

# Kviteseid Voice



Kviteseid Lutheran Church | March 2025 | Volume 35 | Number 3

## Greetings from Pastor Kristine Isder

### Is It In The Bible?

#### Round Two

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

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." **In the Bible.** *Philippians 4:13*

This verse reminds us of God's strength and power. But it's often misquoted as "I can do all things," leading people to think they can achieve anything through God – even if these things go against God's will.

We can do all things through Christ, not on our own, but with His help. The larger context is: "Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry,

of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me." (*Philippians 4:11-13*)

When we understand that we can be satisfied in God, it completely changes the meaning of the verse. We joyfully realize that we can fulfill God's will, not our own, through God's strength.

"God helps those who help themselves." **NOT in the Bible.**

People usually use this quote to encourage others to help themselves. This is intended to reassure others that God will help them in whatever they do, as long as they put in the effort. But God is with us no matter what we do or how much effort we give.

Scripture tells us, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." (*Proverbs 3:5-6*)

In other words, the quote goes against a key Biblical principle that we are completely dependent on God's help and mercy – our efforts are worthless without Him.

God is with us no matter our feelings, thoughts or activities. God's love is unwavering toward us.

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." **In the Bible.** In a lot of verses in the Old Testament and the New Testament.

"You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD." *Leviticus 19:18*, God's words to Moses to tell the people.

"Honor your father and mother; also, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." *Matthew 19:19*, Jesus' words to the rich young man.

*continued on page 3*

# STEWARDSHIP

## Contributions, Gifts, Memorials & Worship



### FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Fund  
2025 Financial Responsibilities  
\$262,904

Checking Register  
for the General Fund

1/1/25 balance:	\$33,067
January income:	\$13,496
January expenses:	\$16,746
1/31/25 balance:	\$29,817

### Worship Offerings & Attendance



January 12	\$647	41
January 19	\$365	49
January 26	\$806	52
February 2	\$1,140	60
February 9	\$704	58
February 16	\$1,305	26

### Online Giving ...



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



*None to Report*

### 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

### Greetings from Pastor Kristine

*continued from page 1*

A lawyer asked Jesus, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest? He said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." *Matthew 22:34-39*

"Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a

neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law." *Romans 13:8-10*, written by the Apostle Paul to the church in Rome.

"For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself.""  
*Galatians 5:14*, the Apostle Paul quoting Jesus.

"You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself.""  
*James 2:8*

The most important thing we are called to do is to love God and to love neighbor.

That's what Jesus taught during His ministry 2,000 some years ago: love God and love others.

Our call is to help others.

In the Lord's Prayer, we pray "Thy kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven."

Kingdom living is how God would like to see life on earth. Kingdom living is where people get along and

help each other and all are taken care of.

Kingdom living often seems contradictory to the way people in this world operate. The world says, "look out for yourself!" God says, "look out for others".

Kingdom living is the way life here on earth should be. I call it "God's alternative". And Jesus has been sent to show people what this "alternative kingdom" looks like.

Our call is to help bring the kingdom of God to earth. A life where all who suffer and struggle receive comfort and healing; a life where all who have been left out are fully included.

But even more: a life where all people of faith become tools of blessing, as God moves through them to touch the hurts and needs of their neighbors.

This is what it looks like to live in God's kingdom, both now and in the age to come.

## 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**

### Board of Trustees

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

### Board of Education

**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

## March Schedules

### 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.

Fat Tuesday, **March 4** at Big Bend with supper and activities start-

ing at 5:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday, **March 5** at Kviteseid with supper (barbecues) served by the Helping Hands Board at 6:00 p.m. and worship at 7:00 p.m.

The remaining Lenten services will be as follows with supper at 6:00 p.m. and worship at 7:00 p.m.

⇒ **March 12** at Big Bend

⇒ **March 19** at Kviteseid - supper (chicken tetrazzini) served by the Helping Hands Board

⇒ **March 26** at Big Bend

⇒ **April 2** at Kviteseid - supper (pulled pork) served by the Kviteseid Kids

⇒ **April 9** at Kviteseid - supper (lasagna) served by the Kviteseid Kids

### March MN Food Share Month

Special offering will be taken  
**March 2 and 9**

The Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign brings together organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals to help stock and support the capacity of nearly 300 food shelves.

To date, Minnesota FoodShare has distributed over \$18.5 million via the FoodFund. 100% of donations designated to Minnesota Foodshare during the March Campaign go into the FoodFund and are distributed to participating food shelves.

Kviteseid will be receiving a special local hunger offering on two Sundays, March 2 and 9. These monies will be sent to the Chippewa, Lac qui Parle and Swift County food shelves.

Donations can also be given directly to our local food shelves or visit [gmcc.org/march-campaign](http://gmcc.org/march-campaign) online.



### Deacon Communion Setup

2 - Cindy Kanten

5 - *Ash Wednesday*  
Heidi Spray

9 - Cindy Kanten

### Acolytes

2 - Mason Erp

5 - *Ash Wednesday*  
Daisy Sachariason

9 - Creed Joyce

16 - Eva Trager

23 - Thatcher Erp

30 - Carter Moen

### Lectors

2 - Jen Tostenson

9 - Jon Hanson

16 - Gavin Ascherman

23 - Teresa Olson

30 - Sherry Norby

### Media Operators

2 - Missy Ervin

5 - *Ash Wednesday*  
Theresa Erickson

9 - Theresa Erickson

16 - Gabby Augeson

23 - Ty Norby

30 - Matt Schuerman

### Video Recorders

2 - Theresa Erickson

5 - *Ash Wednesday*  
Jon Hanson

9 - Rich Isder

16 - Theresa Erickson

19 - *Lent*

Jon Hanson

23 - Rich Isder

30 - Theresa Erickson

*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.**



### Group 1

Luther League

# LOCAL NEWS

## Lenten Season

### Fat Tuesday at Big Bend

Kviteseid members are invited to Big Bend's Fat Tuesday celebration on March 4.

Waffles and sausages will be served from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Bingo will be from 6:00 to 6:45



p.m. Ash Wednesday worship will be at 7:00 p.m. with imposition of ashes and holy communion. Kviteseid members are invited to attend all or part of the activities.

### Easter Choir



An **Easter Choir** is being formed to sing a couple of songs on Easter Sunday but we are **IN NEED** of a **CHOIR DIRECTOR!**

Adults and youth in grades 7 through 12 are invited to be a part of the choir. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex for anyone interested in joining.

Contact *Cindy Kanten* if interested in being the director or with any questions.

### Easter Baskets

**Service Work Group 4** will be assembling Easter Baskets on Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in the church basement. Please consider coming to help as well as contribute items such as candy, baked goods (cookies, muffins, and small loaves of quick bread), cheeses, crackers, fruit, individual packaged snacks, etc. Items may be left in the church basement. Volunteers are also needed to deliver the baskets. Please call Yong Sun Schroeder, John/Sue Vetter or Bruce/Connie Streed with questions or to volunteer to help in any way.



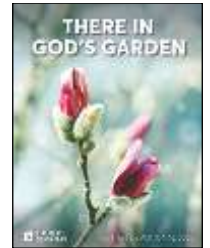
### Easter Lilies

Easter Lilies, to be placed in the sanctuary for Easter worship in memory or in honor of a loved one, may be purchased by contacting the church office (734-4455). Cost is \$20. Checks should be made out to Kviteseid Lutheran Church. After Easter worship, you may take your purchased plant home. A limited number of Easter Lilies have been ordered for your purchase.



### Lent Devotions

Looking for a devotion for Lent? Here is a free one you can download from Luther Seminary: "There in God's Garden" for March 5 – April 20. A few printed copies will also be available at church.



Download: <https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/lenten-devotional/>. Select download pdf or download large print pdf.

### 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

## Helping Hands

### Helping Hands

Hallelujah!! We are looking at some very nice days ahead! Be sure to enjoy them. Feels awesome!

We have had an excellent bunch of days of quilting recently! We will have made about 40 quilts this time and together with the ones we made in July, there will be about 70 of them who will make someone very warm, thankful and happy! A good feeling all around, in addition to the fun we all had in making them! Thank you very much to all who helped with that awesome project! They will be blessed during worship service in the coming weeks and then they will be on their way to their new homes!

Lent is right around the corner. It is a reflective time of year...be sure to take the time to do just that. There will be a light supper served before the Lenten services at Kviteseid. The Helping Hands Board members, Nancy Schneck, Cathy Olson, Sue Streed, Patee Spray and Karla Schwendemann will be serving Barbecues on Ash Wednesday, from 6:00 to 6:45 on March 5. Board members Sue Vetter, Theresa Olson, Char Johnson and Naomi Streed will be serving chicken tetrazzini on March 19 from 6:00 to 6:45. The proceeds

from the meals will be given to local charitable organizations. Thank you to Thrivent for the grant to help with expenses toward the meals.

Next for funeral serving is Group 4, Yong Sun Schroeder, Bruce/Connie Streed and John/Sue Vetter chairpersons. Stay safe and well!!

Syttende Mai is scheduled for Saturday, May 17!! If you would like to help, please contact Nancy Schneck or Char Strand and we will find a place for you! Thank you!!

Group 4 will be putting together Easter baskets in the next few weeks, please look for details on that if that is your group. Thank you for brightening the days of our friends who have suffered illness or death in the past year.

We are nearing the end of winter! Brighter warmer days are ahead!

### Winter Quilting



# FUNERAL

SERVICE GROUPS

Serving the next funeral will be Group 4.

Service Group 4 chairpersons are:

Yong Sun Schroeder	320-441-8312
Bruce & Connie Streed	734-4892
John & Sue Vetter	734-4442



# LOCAL NEWS

## Youth

### Bible Camp at Green Lake Lutheran Ministries

Calling all kids to register for Bible Camp!

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)

Registration is open. For more information, there are brochures at church or check out their website: <http://www.gllm.org/>

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

### 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.

### Youth Blanket Project

#### SPECIAL THANK YOU

to Bev & Donny Struxness, Nancy Streed, and Sandra Moe for helping the Sunday School Teens with the blanket project February 9<sup>th</sup>. Bev was able to acquire Thrivent funds to pay for this project. We are so blessed to have helped wrap strangers in love and comfort them in their time of need.

Thank you to the quilting group for the use of scissors. These blankets will be headed to the pediatric unit for kids battling illness, cancer and other serious diseases.

- Michelle Ascheman



### Vacation Bible School

Plans are being made to hold Vacation Bible School in early June.



Look for details coming soon!

# LOCAL NEWS

March

## Job Opening

*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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.

## Military Boxes

Military boxes will be packed on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.



Plans are to fill 16 boxes. Items that can be sent are candy, jerky, raisins, licorice, microwave popcorn and baked goods (4-6 in a baggie). Please have items to church by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Money donations are also appreciated.

## 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, MARCH 19

### Deacons

6:00 p.m. during Lenten supper

### Trustees

6:00 p.m. during Lenten supper

### Church Council

7:45 p.m. after Lenten service



DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME

begins Sunday, March 9.

*Remember to set clocks  
ahead one hour!*

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for  
member  
privacy.**

**This section  
removed for  
member privacy.**



# LOCAL NEWS

## Letters of Thanks

### Thank You “KLC Endowment”

Thank you for your generous donation to the FLY Backpack program. We have about 150 students in the program, K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We send a bag of food home with them each weekend.

We really do appreciate your donation.

Thank you again!

- FLY Backpack Board



Thank you for your donation of \$2,250.00 to Heritage Haven/St. Martin's Outreach Fund in 2024. Heritage Haven provides emergency and transitional housing to struggling local families who need a place to live and feel safe while they find their footing.

- Heritage Haven Committee



Thank you for your generous gift of \$3,000.00 to ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) through ELCA Good Gifts.

As a church, we are freed by the transformative life of Christ, and this freedom emboldens us to love and serve our neighbors just as Christ has shown us. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA help people around the world feel the power of God's love.

Your Good Gift is a very good gift indeed. Through resources such as seedlings and seminary courses, vaccinations and vegetable gardens, Bibles and blankets, you equip God's people—round the world and

around the corner—with what they need to live abundant lives.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Good Gifts

### Thank You “Together with Christ Bible Study”

Thank you for your generous gift of \$480.00 to ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) through ELCA Good Gifts.

As a church, we are freed by the transformative life of Christ, and this freedom emboldens us to love and serve our neighbors just as Christ has shown us. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA help people around the world feel the power of God's love.

Your Good Gift is a very good gift indeed. Through resources such as seedlings and seminary courses, vaccinations and vegetable gardens, Bibles and blankets, you equip God's people—round the world and around the corner—with what they need to live abundant lives.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Good Gifts

### Looking Ahead

Sunday, April 20



**Easter Brunch**  
at 8:30 a.m.

**Easter Worship**  
at 9:00 a.m.

### Video Team

We are in need of a few more people willing to record, stream, and monitor the camera system to record our worship services. Our hope is to continue streaming our worship services on Facebook but we will be down to only two people doing the recording. Please consider volunteering to be a part of this team so we can continue offering an online worship service each Sunday. Training will be provided. Please let Pastor Kristine know if you are interested.



### TWC Bible Study

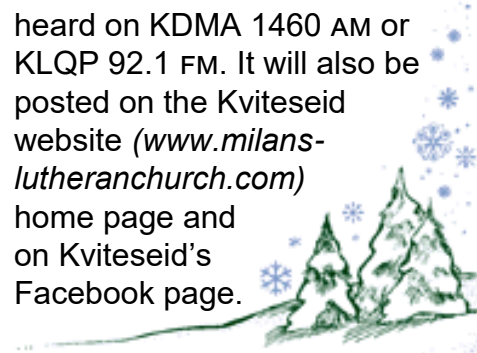
Wednesday, March 12

1:30 p.m.

Meet at the church  
in the fellowship hall

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



# LOCAL NEWS

## Southwestern Minnesota Synod

### Synod News

#### Excerpts from Bishop Dee Pederson's 2024 Annual Report – Part 2

*So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.*

- Romans 12:5

This verse provides a vision of what this might look like as this synod lives as one body, in Christ, and as **members one of another.**

#### In Christ

Unlike the other organizations and groups to which we belong, the church is the only one where we are welcomed just as we are because we are “in Christ.” Christ is our Life. And it is only because we are in Christ that people as different and unique as the people of our churches could come together as one. The ministries of your congregation and of our synod exist because we are “in Christ.” Jesus’ great commandment to love God and neighbor and his command to go and make disciples provides the “why” of our congregation ministries, that all might have life and have it abundantly.

Churches today are discovering the importance of welcoming people not only thru our physical front door, but thru the front door of websites, FB pages, and livestream. Today we are BOTH/AND churches that extend hospitality to people who worship - in the room AND online.

And rather than only waiting for people to come to “us” Christ sends us so that wherever we go – work, school, wherever – people know they are valued, accepted and loved when they meet someone from our

church in the community. Thank you for being the hands and feet and love of Christ as you do God’s work with your hands. Our synod ministries exist to equip congregations to live out this mission.

This summer and fall, the synod engaged in a listening process that included both a survey (172 responses) and small group conversations. The purpose of the listening process was to:

- grow in direct communication with congregations
- build awareness of synod ministry
- expand the synod’s ability to equip congregations
- build solidarity between congregations.

Discussions focused on what is going well in congregations, challenges they face, and opportunities that lie ahead. Major themes that surfaced in both the surveys and discussions were:

- Worship/Spiritual Growth
- Youth and Family Engagement
- Community Outreach and Service
- Staffing
- Volunteerism
- Finances
- Internal Relationships

Thanks to the team that worked to plan the survey and conversations. They will continue to share results and host gatherings of congregations with common priorities.

I am grateful for the leadership of our Synod Council, taking seriously its responsibility to be faithful stewards of our resources of staffing, facility, and funding. I remain excited to work together with them on the Council’s commitment to “empower Christian communities

*to join in God’s mission of reconciliation: listening intentionally, loving unconditionally, serving others authentically, and faithfully healing creation.”*

On a daily basis, I give **thanks** for the synod staff who equip and support you in being one body in Christ: Rev. Heather Culuris & Rev. Seyward Ask – Synod Ministers, Tammy Schacher – Executive Assistant, Kristin Bakeberg – Communications Coordinator, Maggie Berggren – Administrative Assistant, and Rev. Dr. Troy Pflibsen – Director for Evangelical Mission. They walk beside you in ministry with wisdom and joy.

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

### 2025 SW MN Synod Assembly

The 2025 Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly will be held online and in person June 6-7 at Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter.

The theme is “*That My Joy May Be In You.*”

We can have two voting members. If you are interested in being a voting member at synod assembly, talk to Pastor Kristine.



Kviteleid 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)

