

# Kviteseid Voice

Kviteseid Lutheran  
Church

January 2025

Volume 35 | Number 1

## Greetings from Pastor Kristine Isder

Here we are at the start of another new year. It seems like we just welcomed in 2024.

*“So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)*

We have a clean slate of 365 days ahead of us with new opportunities. What will you fill yours with?

*“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 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 4:4-7)*

To mark the weeks until Christmas, we light the candles of the Advent wreath. As we light one more candle each Sunday, the wreath gets brighter.

The third candle on the Advent wreath is the Candle of Joy. It’s the pink candle.

When the angel told Mary that a special child would be born to her, she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words: “My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”

The presence of Jesus in the world gave joy to those who had none before. He healed them and gave them hope and peace.

We light the candle of joy to remind us that through Jesus there will be everlasting joy on earth. The presence of Jesus with us is like a

spark of joy that we carry even through the deepest darkness. Joy is like a light shining in a dark place.

In this new year, let us be joyful as we trust that God is holding all our days in His hand. Be open to new possibilities that may come our way.


**“Eternal Father, you have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love. Grant that in this new year we may know your presence, see your love at work, and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever – the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”**

(Lutheran Book of Worship)

***Happy New Year!***

# STEWARDSHIP

## Contributions, Gifts, Memorials & Worship



### FINANCIAL UPDATE

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General Fund  
2024 Financial Responsibilities  
\$251,736


Checking Register  
for the General Fund

11/1/24 balance:       \$6,057  
November income:    \$26,094  
November expenses: \$21,482  
11/30/24 balance:    \$10,669

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Cashflow loan to date: \$7,000

### Worship Offerings & Attendance



November 24	\$1,784	93
November 28	\$1,530	60
- Thanksgiving		
December 1	\$1,127.31	46
December 8	\$1,185	57
December 15	\$1,404	147

### MEMORIALS and GIFTS

*None to Report*

### Online Giving ...



Visit our website at  
**[milanslutheranchurch.com](http://milanslutheranchurch.com)**

### 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 ...

This section removed for member privacy.



# LOCAL NEWS

## Pastor, Staff & Officers

### CONGRATULATIONS to PASTOR KRISTINE on her upcoming **RETIREMENT**

Dear Kviteseid Lutheran Church Members,

The purpose of this letter is to announce my retirement as pastor of Kviteseid Lutheran Church effective June 30, 2025.

I am grateful to have been your pastor for the last ten years.

Rich and I have really enjoyed our time in Milan. It will be hard to leave.

We will be moving to Marshall and are looking forward to more time for family and traveling.

My promise is to serve you with all my energy until I depart as we share together in the ministry of the church.

The Southwestern Minnesota Synod will assist you in this time of transition.

God's richest blessings,

Pastor Kristine Isder



### Church Supper Update

No church supper was held in 2024. Members were asked to give a monetary donation in lieu of the supper. Total received this year was \$1,060. **Thank you!**



## 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

## January Schedules



### Deacon Communion Setup

- 5 - Andrea Westra
- 12 - Heidi Spray

### Acolytes

- 5 - Iver Heinrich
- 12 - Daisy Sachariason
- 19 - Creed Joyce
- 26 - Eva Trager

### Lectors

- 5 - Rob Schwendemann
- 12 - Heidi Hanson
- 19 - Rich Isder
- 26 - Connie Fragodt

### Media Operators

- 5 - Tom Moe
- 12 - Parker Spray
- 19 - Gavin Ascherman
- 26 - Jessa Norby

### Video Recorders

- 5 - Jon Hanson
- 12 - Rich Isder
- 19 - Theresa Erickson
- 26 - Jon Hanson

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

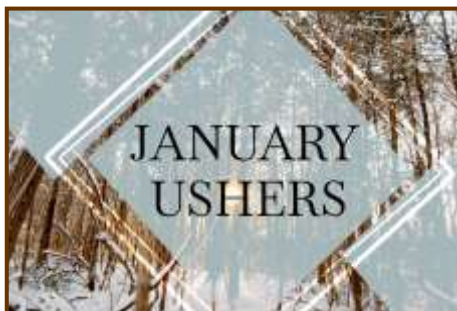
**Reminder: It is your responsibility to find a replacement if you are unable to be there the day you are scheduled.**

### Annual Meeting

 Sunday, January 19  
following worship at 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary  
*Reports due January 3*

### 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](http://www.milanslutheranchurch.com)) home page and on Kviteseid's Facebook page.




### Group 2

Captain - Char Johnson  
752-4577

- Connie Fragodt
- Kim Heimdahl
- Teresa Olson
- Karla Schwendemann
- Sue Streed
- Kim Thompson

### 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.

### Church Board Meetings

Wednesday, January 15

Deacons - 6:00 p.m.

Trustees - 7:00 p.m.



### TWC Bible Study

Wednesday, January 8

1:30 p.m.

Meet at the church in the fellowship hall



# LOCAL NEWS

## Helping Hands

### Helping Hands

Wishing everyone and your families a very Merry Christmas! May the Reason for the Season bring you Blessings!

Thank you to Group 1, chairpersons, Ryan/Cheryl Erp, Gary/Kim Heimdahl, Josh/Tiffany Moen, for decorating the church for the Christmas Season! It looks just lovely! Thank you! Thank you in advance for undecorating as well!

Quilting this winter is scheduled for 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday, Feb. 10, Wednesday, Feb. 13, Monday, Feb. 17, and Wednesday, Feb. 19. No experience necessary! Come and join the fun!

Thank you to Pastor Kristine for serving our parish for the past 10 years! You have been a blessing and we wish you all the very best in your upcoming retirement!

Thank you Rich for all you do in support of Pr. Kristine and all you do for our congregation. If there is a need...there you are! You are very much appreciated!

Thank you Theresa for all you do for everyone! You are simply the best! You can do it all!

Thank you Judi for providing music without fail every Sunday and other services. We are blessed!

Thank you David for all your efforts in taking care of the church in many ways! You are appreciated!

Thank you Deacons, Trustees, Board of Education and Church Council for all you do to keep us on the path of faith! May you be a blessing!

Thank you Sunday School Teachers for all you do for our kids! Planning, teaching, producing the Christmas program (outstanding!) and keeping the future of the church interested! Very much appreciated!

Thank you Helping Hands Board for all you do for a lot of things in our church! Many things couldn't happen without you, your time and talent! Many thanks!

Thank you to all the Service Groups and their chairpersons for all you do during the year! All of it is so appreciated! Many things couldn't happen without your cooperation! Thank you!!

Thank you Ushers, Acolytes, Lectors, Media Operators and Video Operators for your faithful services every Sunday. We are blessed!

Thank you Nancy Streed for faithfully caring for the plants located throughout the church. So thankful!

Thank you all for the financial support of our church and all the projects undertaken! Truly a blessing!

Wishing everyone a most Merry Christmas and a wonderful, healthy, Happy New Year!

### ACTIVITIES AT KVITSEID IN THE LAST MONTH

Military Boxes packed December 17 (18 boxes)

Sunday School Christmas program December 15

Worship

Online Worship Services

Sunday School

Sunday School sent cards to shut ins

Sunday School assembled 19 birthday cake kits for area food shelves

Confirmation Classes

Bible Study

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Christmas Day Candlelight Service

Services at Apple Ridge and Appleton Care Center

#### Donations made:

- Endowment Fund \$24,000
- Together With Christ Bible Study \$480 to ELCA Good Gifts
- Helping Hands \$2,500


F


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





Red Cross  
Bloodmobile

will be here on  
**Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>**  
from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

For more information or  
to make an appointment,  
call 1-800-RED CROSS  
(1-800-733-2767) or visit  
[www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org)



# LOCAL NEWS

## Sunday School

### Looking Ahead

Ash  
Wednesday

March 5



### Sunday School Christmas Program

December 15

Thank you to the board of education, the Sunday school superintendent, teachers, students, parents, and all those who contributed to the program. Everybody thought it was great! Good job!



Shadow Nativity



This  
section  
removed  
for  
member  
privacy.

### Bible Celebration

On November 24, the KLC Teens celebrated the distribution and use of their new Bibles.



# LOCAL NEWS

## December Church Council Meeting

### Kviteseid Lutheran Church Joint Council Minutes *December 18, 2024*

**Members Present:** Tom Moe, Rob Schwendemann, Sherry Norby, Andy Streed, Brandon Ascheman, Cory Heinrich, Ray Trager, Jon Hanson, Heidi Spray, Cheryl Erp, Andrea Westra and Pastor Kristine Isder.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. 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:** Andy Streed reported the Building Fund received an anonymous donation of \$25,000. The church budget will be in the black at the end of the year.

**Deacon's Report:** Heidi Spray reported that out of the nine Welcome baskets delivered, the church received three new members. Attendance varies with 147 attending the December 15<sup>th</sup> service and Christmas program. The teachers and students did a very nice program. The Jingle Offering for kids has over \$80. There are several Micronesian students attending our Sunday School. There were over 300 people served communion at the Welling wedding.

**Trustee's Report:** Cory Heinrich reported they had narrowed down

the color of the landscape brick to three colors and one will be selected. Tosel Construction will do the work next spring/summer. Southwest Glass of Marshall has been contacted to repair the caulk, etc. on some of the windows. Theresa Erickson, church secretary/bookkeeper, is resigning effective April 30, 2025. This position will be open for applications.

**Board of Education:** Nothing to report.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Kristine reported that worship attendance has been ranging from 46 – 147. Online worship is 100-200 per Sunday. She heard very good comments about the Sunday School program. Several Micronesian students are attending Sunday School and Confirmation. The Endowment Board met and gave out \$24,000 in donations. The Endowment Board is looking for three new members. Area churches are reporting they are experiencing the need for pastoral care and leadership. Pastor Kristine reported she will be retiring effective June 30, 2025, and handed out information on the Call Process.

Motion was made by Rob Schwendemann, seconded by Jon Hanson, to approve the reports. Motion carried.

**Old Business:** The agreement with Big Bend Church for pastoral services was updated. In lieu of a church supper, members are asked to contribute money.

**New Business:**  
- Big Bend will have Fat Tuesday/Ash Wednesday service

- March 4 and Lenten services on March 12 and March 26. Kviteseid will also hold an Ash Wednesday service and have the remaining Lenten services.
- The Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 19, at the conclusion of the service. Reports for the annual meeting are due January 3.
- The Nominating Committee consists of Char Strand, Josh Moen, Jessica Trager, Brian Olson, Jenna Norby and Lorrie Spray.
- Pastor discussed the Call Process and reported that the church's Constitution needs to be updated.

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

The next scheduled council meeting will be Wednesday, March 19, 2025, after the Lenten service.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sherry Norby  
Council Secretary

### Help Wanted

*Parish Assistant  
and Financial Secretary*

Kviteseid is looking to fill the positions of parish assistant and financial secretary.

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





# LOCAL NEWS

## Southwest Minnesota Synod

### Synod News

#### SW MN YOUTH NEWS

The SW MN Synod Junior High Youth Gathering was held Nov. 22-23 in Willmar. The theme was “Forever Unbroken,” based on Romans 8:37-39. The event was coordinated and planned by the SW MN Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO).

Over 545 people attended the gathering. An offering of \$1,400 was collected for the Eagle’s Healing Nest Foundation.

The Senior High Youth Gathering will be held April 4-5, 2025 in Redwood Falls.

#### SERVING IN THE CHURCH

Take a moment to consider: **What is God calling you to?** God’s call comes to us in wide and varied forms — teaching youth, serving on a board or committee within your congregation, or even leading worship as a lay leader.

Others may feel God is calling them to further learning to become ordained as a minister of Word and Sacrament (pastor) or a minister of Word and Service (Deacon).

If you are hearing God’s call, please reach out to Pastor Heather Culuris at the synod office, 507-637-3904, or online: <https://swmnelca.org/contact/>

We would love to hear how God is calling you and help you along your vocation journey!

Or you can talk to Pastor Kristine.



### Churchwide News

#### THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE

Last year *Living Lutheran* (formerly The Lutheran Magazine), ceased as a print publication and continued as a digital-only service because of financial constraints. Since then, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and staff heard concerns about members who don’t have access to computers or don’t read online content for various reasons. As a result, people have felt disconnected from the ELCA.

At the request of Bishop Eaton, the ELCA has found a way to bring back the magazine’s print magazine. Each issue will feature updates on the church and the ELCA and also stories.

Beginning in 2025, *Living Lutheran* will publish four issues a year (spring, summer, winter and fall). The cost for one year will be \$19.95 for an individual subscription and \$17.00 per year for a congregation group subscription.

To start receiving a print subscription: Call 800-328-4648 or sign up at [www.livinglutheran.org/](http://www.livinglutheran.org/) subscribe.

To read the online content, go to [www.livinglutheran.org](http://www.livinglutheran.org)

### Thank You

On behalf of Swift County Food Shelf, we would like to thank you for your donation of \$95 made on September 13, 2024. Swift County Food Shelf relies on the generosity of donors such as yourself and is grateful for your support. Thank you once again.

- Swift County Food Shelf

Thank you to everyone who helped and/or donated items for the military boxes. We have heard that these men and women really appreciate receiving the boxes.

- The Military Committee

Thank you for the Christmas greetings that were shared with us this Christmas season.

- Pastor Kristine and Rich

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



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

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#### 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.



Kviteeid Lutheran Church  
PO Box 31  
Milan, MN 56262  
www.milanslutheranchurch.com

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# 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)

