

April 2020
NEWSLETTER



**Milnor Lutheran and
Immanuel Lutheran Churches
Rick Bryant**

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Rick's Column

Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ, and God, His Father in heaven. I sincerely hope that this newsletter finds everyone doing well. As I write this letter, North Dakota has 45 confirmed cases of coronavirus, but thankfully no deaths, and Minnesota has just issued a shelter in place order. We are certainly living in unsettling times like none of us could have ever imagined. Our schools have closed their doors and our children are now receiving their education online. Many of our businesses are undoubtedly suffering decreased revenues in the wake of this ordeal and I have heard of folks being laid off. It is in times like this that our faith and hope are put to the test. How we react when our faith is tested is something we should all examine within ourselves. Do we only trust in God and offer of our praise and thanksgiving when things are going smoothly in our lives? Do we pray and worship only when we are able to gather in church? Do we only give of ourselves when the opportunity suits us? I think that these are important questions that each one of us should ask ourselves. Moving forward, I am awful proud of this community and our churches. Each and every day I am a witness to people standing up and making a heartfelt difference here where we work and live. Certainly God is looking down on our community with pride, admiration, and love. Thank you all. A person would be hard-pressed to find a better community to live in.

Unfortunately as you all know, it is hard to predict when we will be able to resume church services. Please know that I will do my best to keep everyone informed as I receive news. I think I have learned how

to record and post on our church Facebook pages. It is my hope to post weekly updates and messages of hope. Please watch for those. If you know of members who do not have internet/Facebook, perhaps we can share the message with those folks? Maybe there is no great loss without some gain, and I would implore us all to use this time to trust in God and his plan. I urge all of us to pray, read scripture, and pray some more. Cast your cares upon Him. We are certainly fortunate so far in our state and community, but the world could certainly use our prayers. God is listening and He is the only one who will lead us out of this tribulation. Remember, God does not promise a life without trials and tribulations. Jesus himself tells us in John 16: 31-33, ***“Do you now believe? Look: An hour is coming and has come, when each of you will be scattered to his own home, and you will leave Me alone. Yet, I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.”***

Dear friends, God has seen the world through many pandemics, the Great Depression, and World Wars. And He WILL see us through THIS time. Please keep the faith and do not give up hope. One day, our church family will all gather again and in our houses of worship the love and compassion we hold so dear will be stronger than ever.

God be with you all.

Rick

PARISH PRAYER LIST

People on our prayer lists are *Pat Olson, Karen Edison, Deanne Else, Mary Alice Mund, Norma Brekke, Arlene Lillestol, Ron Lillestol, and McKayla Keelan*. Please keep them in your prayers.

How can I still make an offering?

With the churches being shut down and no church services, we will not have the opportunity to have offerings; therefore, we encourage our members to send their offerings either by mail to the church office, slide them under the office door, or give online. Please indicate Milnor Lutheran or Immanuel when mailing your offering.

Milnor/Immanuel Lutheran Parish
P. O. Box 355
Milnor, ND 58060

If you would like to donate online, you can do so following the instructions below:

- 1) Go to tithe.ly
- 2) Click on "Sign up for free in 5 minutes."
- 3) Select "Give to my church."

Click the "Give Online" button to give online. You must create an account – it is the same one you can use as an app on your phone or on their website. Select Milnor Lutheran Church or Immanuel Lutheran Church. You can set up a recurring donation, or simply make a one-time contribution.

News about Pastor Mytch

Congrats to Pastor Mytch as she has accepted a full-time pastor position in Fresno, California. Her email is mytch565@gmail.com if you want to congratulate her!

Food Bank/Blood Drive Information

- **Great Plains Food Bank will be at the parking lot at Milnor Lutheran from 1:30 - 2:00 PM on Monday, March 30th, for a special food distribution for those in need.** Anyone from any community is welcome. No preregistration is required. If you know someone who needs food, please pass this info along to them. See more information on page 6.
- There will be a blood drive at MLC on Monday, April 6th. **There is a need for blood.** Please call Dorothy at 680-8082 or Bobbi at 680-6806 or 427-5534 for appointments. Or go to vitalant.org and use sponsor code: Milnor.

Milnor Lutheran Council Minutes (Unapproved) March 10, 2020

Present: Andrea Hogness, Don Nelson, Myron Yagow, Randy Syrstad, Diane Wallin, Travers Storhaug, Alisha Olson, & Rick Bryant; Absent: Kelly Arth & Lonnie Rotenberger

Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 26th: Motion to approve from Alisha, Travers seconded, all in favor

Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve from Andrea, Travers seconded, all in favor

Committee Business

- Worship & Shepherding (Kelly, Lonnie)
 - See Pastor's Report
 - We may need to find a replacement pastor some upcoming Sundays as Rick will need to serve at guard, will check if Heidi had received a list of available pastors that we can work from
- Stewardship (Diane, Andrea)
 - Pancake Breakfast for the SC fair—we put something in the newsletter for volunteers to coordinate this, but so far we haven't had any interest. We decided if we don't get any interest over the next month, we will need to decline
 - Rick will be doing a cowboy worship at SC Fair that Sunday
 - New member recognition; Jeanne McCauley has been the only new member in the last year. We will plan to do something special to welcome her
 - Discussion on new membership applications, the council has never approved membership applications in the past & asked Rick if he would approve and work with new members on things like 'what it means to be a Lutheran', etc as Pastors have in the past. Rick agreed with this
- Education (Randy, Alisha)
 - It was brought up by Sunday School Superintendents that there is a member that has expressed a concern about where the kids are eating after church in the fellowship hall, the member would like the SS kids to sit in one area together. The council discussed and commented that most of the kids go to one of the back tables, but the council didn't feel that they should be forced to or that we should restrict the kids from sitting in a certain area. The children should be welcome to sit where

they choose. Members are encouraged to sit with kids (maybe those on their own) until they head to SS.

- Properties/Grounds/Parsonage (Myron, Travers, Don)
 - Shed for parsonage was discussed. Myron will check into getting a building permit from the city & it was decided to proceed with the shed.
 - Cross lighting quote was received. It would be \$1,500 to replace the lighting on both the outside and inside cross or \$750/each w/ LED lighting (including installation). LED vs neon is what Crossroad's suggests as LED uses about 40% less energy. It was decided that we should only look at replacing the lighting outside (\$750) since the inside is working fine. Will put an announcement about this cost in the newsletter and that we are looking for donations and input on if we should move forward with replacing the lighting.
 - Wall under Satre Lounge was checked and it doesn't look like there is mold, but it could be painted again. Due to other improvement priorities (shed, cross lighting), the council would look to volunteers to take care of this.
 - Hot water heater was adjusted from 120 degrees to 140.

Pastor's Report

- Lenten services are going well & Rick purchased a program which was \$40 and takes us through all 5 services, there is a theme every week
- Planning for first communion and confirmation, this will occur around May
- There will be a lock in with confirmation students on March 20th with pizzas & games
- Upcoming baptism for Kyle & Kayley Peterson

Old Business

- Money counting—it was discussed w/Heidi & Grace and a council member can gather the money and put in the safe going forward. It doesn't need to be sorted/counted.
- Sound System—Randy had received a form to apply for funds from Booster Club for new sound system. Randy will contact Site on Sound to come and give us some options/quotes.

New Business

- Senior recognition to be planned for May 3rd. This should be announced in the April newsletter. The seniors are Jaidyn McCleery, Mason Nelson, & Brandt Larsen
- The upcoming Bishop election at Gwinner on Sunday, March 15th was discussed, announcement to be put in next bulletin & Rick will announce during church that congregation members are encouraged to attend and vote
- Don heard from Pastor Mytch and she has accepted a full-time position in California

Next Meeting: Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7th, 2020 at 7 pm. Motion to adjourn by Diane, Alisha seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Hogness
Secretary

MLC Financial Report:

February Income	\$10,188.80
February Expenses	6,585.41
Net Gain	3,603.39
Year-to-Date Loss	-\$ 917.96

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COVID-19 Update

The Milnor & Immanuel Church Councils met on the Synod recommendations, and we are going to be taking it one week at a time. We will be using the Milnor Lutheran Church and Immanuel Lutheran Church DeLamere Facebook pages for communications from the council and devotional messages from Rick. If you do not have a Facebook account and would still like to receive communications, please email mlchurch@drtel.net your email address, and we will try our best to keep you informed that way.

The letter below is from the Eastern ND Synod office, Lawrence Wohlrabe, Interim Bishop:

*Dear beloved ones in Christ Jesus our Lord,
What a wild ride we're taking in these March days as we deal with the implications of the Covid19 pandemic! It's hard to remember another situation that seemed as "fluid" and fast-changing as this one. Such an unsettled environment calls us as people of faith to be all the more rooted and grounded in our confidence in the boundless, unconditional love of God. We are also being invited to reimagine how we will "do church" in this time and place. Your synod staff has been working closely with the synod executive committee and council to craft some recommendations and resources that hopefully will help you, your fellow church members, and your neighbors. Specifically pass on to you the following recommendation that were approved by the synod executive committee on March 16th: All congregations and ministry agencies of Eastern North Dakota Synod follow the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for worship and other gatherings and activities, including the option to suspend worship or other activities, for up to eight weeks (through May 11, 2020).*

(The EaND Synod Assembly has been rescheduled to August 15-16 at the Holiday Inn in Fargo.)

MLC MEMORIALS

In memory of Paulette Lien

From: Bruce & Dayna Speich (ML Cemetery)
Dale Torreson (ML Cemetery)
Mervin & Karen Wohler (ML Cemetery)
Steve & Debbe Ellefson (ML Cemetery)

In memory of Larry Halmrast

From: Andrea & Steve Hogness (Improvement)

In memory of Jim Wrage

From: Steve & Debbe Ellefson (ML Cemetery)

Improvements Update

On March 18th, the parsonage experienced a substantial issue with sewer back-up causing Rick, Melissa & River to be without water and sewer until fixed. The damages were very large and we will need to dig a new trench to fix it. We don't know the total expense of this yet, but we do know it will be very costly. So we wanted the congregation to be aware of this as we are still recovering from a lot of expenses from last year as well. With that being said, in the last newsletter, the council had announced they are looking at an outdoor shed/garage options. The decision had been made to proceed with a shed with the total cost being approximately \$5,500 and supported by fundraisers and donations, however, with the recent sewer issues at the parsonage and recommendation of shutdown from the Synod, we have decided to postpone the efforts on this. Also, the cross light on the outside of the church needs to be replaced. We will also be postponing moving forward with this expense as well, but did want to get feedback from the congregation if we should move forward with fixing the cross outside light once we are back on track. We received a quote to replace with LED and the cost would be around \$750. Please reach out to any of the council members, email mlchurch@drtel.net or send a private message on Facebook to the church. If we decide to replace, we would also be looking for donations to proceed.



April Birthdays

2 - Camryn Hogness	14 - Hanna Deyle	21 - Joy Christiansen
3 - Taylor Olson	15 - Steve Hogness	Arlin Mund
4 - Pat Kuehn	16 - Guy Christiansen	24 - Lyla Peterson
5 - Brandon Yagow	17 - Sara Martinson	25 - James Anderson
7 - Layton Berndt	18 - Dan Krause	Charley Hogness
8 - Cole Fyre	19 - Andrea Hogness	26 - Kathy Stockstad
10 - Lori Yagow	20 - Dustin Heitkamp	27 - Carol Peterson
11 - Mardell Aabrekke	Micah Johnson	28 - Sophie Fuhrman
		Jeanne McCauley
		Eli Rotenberger
		30 -Monty Haugen

WELCOME JEANNE!

MLC's newest member is Jeanne McCauley, the friendly lady who greeted us for seven years at Milnor Market. Although temporarily on furlough, Jeanne now works for J & M Printing.

Jeanne was born and raised in Portland, Oregon. In 1964, she married and moved to the Oregon coast. There her children, Darlene and Paul were born. Darlene and her son Steven still live on the Oregon coast. Paul lives in Wyndmere. Looking for a new life in 2008, via a friend from Oregon, Jeanne found herself in Wyndmere also.

As Jeanne started her new life, she discovered her roots and fell in love with this part of the country. "The winters here are cold, but the people are warm," Jeanne says. Her love story continues as she adds, "Milnor became MY town. It is the first place I felt welcome in. I grew to love the people here. Then I met Donnie (Marquette) and he brought me to church."

After becoming a member, Jeanne was invited to join the February/August Shepherding Family. She said yes! Jeanne has already served at a worship service, recruiting Donnie to help also.

Welcome Jeanne! We are very happy you're now part of our faith family!

Feeling Isolated?

Try calling or mailing a card* to someone else feeling the same way. We can't watch over everyone, but we can keep in touch with fellow members of our churches or Shepherding Families. Rather than wringing our hands in despair, let's put them together in prayer...after thoroughly washing them, of course! Keep praying for our planet, country and community. Remember, God is still in control!!!!

Beverly Anne Assisted Living
400 Jackson Ave E
Lisbon ND 58054
Jean Holmgren Room 1
Betty Lunneborg Room 2
Marlene Snellman Room 23

Sharette Odegard
Parkside Lutheran Home
501 3rd Ave W
Lisbon ND 58054

Norma Brekke
St Francis Home
2400 St Francis Dr
Breckenridge MN 56520

Sharon and Harry Gainor
Four Seasons Health Care Center
483 4th St NW
Forman ND 58032

Karen Edison
Rosewood on Broadway
1351 Broadway N
Fargo ND 58102

Arlene Lillestol
8035 151 Ave SE
Wyndmere ND 58081

*Suggestions!

More Information on Great Plains Food Bank in Milnor

The Great Plains Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry will be in Enderlin, Milnor, and Christine on Monday, March 30th! [The Milnor distribution is scheduled for 1:30 - 2:00 PM.]

Anyone in need of food assistance from *any* community is welcome to stop by our DRIVE THROUGH distribution. There is no pre-registration required, though each household will be asked to complete a short intake form on site. We welcome those who cannot attend during the distribution to designate someone to pick up for them. Hunger is an issue that we can do something about.

The Great Plains Food Bank is committed to doing all we can to provide needed food assistance amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This includes continuing with our Mobile Food Pantry...

Clients - We will still be operating all distributions as drive through style to minimize the gathering of large groups. Instead of handing out clipboards with the intake forms, we will be having staff or volunteers collecting information on client households while maintaining social distancing guidelines. If you are a client who is in an at risk population, please arrange for a proxy to pick up food for you, if possible.

We know there are additional needs for food assistance during this time. If you are looking for ways to help, please spread the word that the distributions are still happening, offer to be a proxy for your neighbors in high risk populations, and encourage those who need food assistance to attend a distribution.

Anna Johnson, RD | Regional Service Manager
1720 3rd Ave N | Fargo, ND 58102
701.361.1004 (cell)

