

Greetings from Pastor Kristine Isder

June 22 marked the 10th anniversary of my ordination as a pastor in the ELCA. I was ordained at Grace Lutheran Church in Westbrook by Bishop Jon V. Anderson. On July 1 I started my first call at Kviteid Lutheran Church. On December 1, 2019, I also began serving Big Bend Lutheran Church.

How did I end up being a pastor?

In my first occupation, I was an accountant at a farm management company in Windom. I started as a bookkeeper and worked up to accountant and then to vice president of the company. I also kept the company's computer system running. It was a stressful job.

Through the years I became more involved in church activities. I joined a women's circle Bible study, served on the church council as a deacon, occasionally led adult Sunday school and gave sermons. I served on the synod outreach board and attended

conference and synod assemblies. My husband Rich served as a voting member at the Churchwide Assembly in 2003 and I went along as a visitor. That experience really opened my eyes to all the things going on in the church across the country and around the world. I was a voting member at the Churchwide Assembly in 2005 and was a volunteer in 2009. I enjoy learning about what is going on in the church and meeting other people involved in the church.

In 2007 I was at a church coaching conference and was asked if I was really happy. I had to think about that for a while. In the course of the conversation, I realized that I wasn't happy, mostly because of my work situation. I was getting burned out from all of the hours and stress of my job.

I started having discussions with my pastor, Roy Williams, about vocation. He helped me see that I was

uncomfortable because I wasn't where God wanted me to be.

He suggested I develop some new interests to see what they may lead to. In the fall of 2008 I took a Lay School of Theology class online from Luther Seminary on the Gospel of Mark. I really enjoyed the class and learning more about Mark and the Bible. At the same time at my job, I was working on income reports. One day I realized that studying the Bible was more interesting to me than preparing income reports. That was when I started to think about pursuing some type of ministry career.

On October 31, 2008, I turned in my resignation at work, realizing it was time to get out of it. I had no plans other than to take some time off and see what came along. Sometimes you have to close one door so another door can open up. I did agree to stay

continued on page 3

STEWARDSHIP

Contributions, Gifts, Memorials & Worship



FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Fund
2024 Financial Responsibilities
\$251,736

Checking Register
for the General Fund

5/1/24 balance:	\$16,898
May income:	\$11,006
May expenses:	\$17,544
5/31/24 balance:	\$10,360

Worship Offerings & Attendance



May 26

Lakeside Worship \$460 77

- Loose offering to
area food shelves \$365

June 2 \$3,696 35

June 9 \$1,830 28

June 16 \$2,721 38

Online Giving ...



Visit our website at
milanslutheranchurch.com

Memorials & Gifts

Undesignated

In memory of:



Brad Moen
Adeline Ellingboe

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.

PRAYERS

We offer up prayers for ...

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LOCAL NEWS

Pastor, Staff & Officers

Greetings from Pastor Kristine

continued from page 1

on at the company part time as a computer consultant with reduced responsibilities and hours.

I kept scanning the help wanted ads but nothing ever appealed to me. People kept asking me what I was going to do with the rest of my life. I was still interested in some type of ministry career and kept waiting for definite signs of what I should be doing.

A close relative told me I should consider a career in some type of church work since I was so active and involved in my church.

In the fall of 2009, I had another discussion with Pastor Roy. I asked him if it was wrong to coast out of life and enjoy early retirement with Rich. I was somewhat comfortable working part time and having time to do other

things, but I felt like something was missing. He said I was being called to a deeper ministry in the church. I agreed with that. We talked some more and I went home to think about the discussion.

I'm glad he told me he thought I was being called into ministry because I don't know when I would have figured it out. I prayed for direction on the path God wanted me to follow.

After that conversation, there were several events that seemed to be pointing me towards seminary and a career in the ministry.

I finally realized that I was being called into the ministry. I had been struggling with the call. I thought it might be a lightning strike or a sudden revelation. The more I thought about it, I realized the call is a series of small events or signs that keep pointing in the same direction. I had been called for quite a while and didn't see it.

But God kept providing signs until I finally figured it out.

From there, events moved rapidly in two months: Rich and I attended Ventures in Vocation at Luther Seminary, I visited with one of the synod ministers, began the candidacy process, applied and was accepted into seminary.

When I told people that I was going to attend seminary, they weren't surprised. Most people seemed to see it coming before I did. Why was I the last to know?

I started classes at Luther Seminary in St. Paul in July of 2010 with summer Greek, commuting weekly from Windom. After two years of classes, I served a one-year internship at Lac qui Parle Lutheran by Dawson. Then I returned to Luther Seminary for my last year of classes graduating in May of 2014. In March I interviewed at Kviteseid and in May the congregation voted to call me as their pastor. I began my call at Kviteseid on July 1.

 **Happy 4th of July** 

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

July Schedules

Worship Time Change



9:00 a.m.
starts July 14th

JULY

Worship Assistants



Deacon Communion Setup

14 - Cindy Kanten

Lectors

7 - Rich Isder
14 - Connie Fragodt
21 - Gabby Augeson
28 - Tom Moe

Media Operators

7 - *None Needed*
14 - Alex Joyce
21 - Rich Isder
28 - Mason Erp

Video Recorders

7 - *None Needed*
14 - Theresa Erickson
21 - Jon Hanson
28 - 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.

Lakeside Worship Service

at Milan Beach Resort

(Randall's - Lac qui Parle Lake)

Sunday, July 7th - 9:30 a.m.

Bring a lawn chair ☩ In case of inclement weather, service will be held at Kviteseid, Milan.

Hosted by Big Bend, Borgund, Immanuel, Kviteseid, Minnesota Valley, and Zion Lutheran Churches

🎵 *Special music by: BRASS QUINTET* 🎵

Loose offering will be given to the area food shelves

Free will donation for coffee and goodies following worship.

Board Meetings

Wednesday, July 17

Deacons - 6:00 p.m.

Trustees - 7:00 p.m.



Group 4

Captain - Jon Kanten
793-6647

Gary Heimdahl
Val Johnson
Christian Kanten
Cale Norby
Jason Norby
Alex Olson



Congregational Meeting

Sunday, July 14

9:45 a.m.

(following worship)

to discuss and vote on the landscaping and structural repairs to the east side of the church and by the bell tower. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary.

TWC Bible Study

Wednesday, July 10

1:30 p.m.

Meet at Brookside
in Montevideo



LOCAL NEWS

Helping Hands and Youth

Helping Hands



*Rain, rain, go away,
Come again another day!*

We don't have a choice in matters of Mother Nature -- we just need to be thankful and pray that we don't get too much of the wet stuff!

Congratulations to Pr. Kristine on the 10-year anniversary of her Ordination. We are blessed to have her and Rich in our community. We are thankful for her commitment and faithfulness to our congregation!

Thank you to Group 2, chairpersons, Val/Char Johnson, Ken/Cindy Lee, Naomi Streed, for serving the funeral lunch to the family and friends of Adeline Ellingboe following her funeral service. Your time and attention were much appreciated by Adeline's family,

Summer quilting will be held on Monday, July 8, Tuesday, July 9, Monday, July 15 and Wednesday, July 17, from 9 until about 3. Bring a bag lunch and if you have something, bring treats for coffee. No experience is necessary. We would love to show you what and how to do it. See you for quilting! It is a fun time.

Thank you to all who have contributed tops, backs, money and other supplies for our quilting projects. It is such a blessing to have so many choices!

Service Group 3, chairpersons, Rob/Karla Schwendemann, Ray/Jessica Trager, Theresa Erickson, is next for funeral serving. Stay well everyone!



*Sunny days are ahead!
Enjoy to the max!!*

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School was held June 7 with 12 kids, 7 teachers, 2 helpers and special guest Tim Streed. The theme was:



Activities:

- Whittling - Jesus was the World's Best Carpenter, molding and shaping
- Wind Chimes- the Holy Spirit in the Wind moves us
- Snackle Boxes - tackle box lunch boxes - travel and lunchtime fun, tell others of Jesus on your travels
- Water games - just for fun
- Bingo break
- Scavenger Camp Hunt - teamwork, we can get lost but the right tools can help us, Jesus has a map
- God Loves You S'mores - never forget how wonderfully made you are. God Loves you Smore!



F

SERVICE GROUPS

SERVING THE NEXT FUNERAL WILL BE GROUP 3.

Service Group 3 chairpersons are:

Theresa Erickson	734-4879
Rob & Karla Schwendemann	320-226-3700
Ray & Jessica Trager	320-309-4467

LOCAL NEWS

July

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.

Layettes

In September we will again be putting together layettes for God's Work Our Hands. Last September we made 40 layettes which was great. We will need blankets again. They can be 30 by 30, 36 by 36, or 42 by 42 inches. Thank you for your help in this project.

If you have any questions, give Cathy Olson a call at 289-3066.

Looking Ahead

September 1

Lakeside Worship

September 8

God's Work Our Hands and Rally Sunday

Thank You

Thank you for the recognition and reception for the 10th Anniversary of my ordination. Thank you for the flowers, the quilt and the wooden bowl made by Jim Anderson.

- Pastor Kristine



Thank you to the board of education for coordinating and leading Vacation Bible School. Thank you to Alex Joyce and Iver Heinrich for being helpers.

Thank you to all those that gave donations to the MN River Valley Cancer Connection. It was greatly appreciated by this new local cancer group. Donations can be given at anytime.

- Lorrie Spray

Thank you so very much to Kviteseid Helping Hands for the thoughtful May Day basket. After losing my dad and getting through the funeral, it was definitely a day brightener! Thanks again!

- Paulette & Jim Anderson

Thank you Kviteseid Lutheran Church for your recent charitable gift of \$122. Your support and generosity enable us to serve many individuals in our local area. We are grateful for your kindness and your continued support.

- Chippewa County Food Shelf

Thank you to those who gave to the Lac qui Parle Community Food Shelf at your recent Lakeside Worship service. Your donation of \$121 will help to buy nutritious food for those in our community who need some help in meeting their food needs each month.

-Lac qui Parle Community Food Shelf

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LOCAL NEWS

June Joint Council Meeting

Kviteseid Lutheran Church Joint Council Minutes June 19, 2024

Members Present: Tom Moe, Rob Schwendemann, Sherry Norby, Andy Streed, Brandon Ascheman, Bryan Schuerman, Cory Heinrich, Jon Hanson, Heidi Spray, Sue Streed and Pastor Kristine Isder.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by President Tom Moe.

Pastor Kristine gave devotions and a prayer.

Secretary's Report: The secretary's report was reviewed with no changes.

Treasurer's Report: There is a large project that will need to have approval by the congregation in the near future.

Deacon's Report: There were 77 people at the May 26 service at the lake. The Deacons are working on welcome packets/baskets that will be delivered to people living in our area, with no church affiliation.

Trustee's Report:

- The projector bulb has been replaced, which gives a much clearer image on the screen.
- The Trustees got rid of a lot of items on Milan Clean-Up Day.
- The roof leak in Pastor's office has been fixed.
- The soffit and fascia will be replaced on the Education wing and the secretary's office has a new thermostat.
- A dehumidifier will be installed in the Geo-Thermal room to improve air circulation.
- The bid for the landscaping and wall structure project on the east side of the church and by the bell tower has come in at a number larger than the Trustees can approve, so there will need to be a special Congregational Meeting to approve that.

Board of Education: The Sunday School students did a beautification project at the end of the year with flowers, painted rocks, etc. There were 12 students (2 from Big Bend) at Vacation Bible School. They had snacks, played games, worked on projects, made wind chimes and "snackle" boxes.

Pastor's Report:

- Church attendance was as follows: April: 40-104, May: 34-79, June: 28-38. Online reached 89-204.
- Holy Week was interesting as the Palm Sunday service was shortened due to an impending storm. The Maundy Thursday service was held in the dark due to a power outage. The organ decided not to work for the Good Friday service, and on Easter Sunday, some guy came back from the dead!
- Four students received their first communion, three youth were confirmed and two graduating seniors were recognized.
- Worship time will change to 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 14 and remain that way until June 30, 2025.
- Pastor Kristine was recognized at Synod Assembly for the 10th anniversary of her ordination.
- There is a dire shortage of people going into the ministry and area churches are feeling the results of that.

Motion was made by Brandon Ascheman to approve all reports, seconded by Bryan Schuerman. Motion carried.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

- God's Work Our Hands Sunday will be September 8th.
- The council reviewed the proposed revisions to Kviteseid's funeral policy which included updates and charging \$50 for the use of the church for a funeral of a non-member. Copies will be sent to area funeral homes. Motion was made by Jon Hanson, seconded by Brandon Ascheman, to approve the proposed changes. Motion carried.
- Motion was made by Jon Hanson, seconded by Sue Streed, to have a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, July 14, at 9:45 a.m. to discuss and vote on the landscaping and structural repairs to the east side of the church and by the bell tower. Motion carried.

We closed the meeting by praying the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be September 18.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sherry Norby, Council Secretary

CONGRATULATIONS
to **Pastor Kristine**
on the
10th Anniversary
of her Ordination



Installed
at
Kviteseid
June 29,
2014



LOCAL NEWS

Southwest Minnesota Synod

Synod News

2024 Synod Assembly Recap

The 2024 Synod Assembly was held June 7 and 8 both online and in person at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter.

Jon Hanson and Pastor Kristine attended the assembly online as voting members.

The theme of the assembly was “One Body in Christ” (Romans 12:5)

Friday night was a time of celebration, honoring congregations who reached milestone anniversaries, pastors who had retired and who reached milestone ordination anniversaries.

Pastor Kristine was honored for her 10-year ordination anniversary.

Two people from our Companion Synod partners of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa were present: Presiding Bishop NkosiNathi Myaka and Diocesan Council Chair Mr. Mkhize. Their teaching time focused on the state of the church in South Africa, which is impacted by devastating weather changes, political instability, economic challenges, and continuing health needs. Yet they clearly proclaimed God’s power and presence in these times, and then united the assembly in singing and dancing as the evening concluded.

Saturday began with worship in Christ Chapel. In her message, Bishop Dee Pederson talked about how Jesus often surprises us and turns upside-down things we thought we knew. She drew upon the meaning of the 3rd Petition of the Lord’s Prayer to consider how God’s will might be done to, for, in, and among us in our congregations and communities.

Rev. Seyward Ask was installed as a Synod Minister.

A total of 376 people were in attendance onsite and on zoom, consisting of 217 Lay Leaders and 159 Ros-

tered Ministers. The quorum was met.

The keynote speaker was Rev. Dr. Aaron Suomala Folkerds, who wove together personal stories and Scripture to teach concrete tools for better connections with others. Quoting Mother Theresa he noted, “If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.”

He suggested tools available to us that maintain connection: connection helps us deal with the sufferings of life; be in awe; anything mentionable is manageable; Be an illuminator and not a diminisher; laugh at life; sleep and exercise; gratitude; wisely use the phone, reframe and resilience; forgiveness; and Jesus binds us all together.

The ELCA churchwide report was given by Rev. Dr. Philip Hirsch, ELCA Executive Director for Christian Community and Leadership.

Pastor Kristine and Jon attended the workshop he presented during lunch.

Bishop Dee’s report focused on 5 signs of life and health that she sees across our synod as God’s will is being done “to, for, in, and among us.” In a time when ministry is rapidly changing, she believes these signs can point the way into the future:

Living as one. Living as a body. Living together in Christ-like, healthy relationships. Living as partners with each other. Living in Christ as hope for the world.

Her report included a story from the memorial service giving thanks for the life of Shirley Anderson, wife of former synod bishop Rev. Charles Anderson. Shirley’s memorial was held at St. John’s Lutheran in Northfield, and Rev. Jonathan Davis told the story of how he and Charles began to challenge themselves to figure out how to summarize the Gospel in as few words as possible. When it came down to choosing one word, Rev. Davis said it is “with” because this is the most fundamental thing about God,

about the Incarnation, and how we are to be with each other. She believes this is what it means to be church together and a synod, literally “walking with” each other.

Once again, our neighbor, Borgund Lutheran, was presented with the Breadbasket Award in recognition of raising over \$34 per member to support ELCA World Hunger.

Action taken by the Assembly: election of synod council and churchwide assembly voting members, approving compensation guidelines for 2025, and adopting the budget for 2026.

Three resolutions were presented. One was withdrawn, one regarding the Human Sexuality Statement was not adopted, and the third one passed which approved changes in the synod constitution.

The Assembly also gave thanks for the life and ministries of rostered ministers who passed away this year.

Bishop Dee thanked everyone for the generosity of the Mission Support shared with the synod for their many ministries so that the people of our communities live out and share the good news of Jesus Christ, especially in these changing times. Synod staff walks with congregations to equip lay and rostered ministers for leadership and training; seeks candidates for calls; equips Church Councils and Call Committees; provides pastoral care and consultation and communication, supports synod committee and governance work; supports global partnerships; and provides a link to our many partners across the state and churchwide.

For more information, visit the Synod Assembly’s webpage, (<https://swmnelca.org/synod-assembly/>) which includes Bishop Dee’s report, the keynote speaker and the churchwide report.



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KVITSEID LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Schedule

- ✝ **Worship at 9:00 a.m.** ✝
- ✝ **Online Worship at 9:00 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**

