

December 2020
NEWSLETTER



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

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Rick's Column

Greetings and peace to you all,

It is my hope and prayer that this newsletter finds you all well. As I write this letter, the Thanksgiving holiday has just passed and despite Covid-19, I hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving. We truly do have much to be thankful for in light of the challenges that we face.

The church council has faced many tough decisions as of late due to Covid-19. As you probably are aware, Sunday school has been cancelled until further notice. This decision was heart-wrenching for the council, but the decision was made out of compassion and concern for the well-being of our children and Sunday school staff. We are continuing with in-person worship services at both MLC and ILC at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. respectively. Communion will be held with precautions on the first Sunday of each month at both churches. Confirmation classes will continue each Wednesday on school days.

I am pleased to announce that we now have a YouTube channel. We will video our Sunday morning church service at MLC and upload the video recording to our YouTube channel. The name of the channel is "lawman preacher." If you go to YouTube and just do a search for "lawman preacher" you should see the videos. I will date each video with the appropriate date. November 29th was our first day in doing this and it went well; however, the video took approximately 7 hours to

upload to YouTube. The church has purchased a GoPro video camera, and I hope to become more proficient with this equipment and the whole video/internet process to provide you with a quality recording that you may watch in the comfort of your own homes. Stay tuned for updates and status reports.

We recently took a poll of the congregation about holding the traditional Christmas Eve church service and the resounding response was in-favor of holding the Christmas Eve service. However, the council may discuss this further depending on changes in the Covid-19 situation and make their decision. Stay tuned for further updates.

December is the season of Advent. Advent means "coming." This is a glorious season as we anticipate the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Christmas is a time of anticipation and excitement for young and old. This is what Jesus wants. He wants us to get excited again about our relationship with Him. He wants us to put our trust in Him and love Him with a renewed enthusiasm. The view in which we see Jesus Christ shows a different picture for all of us, but when it comes to what Christ wishes us to see, we have much in common. If our view is not taking us home; if it is not offering us hope and a way through the tragedies of life; if it is not filling us with compassion for the world; if it is not opening our eyes to a new way of being, a new way of seeing, a new way of living; if it is not deepening our relationships; if it is not revealing love; if it is not

growing us more into the likeness of Christ, we might want to look again.

I sincerely hope that you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. No matter your gathering plans, the Lord will be present in all of your homes. Let us please look out for your neighbors and loved ones during these upcoming weeks. For many, the gift of a card or phone call can make all the difference in the world. We live in

different times now and only God knows for how long. However, let us not be discouraged. 1 Peter 5:10 tells us, *“And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm, and steadfast.”*

May our loving and compassionate God bless you all.

Rick

PARISH PRAYER LIST

People on our prayer lists are *Carol Hogness, Curt Mahler, Mardell Aabrekke, Bobbi Haugen, Jim Robbins, Avery Moxness, Mary Alice Mund, and McKayla Keelan*. Please keep them in your prayers.



- 2 - James Foley
- 3 - Alison Kottke
Tallulah Schutt
Linkoln Smith
- 4 - Bill Pribula
Kathy Rysavy
- 5 - Teegan Olson
- 6 - Pat Freese
Marshall Lien
Brad Lunneborg
- 7 - Melinda Mund

- 8 - Brian Fuhrman
Blair Michels
- 9 - Chris Larson
- 10 - Dana Gainor
- 14 - Janis Claus
Adam Kottke
- 15 - Curt Odegard
- 16 - Anne Ringdahl
- 21 - Doug Martin
- 22 - Allison Yagow
- 23 - Allen Peterson

- 24 - Harlan Hogness
- 25 - Curt Hogness
- 26 - Avyn Hogness
- 27 - Aiden Heitkamp
- 28 - Mary Alice Mund
- 29 - Dale Torreson
- 30 - Melissa Lunneborg
- 31 - Jordaan Larson
Dawn Mund
Lonnie Rotenberger

Milnor Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes (unapproved)

November 11th, 2020 @ 7 p.m. (conference call)

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 14th:

Motion to approve from Diane, Alisha seconded, all in favor

Treasurer's Report for October: Motion to approve from Myron, Kelly seconded, all in favor

Committee Business

- Worship & Shepherding (Kelly, Lonnie)
 - Christmas Eve worship service discussion – there are a lot of concerns right now with gathering that many people in 1 spot. The ND restart plan shows now that as a state for events and gatherings, occupancy should be limited to 25% at no more than 50 people. Kelly will check into the possible set-up of a YouTube channel in case we need to go virtual for the service. If we have services, we need to require face masks
 - Heidi will take over finding Rick's replacements in the future-this will allow for consistency in payments, coordination of communication, and ensure that Immanuel has adequate coverage
- Stewardship (Diane, Andrea)
 - Giving tree has been set up in the church with donations requested for the parsonage shed and we are also sponsoring a drive for Churches United in Fargo/Moorhead
 - The nativity set has been put out by the church bell
- Education (Randy, Alisha)
 - There are concerns with us not requiring the Sunday School kids to wear masks. Alisha will speak to the SS Superintendents about this as well as the Christmas program which is scheduled for Dec 6th
- Properties/Grounds/Parsonage (Myron, Travers, Don)
 - Window well covers update – we will get an update at next meeting

- LED cross lights update – Crossroads has part of it in, the rest will show up soon so it will be installed shortly after
- Snow removal for sidewalks – Charley & Brooks Hogness have taken the job for now
- 2 Ballasts are out in Fellowship Hall-Myron will handle this by calling Crossroads or getting someone to help fix it

Pastor's Report

- Rick has finished schooling this week (2 courses). All spring courses are full, but he will try to take 1-2 intensives this summer
- Confirmation is going well
- Did funeral service today for Katherine Caldwell

Old Business

- Speaker system update – the parts are not in yet
- Benevolences review again. So far we have paid:
 - Synod - \$3,500- have paid \$2,000 so far and the council has agreed to pay the remaining \$1,500 (Andrea will let Grace know)
 - Red Willow - \$300
 - Missionary - \$2,000
 - \$600 – Abuse Resource Network-Lisbon
 - \$600 – Sisseton Reservation
 - \$800 – Churches United for the Homeless in Fargo/Moorhead

New Business

- Fellowship Hall Heater – we really need a cheat sheet with instructions so anyone can figure out how to adjust and program it when seasons change. Myron will talk to Curt Anderson about this to see if he has any ideas as he has experience with this from when he was on council
- Budget planning for 2021 – small committee will meet w/Grace and bring back recommendations to the council at the December meeting

Next Meeting: Next meeting will be December 9th at 7 via conference call . Motion to adjourn by Myron, Alisha seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Hogness, Secretary

October Income	\$ 8,423.31
October Expenses	11,714.70
Net Loss	-3,291.39
Year to Date Gain	\$23,339.45

Giving Tree at MLC!

There is a Giving Tree in the entry of the church to designate special gifts or make donations to Churches United Fargo/Moorhead or donate to the parsonage shed project. You can take an envelope from the tree to make a monetary donation to either Churches United or the shed project in memory or honor of a loved one. There is also a box by the tree to place items especially needed by Churches United: face masks, sanitizer wipes, Tylenol, cough medicine, Kleenex, single use gloves, canned goods, and activity books for adults and children.

If you would like to donate without physically going to the giving tree and in memory and/or honor of someone, provide the below information and mail to the church - PO Box 355:

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Donated by: _____

Anonymous: _____ (place x here)

Check payable to Churches United and/or Milnor Lutheran Church (for shed)

A thank you ornament will be placed on the tree in recognition of your loved one.

Thank to our previous shed donors – WELCA, Myron Yagow, & Luther League and our most recent Giving Tree donations:

Keith & Donna Johnson in memory of Harold & Marget Johnson and Clair & Dorothy Halvorson

Steve & Andrea Hogness in memory of Charles Ellefson

Thrivent (unless it was ear marked for something else)

With our generous donations we now have paid 82% of the shed with the remaining amount of \$1,192.

Thank you to our Churches United donors:

Linda Costain in honor of great nephews & nieces

And to all of those that have dropped off items for Churches United. We can't wait to deliver these items to them! Donations can be made through the end of December!

Our Giving Tree has also supported Sargent County Food Pantry giving tags. To help those in our county with gifts, stop in and grab a tag, purchase the gift listed, wrap the gift and return it (along with the tag) to the container in the church. Your gifts will be delivered in time for Christmas. The due date to have the gift back to the church is December 10th. Can you help make the holiday brighter for some in our area who need just a little something extra this year? As of right now, there are only <insert amount of> tags left and we'd love to fill these tags.

Parsonage Bathroom Project

After we receive enough donations for the shed, the next parsonage project we are looking at is the basement bathroom remodel project. We need a team of 2-4 people that can work with Rick & Melissa to come up with a design and then meet with a couple contractors to get quotes, work with the contractor chosen, help coordinate the purchasing of the supplies, and all that goes into a remodel project. Please contact someone on the council if you are willing to help.

December Altar Guild
Kristie Johnson and Linda Robbins

WELCA

**MLC Day-of-Doing Quilters – No meeting this month.
Due to COVID concerns, there will not be a WELCA Christmas Tea this year.**

Christmas Poinsettias



MLC members wanting to donate toward Christmas poinsettias in memory of or in honor of loved ones or friends should contact Kristie Johnson (427-5259) or Connie Robbins (427-5536) by December 13th.

MLC MEMORIALS

In memory of Charles Ellefson

From Andrea & Steve Hogness (MLC shed project)

In memory of Manny Hegle

From James & Ione Foley (MLC)

In memory of Merek Loy Hogness

From Steve & Andrea Hogness (ML Cemetery)

In memory of Harold Johnson

From Connie Johnson Foster (Sunday School)

In memory of Marget Johnson

From Connie Johnson Foster (WELCA)



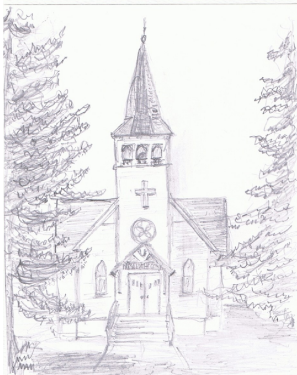
THANKS for GIVING: On Sunday, November 22, the second annual Noisy Offering was held. Attendance was small but the "large giving and generous hearts" of those in attendance provided \$492.46 (plus two flat washers mixed in with the change) for Sanford Childrens Hospital in Fargo. Along with the change were several \$20.00 bills, other cash donations and checks. Last year the noisy offering went to the Sargent County Food Pantry. Special thanks to all who supported this method of charitable giving.

Milnor Lutheran Sunday School

**Worship Service - 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School - 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.**

-Sunday School will not be held until further notice.

*If you have questions about Sunday School, please contact
Greta Buskohl (427-5646) or Mary Yagow (427-5023).*



Immanuel Lutheran Church

December

Worship Services:

Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

December Ushers: Bud Kuehn and Mike Martinson

December Altar Guild: Linda Martinson

Communion: December 6th

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;

Come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;

We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,

And his faithfulness to all generations.

