

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LOCAL NEWS **2024 Annual Meeting**

Kviteseid Lutheran Church 2024 Annual **Meeting Minutes**

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Motion was made by Talia Schuerman, seconded by Dave Lovehaug, to approve the reports. Motion carried.

Old Business – none

Election – Motion was made by Keith Kvistero, seconded by Bruce Loose, to cast a unanimous ballot for the candidates as listed:

President – Judi Bohm

Vice President – Rob Schwendemann

Secretary – Jessica Trager

Treasurer – Andy Streed

Board of Deacons – Jon Hanson and Andrea Westra

Board of Trustees – Brandon Ascheman and Bryan Schuerman **Board of Education** – Savannah Moen

Contribution Secretaries – Heidi Hanson and Luther Opjorden Kviteseid Lutheran/Milan Meth-

odist Cemetery Board - Gary Heimdahl and Wade Kittelson.

Motion carried.

Motion was made by Char Strand, seconded by Jon Hanson, to approve the following:

Lay Delegates to the Madison Lutheran Home Annual Meeting -Rob & Karla Schwendemann Lay Delegates to Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Annual Meeting – Roseann Hanson and Nancy Streed

Lay Delegates to LQP Conference Assembly - Judi Bohm, Jon Hanson, Gavin Ascheman, Michelle Ascheman, Talia Schuerman, Bryan Schuerman

Nominating Committee for January 2026 meeting – Sherry Norby, Sue Streed, Teresa Olson (and three more to be determined by the church council)

Lay Delegates to the SW MN Synod Assembly will be determined by the church council.

Motion carried.

New Business -

Adopt Budget – Motion was made by Michelle Ascheman, seconded by Gavin Ascheman, to approve the 2025 proposed budget, showing a \$262,904 total budget. Motion carried.

Adjourn – Motion by Jon Hanson, seconded by Roger Strand, to adjourn the meeting.

Cemetery Association Meeting

Projects for the year included tree removal, maintained monuments, updated the cemetery book, assisted with five burials and maintained the erous gift of \$60 supporting the sergrounds. Motion by Brandon Ascheman, seconded by Rich Isder, to approve the report. Motion carried.

Pastor Kristine gave the closing prayer and led the attendees in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Sherry Norby, Council Secretary



Thank You KLC Members

Thank you to everyone who helped and/or donated for the military boxes in December. Also, thank you to Sherry & Greg Norby for donating their Thrivent Impact card.

- The Military Committee



Thank you to Helping Hands for their generous donation to the Kviteseid Military Fund. - The Military Committee



Thank you to Connie Streed for her help taking care of the poinsettias.

- Nancy Streed



Thank you for your recent genvices of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. Together, we are neighbors helping neighbors.

With gratitude, - LSS Church Partnership Team





ASH WEDNESDAY March 5

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MARCH MN FOOD SHARE MONTH SPECIAL OFFERING March 2 and 9



LOCAL NEWS KLC Endowment Letters of Thanks

Thank You KLC Endowment

Thank you so much for your donation of \$1,000 to the Chippewa County Food Shelf. Your support and generosity enables us to serve many individuals in our local area. We are grateful for your kindness and your continued support. This is a true blessing!

- Prairie Five Community Action, Chippewa County Food Shelf

Shelf, I would like to thank you for your donation of \$1,000 made on 12-27-2024.

Swift County Food Shelf relies on the generosity of donors such as yourself and is grateful for your support.

- Sue Fragodt, Swift County Outreach, Swift County Food Shelf

Thank you for your very generous donation of \$1,000 to the Lac qui Parle Community Food Shelf. Your generosity will help to buy nutritious food for those in our community who need some help in meeting their food needs each month.

Last year, 517 households (1426 individuals) were served by the food shelf taking 36,624 pounds of food, plus garden produce donated by area gardeners.

All the food purchases (\$37,851.79 in 2023) are from Second Harvest Heartland in St. Paul, which they deliver once a month. and from Jubilee Foods in town.

Because of caring folks like you, the food shelf is able to offer a wide variety of good food.

Everyone involved with the food shelf, and there are many, is a volunteer.

- Stan Olson, Treasurer, Lac qui Parle Community Food Shelf



Your generosity is so inspiring! Thank you for pausing during this busy season to make a gift of \$250 to Green Lake Lutheran Ministries! Your kindness and support are so empowering and we hope you On behalf of Swift County Food know how much we appreciate you.

You gift fills us with hope as we close out this 2024 year and look ahead with anticipation and excitement. Thank you!

- Travis Aufderheide, Executive Director, Green Lake Lutheran Ministries



On behalf of Lutheran Campus Ministry-Morris, thank you for your gift of \$500 to support our ministry for students who attend the University of Minnesota, Morris. Thank you for your generous support; for supporting Lutheran Campus Ministry-Morris both prayerfully and financially.

Your support helps us to create a "home away from home" for students at the University of Minnesota, Morris. Through your generosity, we are able to provide meals to students, host fellowship events, and complete service projects. We are grateful for your partnership in ministry.

- Dylan Reese, Lutheran Campus Ministry-Morris Board Member and Treasurer

Thank you Kviteseid Endowment for the generous donation to the Kviteseid Military Fund. We have heard that these military men and women really appreciate the packages. Thanks again!

- The Military Committee



We gratefully acknowledge your gift of \$1,500 to the Kviteseid Lutheran Milan Methodist cemetery Association.

- Richard Olson, Kviteseid Lutheran Milan Methodist **Cemetery Association**



Lac qui Parle Valley ISD #2853 gratefully acknowledges your generous donation of \$2,000 to our Strengthening the Family organization.

- Scott Lempka, Superintendent, Lac qui Parle Valley Schools

Cancellations

Although worship will rarely be canceled, please use your own judgment before traveling in to church on those questionable days. Weather related announcements can be heard on KDMA 1460 AM or KLQP 92.1 FM. It will also be posted on the Kviteseid website (www.milanslutheranchurch.com) home page and on Kviteseid's Facebook page.

LOCAL NEWS Southwest Minnesota Synod

Synod News

Excerpts from Bishop Dee Pederson's 2024 Annual Report – Part 1

So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. - Romans 12:5

Thank You for the privilege of walking with you in ministry this year. It is an honor to be entrusted with the stories of your greatest joys and hopes for the church, as well as your burdens and concerns. I "keep watch" with you as we look for what God is doing among us today and in the future. This verse from Romans 12 provides a vision of what this might look like as this synod lives as one body, in Christ, and as **members one of another**.

One Body

We become part of this one body in Christ in holy baptism as we are united with Christians across space and time. Today, you and I are one with Christians in the Lutheran tradition in 99 countries around the world through the Lutheran World Federation, with the other 8900 congregations of the ELCA, and the 225 congregations God planted in cities, open country, or towns, of this synod. We are people who live by grace, yield our wisdom at the foot of the cross, and look for the light and life of Christ among us. As we enter 2025, I give thanks for the abundance of gifts God is giving us:

- the rostered ministers who are on call 24/7/365 and unite us through the good news of the gospel every week;
- congregation leaders who are welcoming, supporting, respect-

ing, and loving the rostered ministers called to lead now. We cannot grow pastors & deacons on trees. As Pr. Heather has said, "Our rostered ministers are not a renewable resource. We need to nurture the pastors we have." Inasmuch as congregations are supporting all of our pastors & deacons, this Synod will become known on the pastors' grapevine as a place people want to come and serve;

- lay leaders who have sensed the Holy Spirit leading them to pursue theological studies and lead worship in their congregations;
- call committees working hard and persevering in a time when there far more than twice as many congregations seeking first-call candidates as there are graduates;
- congregations who are talking with their neighbors about various kinds of partnerships, and are discovering how we can be and do more together than apart. Some are sharing youth ministries with congregations in the same school district, and some are rotating worship schedules.

The simple reality of demographics means that there are fewer students entering college, and there will be more rostered ministers retiring in the future. The future of our congregations will require innovations in ministries, an open heart to partner with others, and the commitment to encourage people of any age who have the faith, temperament, and gifts to consider ministry. I ask you to pray in public worship each week that God would "send forth laborers" for God's vineyard.

Thank you for the privilege of

walking with you and living as one body in Christ and members one of another as the Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA.

+ with grace, peace, and love, Rev. Dee Pederson, D. Min Bishop, Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA Southwestern Minnesota Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Lac qui Parle Conference Assembly

The Lac qui Parle Conference Assembly will be held on Sunday, February 23 at Kviteseid Lutheran Church. We will meet in person.

Registration at 1:30 p.m. with the meeting to start at 2:00 p.m.

We can have six voting members, which were elected at the annual meeting: Jon Hanson, Judi Bohm, Michelle Ascheman, Gavin Ascheman, Bryan Schuerman and Talia Schuerman.

Looking to Hire Parish Assistant and Financial Secretary

Kviteseid is looking to fill the positions of parish assistant and financial secretary. These are two separate jobs so the positions can be filled by one person or two different people. The two jobs together require about 30 hours of work and starting date for both is May 1st. Talk to Theresa at church if you have questions about the job requirements.

If you are interested in either of these positions or know of someone who is, drop a letter of interest in the trustees' mail slot at church or contact one of the trustees.

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Milan, Minnesota 56262 Permit No. 4

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

KVITESEID 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



Pastor Kristine Isder Parsonage phone: 320-734-4667 pastor@milanslutheranchurch.com

Parish Assistant - Theresa Erickson office@milanslutheranchurch.com

