

May 2020
NEWSLETTER



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

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Rick's Column

Greetings to you all,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well. Although we are well into spring, our weather has turned cold as of late. Hopefully we will see warmer weather soon!! We are several weeks now into this Covid-19 endeavor and I hope that you are all learning to cope and to adapt to a new way of living! It is certainly nothing that any of us ever imagined we would endure. Thankfully, God has seen fit to spare us here in Sargent County the wrath of the coronavirus. We have experienced no Covid-19 related deaths and our case count is extremely low. Thanks to our glorious God for His mercy. Many other areas of our state and country have not fared so well. Let us always remember those not as fortunate and keep them in our prayers.

I would again like to recognize the amazing work of the "Spread the Sunshine" group that has brightened the day of many folks in our community. This act of love is truly special and has made a remarkable difference in the lives of many. The memories you have created will always be cherished. I would also like to thank the many folks that have made my job so much easier. Every day it seems that I learn of someone in either of our churches doing something that helps someone in need. I cannot thank you enough. I might be biased, but I think our church community is the greatest of them all.

As you know, Immanuel Church has decided to proceed with holding church services. As a rural church with a much lower attendance than Milnor,

the church council allowed church to re-open on May 10th. They will continue with regular Sunday church services at 9:00 a.m. until further notice. The church council at Milnor Lutheran, with a larger congregation and members from a larger living radius, has decided that the church will remain closed for services till the end of May, at which point they will re-evaluate. We still have 5 young guys and gals that we need to confirm. They have worked hard and it has been a joy to walk with them in their faith journey. They have made me so proud. However, with all that's going on, I do not yet have a plan to as to when they will be confirmed. Hopefully things clear up soon so they and their families can begin planning for this wonderful event and have a proper celebration. I will keep everyone up to date with news and updates as I receive them.

As we move forward as a church and community in these trying times, I just want to remind everyone that we as a church family will do anything possible to help anyone in need. Whether it is extra prayers, a phone call, a visit, food, repairs, errands, or just someone to talk to: Somebody will be able to help. We are all in this together and no one has to go through this alone. Please reach out if there is anything we can do. Our church family, along with a loving and compassionate God, will see all of us through this time of trouble. In the book of Lamentations 3:31-33, the Prophet Jeremiah tells us, ***"For the Lord will not reject us forever. Even if He causes suffering, He will show compassion according to His abundant, faithful love. For he does not enjoy bringing affliction or suffering to mankind."*** Please take comfort in that promise. I

absolutely do understand that these unsettling times can test a person's faith, but I would implore all of us to not retreat in our faith, but to increase our faith and put our trust in the Christ Almighty. In doing so, HE will be assured of our undying faith. Let us please continue to look out for one another as we have been. Our compassion for our friends and neighbors has played a big part in seeing everyone through this pandemic thus far. In 2 Corinthians 1:4, Paul tells us, ***"HE comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any kind of affliction, through the comfort we ourselves receive from God."***

Please know that until we all meet again, I will be praying for all of you. I anxiously await the day that we can all gather together again and sing, laugh, shake hands, and praise God Almighty. Until that day comes let us continue to stay safe, be cautious, be optimistic, love our neighbor, and have faith in the promises of Jesus Christ. Remember, with God on our side, who could rise against us? May the Grace of God be with you all.

Rick

PARISH PRAYER LIST

People on our prayer lists are *Bobbi Haugen, Jim Robbins, Stormey Martin, Jodi Albaugh, Mary Alice Mund, Norma Brekke, Arlene Lillestol, Ron Lillestol, and McKayla Keelan*. Please keep them in your prayers.

How can I make an offering?

With MLC not holding church services, we encourage our members to send their offerings either by mail to the church office (PO Box 355), slide them under the office door, or give online. If you would like to donate online, you can do so following these instructions:

- 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. You can set up a recurring donation, or simply make a one-time contribution.



May Birthdays

2 - Barb Koeppel Brian Tayer 3 - Derek Martinson 4 - Kala Banish 5 - Travis Smith 6 - Mike Mund 7 - Loren Ellefson 8 - Braiden Mund 9 - Tracy Hansen	10 - Lacy Kottke Bobbi Tompkins 13 - Ava Bergstrom Jeff Roeder 14 - Heather Edison Emilia Martinson Dayna Speich 16 - Kiara Radke	20 - Donald Nelson Gary Olson 21 - Henry Lunneborg 23 - Amy Bergstrom 24 - Jack Spellerberg 26 - Gloria Toyne 29 - Joseph Banish Jean Holmgren
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What's Next for Milnor Lutheran?

Milnor Lutheran's Church Council recently met by phone. In regard for our precious members, we decided it was wise to postpone the decision to re-open. In June we will consider it again.

While meeting we discussed many ways to make it possible to worship together again. Here are some of the options being considered:

- No ushering, greeting, physically sharing the peace, or gathering in the fellowship hall after worship
- Suspend Sunday School, confirmation, first communion classes, and no VBS
- Hymnals are being removed from the pews to avoid contamination
- In place of bulletins and hymnals, large screen projection is being worked on
- During children's sermon, children would remain with families
- Offering may be placed in a plate by the piano or made online
- How to safely share Holy Communion is still being discussed

Please share other suggestions you may have with any council member, Rick or Heidi.

When worship can be resumed, members will be encouraged to thoroughly wash their hands before coming to church and invited to wear masks. If anyone has masks to share, please contact the church office.

Until we meet together again, continue accessing Rick's devotions and sermons on Facebook and read his sermons printed in The Sargent County Teller. Also, make use of worship services on radio and television. One option is Messiah Lutheran's Sunday broadcast at 11 a.m. on WDAY local channel 6 (106 on DRT).

Our worship life will be changed when we can finally gather together again. Think of these changes as ways to protect the lives of all our precious, sometimes vulnerable, members. One thing that remains unchanged is our faithful God who will see us through even these difficult days. Thank you for all the ways you are caring for your neighbors. Stay faithful, stay safe, stay well, keep watching over each other, and keep praying for our planet, country, and community!

Shepherding Our Shepherd

There is one more area of concern to bring to your attention. While we are being mindful of all our precious, sometimes vulnerable members, one member deserves special consideration. As many of you know, Melissa Bryant, Rick's amazing wife, is a double transplant survivor. In normal times Melissa has to be careful for her health. While we're all battling COVID-19, we must do all we can to keep it from the Bryant household. Please be sure to use all the recommended safe practices when in Rick's (and possibly Melissa's) presence. Rick is taking precautions in his job as deputy sheriff, also. Be safe and keep the Bryants in your prayers.

MLC MEMORIALS

In memory of Paulette Lien

To Milnor Lutheran Cemetery

From: Lien Farms

Orvin & Marlene Hogness

Royce & Noreen Granlund

Larry & Mary Moxness

Kenny Metzen

Pat Sebens Freese

Jean Holmgren

Teresa Toyne-Dick

Joy Christiansen

Jeff & Jeanine Odegard

Glenn & Nancy Comegys

Walt & Missy Johnson

Kevin & Connie Foster

David Lunneborg

Daniel & Debra Odegard

Terry & Mary Bishoff

Brian Ordahl

Jon & Kim Mund

Pete & Jeri Christiansen

Craig & Kathy Rysavy

Carolyn Thoen

Crossroads Electric

Mark & Jean Bopp (MLC)

Dick & Pat Kuehn (Sunday School)

In memory of Bryan Gabel

From: Linda Costain (Day of Doing)

In memory of Larry Halmrast

From: Linda Costain (Day of Doing/Sisseton)

Dick & Pat Kuehn (Sunday School)

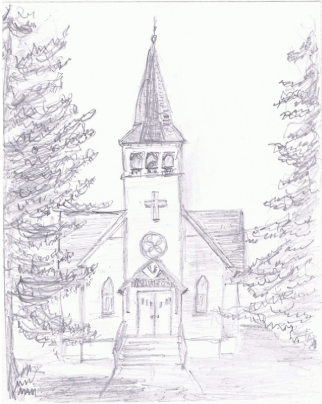
In memory of William Lubke

From: Linda Costain (Day of Doing/Sisseton)

The Family of William Lubke (MLC)

MLC Notes

- There will not be Day of Doing or any other activities at MLC for at least the rest of May.
- Day of Doing Quilters continue to collect children's clothing for the Reservation at Sisseton. Donations are currently stored in the library/cry room.
- Noisy Offering: Continue to save your change as a date in the fall will be used to collect it. Thank You!
- Thank you to the Thrivent members who designated their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Milnor Lutheran Church by giving more than \$1,000.
- There is a mini-food pantry (a small collection of donated food, paper, and personal hygiene items) in the entry at Milnor Lutheran. If you or someone you know are in need, please help yourself to whatever you can use. We will send any unclaimed items to the Sargent County Food Pantry after Memorial Day.
- If you would like to send cards of encouragement to some of our shut-in church and community members, a list of names and addresses has been put on the bulletin board at MLC.



Immanuel Lutheran Church

May

Worship Services:

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. through May

Usher: Jim Berndt

Altar Guild: Vickie Berndt

No Communion

Great Plains Food Bank in Milnor

The Great Plains Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry will be in Milnor on Wednesday, June 3rd. The distribution is scheduled for 1:30 - 2:00 PM at the MLC parking lot, 321 2nd Street.

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. Here are several ways you can help:

- **Talk** about the event with your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers.
- **Share** the attached JPG on your social media networks!
- **Respond** to the Facebook event links to get updates and reminders.
 - Milnor Link - <https://www.facebook.com/events/182357109867440/>
- **Volunteer** at a distribution! Contact Anna at 701-361-1004 if you can help or know of other individuals or groups who might be interested.

Thanks for your help in addressing hunger in your community!

Anna Johnson, RD | Regional Service Manager

1720 3rd Ave N | Fargo, ND 58102

701.361.1004 (cell)

