



Mindekirken *Godt nytt år! Happy New Year!*

# COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church - ELCA No. 134 January 2015

## Guest Preachers During January

### Sun., Jan. 4

We welcome Rev. Gustav Danielsen, the Dean of Nord-Innherad Prosti (Associate to the Bishop in Nidaros, Tor Singaas) who will be preaching at the 11:00 a.m. Norwegian worship service on January 4.

Dean Danielsen resides in Steinkjer which is a town in the county of Nord-Trøndelag. He will be joined by his wife Else and we are grateful to Liv Dahl for making this visit possible.

### Sun., Jan. 18

Rev. Jorunn Raddum will preach and lead the two worship services (9 a.m. English, 11 a.m. Norwegian) on Sun., Jan. 18 while Rev. Sundt is on a brief study leave in Norway.

Rev. Raddum is on study leave from her position as sokneprest in Lesja og Lesjaskog, Norway. She is currently in a yearlong CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) program at Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital here in the Twin Cities.

### Sun., Jan. 25

Kristofer Coffman will preach (in English) and lead the 11 a.m. bilingual worship service on Sun., Jan. 25. Kristofer is a 2nd year student at Luther Seminary (St. Paul., Minn.) who will begin his year of internship in the fall of 2015.

Mindekirken has been Kristofer's contextual learning environment while he is a seminary student. We all benefit from having a seminary student in our midst. Kristofer and his wife Julie will be among us for a few more months.

## Annual Meeting of the Congregation Sun., Feb. 8, 2015

Special service time:

**10:00 a.m. All – Congregational Bilingual Worship**

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held in the Fellowship Hall (lower level) immediately following the combined worship service.

All voting members please plan to attend.

Associate members are also welcome to attend.

## Pastoral Team



*Pastor Kristin Sundt and seminarian Kristofer Coffman lead the worship together on Dec. 14*

*Coffman will lead the bilingual family service worship on January 25.*

## Carpet Installation Complete

In a small window of time, during high traffic season at Mindekirken, hard workers succeeded in removing the old carpet from the sanctuary and upper entry. The new carpet is now completely installed. Thank you for your donations toward this significant expense! The dark red color of the carpet was selected to retain the look of the previous carpet, and is also coordinated with the awning which was installed in the past year.



## From the Pastor: *January Musings*



**Kristin Sundt**

I have a lot of Christmas decorations — many more than I ever have room to display in my two room apartment. I really enjoy the various Christmas items that brighten our world during the Advent & Christmas Season. There is a story or a memory connected with most of my Christmas decorations. It is always with some mixed feelings that I put these items back in storage in early January. The last items I begrudgingly take down are the wooden Swedish Electric Candelabra and a felted Advent Star. I like the many extra sources of light the Christmas season brings. This is perhaps the reason I feel early January to be a little stark & bleak compared with the holiday season that just came to an end.

It is at this point I remind myself of some of the things which are going to happen this upcoming year in and around Mindekirken. The New Year starts out strong with the Annual *Julebord* (Jan. 2) hosted by Klubb 500, the fundraising arm of Mindekirken Foundation. A female choir from Trondheim, Norway called *Cantus* will visit Mindekirken on the last Sunday in April together with the Norwegian composer and artist Henning Sommerro. *Cantus'* newfound claim to fame is singing the opening song of the Disney movie "Frozen" which has become quite popular among the younger crowd.

Syttende Mai (May 17) in 2015 falls on a Sunday. This opens up new possibilities to attract an even larger crowd of people than other years. Norway House, which we now share a campus with, will cele-

brate the grand opening of their remodeled Educational Building in May/June, and the Scandinavian Summer Fest is to be held in Minnehaha Park on the last Sunday in June and will continue to build on the longstanding traditions of both the former Norway Day & Svenskarnas Dag.

I am also personally looking at an upcoming trip to Norway in January to attend the annual gathering of United Methodist pastors. This will give me a chance to meet with Bishop Christian Alsted ("my" bishop) who preached at Mindekirken in March 2014. The program at this gathering is put together by people from MF Norwegian School of Theology in Oslo. Colleagues from Denmark will join us and one of the presenters, Jørgen Thaarup will share some findings from his Doctoral Dissertation where he is comparing the theology in the hymns of N.F.S. Grundtvig and John Wesley. We will be staying at *Hermon Høyfjellssenter*, a Christian Conference Center located halfway between Oslo & Bergen near the small town of Geilo.

A New Year is upon us. I am grateful for being alive and for the privilege of being the pastor at Mindekirken. Thank you for being part of our fellowship here at Mindekirken. May God bless and lead you throughout this coming year.

Kristin Sundt

## From the President: *Godt nytt år!*

*The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul.*  
-G. K. Chesterton

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11*

Each New Year is full of promise and potential. We are reminded that God is saying that with Him we can always start anew. We can learn from our past, but we should not focus on what has happened but instead look forward to a new year and to what is possible.

If you are like me, I make my list of New Year's resolutions vowing to be better, be healthier, do more, break a bad habit, create a good habit, etc., etc.,. Sometimes I am successful in keeping these resolutions, and sometimes I am not. Setting goals and working towards those goals is good for the soul, even if we do not always attain or maintain the goal. There is so much

that we can learn on the journey.

At Mindekirken, we set goals for our church. Sometimes we attain the goal and some goals we keep working towards year after year. With each New Year we know that God has promised to stay by our side and never leave us nor forsake us. That is a most reassuring promise!

Mindekirken's congregation council has met and discussed several goals for our congregation in this New Year. You will soon be receiving a letter with two proposed constitutional amendments.

One proposed amendment would reduce the size of the Trustee Board and the Deacon Board from nine members to seven. When we examined the church's membership and the size of council we realized that we are placing a stress on our current membership with the requirements set forth in our Constitution regarding the size of council. After much discussion and deliberation we determined that seven members on each board would be sufficient to fulfill the obligations and

tasks for the respective boards. This will alleviate certain stresses on the boards and we believe this will make us more efficient and productive.

The second proposed amendment would be to try to have at least two outgoing members of the church council on the nominating committee. These two constitutional amendments will be voted on at our annual meeting on Feb. 8, 2015.

We ask that you pray for Mindekirken's leaders as we enter this New Year. With God as our leader, we are prepared to live another year under His guidance.

Blessing to you in 2015!

In Christ,

Jana Aune Deach

## From the Treasurer

Dear Friends of Mindekirken,

On behalf of the congregation at Mindekirken, I am thanking you for your generous support by which Mindekirken will carry on the ministry of Jesus Christ our Savior, in the Norwegian Language.

Our fall financial appeal has been successful in that of the commitment cards

for 2015 that have been returned as of November 14 show an increase of 12% over 2014.

As of Dec. 10, 2014, we received 57 pledges from member fami-

lies or individuals and 9 pledges from non-members. If anyone else would like to return a commitment card, it is not too late. Having these commitment cards minimizes the guesswork for the trustees and treasurer in preparing Mindekirken's budget for 2015.

As of November 30th, the Treasure Chest Event shows a balance of \$13,292 and the Lutefisk Dinner shows \$6,392. *Mange tusen takk* for all the volunteer labor that made these events such a success.

Mindekirken's Norwegian Language and Culture Program (NLCP) has disbursed \$8787 to the General Fund, from funds over and above the expense for teacher salaries during the year of 2014. We must thank the volunteer board which leads this program because it helps put Mindekirken in the eye of the public. Without support from non-members, Mindekirken might not be open today.

Your Sunday offerings for November were \$17,419. In addition, Simply Giving (electronic) offering was \$4,867 while the general expenses were \$31,164. At the end of November, the balance in the general fund was \$2,729.

Sincerely,  
Robert J. Hanson



Robert J. Hanson

## Organist Billmeyer Resigns at end of 2014



Dean Billmeyer has resigned as organist at Mindekirken as of the end of December 2014. We at Mindekirken want to thank him for being our organist for the last four years.

Dean has a long tenure as Professor of Organ/Harpicord at the University of Minnesota, and is an active participant on the local music scene here in the Twin Cities. We are grateful for having had him as our organist since the

fall of 2010. We wish him well in his future adventures both as a professor and a musician. Dean, your music will continue to live in our hearts! There will be a special thank you to him at *Kirkekaffe* on Sunday, Dec. 28 (noon).

## Mindekirken's Treasurer Joins Norway House Board

Mindekirken's treasurer Robert J. Hanson will be joining the Board of Norway House in January 2015.

Norway House is a separate non-profit organization from Mindekirken, although all along, plans have been to cooperate between these two groups in order to coordinate activities that involve many of the same audience in the local, and Norwegian-American community.

Norway House is located on E. Franklin Avenue, and shares the same parking lots with Mindekirken. For information on Norway House, and their plans to expand their campus, visit [www.norwayhouse.net](http://www.norwayhouse.net).

Pastor Kristin Sundt serves on the board of the Edvard Grieg Society, which is a program of Norway House.



## Klubb 500 Hosts the 6th Annual Julebord On Fri., Jan. 2, 2015

This fabulous smørgåsbord, prepared by Deco Catering is truly a festive occasion. A full spectrum of traditional Scandinavian holiday foods are artfully displayed on a buffet nearly spanning the length of the Fellowship Hall. Dinner and dessert are separated with a musical "Interlude" in the sanctuary, and end with a traditional "Takk for maten" speech.

To inquire about possible remaining reservations, please contact the church office immediately.

This event is a fundraiser for Mindekirken Foundation, "securing Mindekirken's financial future."



\$100 per person, (\$50 of which is a tax deductible donation)

## Pastor Kristin Sundt on January Study Leave

Pastor Sundt has the opportunity to attend a gathering of colleagues in Norway. She will be on a short leave from Jan. 15 through Jan. 28. In case of pastoral emergency, please contact church staff in the office, or the president of the congregation.

## Welcome to Tuesday Open House in January

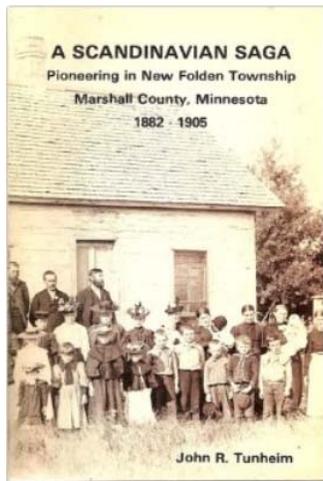
11—11:30 a.m. Fellowship and Lunch

A suggested donation of \$7.00 is received at the door (elevator access from parking lot entrance)

11:45 a.m. Devotions and Announcements

12 noon—1 p.m. Cultural Program

tuesdayopenhouse@mindekirken.org



### Jan. 6 Judge John Tunheim —A Scandinavian Saga Norwegian Immigrants settled in Newfolden

John Tunheim is one of Minnesota's federal district court judges. Some years ago, he researched, wrote and published a history of the earliest years of settlement of the Newfolden, Minnesota area - his hometown -- by Norwegian immigrants. His book covers a nearly twenty-five year period from the early 1880's until 1905, when Norwegians came to the frontier and

established their homes and the community. His book was one of the first township histories written in Minnesota and is considered one of the most complete studies of immigration and settlement of an ethnic group in a small area. He will discuss his research and the process of writing the book along with stories from the frontier.

### Jan. 13 Rachel Peterson — History of the Nobel Peace Prize Forum

The 27th annual Nobel Peace Prize Forum will take place in Minneapolis, Minn., on Mar. 6-8, 2015. As the Norwegian Nobel Institute's only such program or academic affiliation outside of Norway, the Nobel Peace Prize Forum has a special mission: to inspire peacemaking by celebrating the work of Nobel Peace Prize winners. The event is open to the public and people of all ages are encouraged to attend. The Forum is coordinated by Augsburg College



## NOBEL PEACE PRIZE FORUM

and the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minn.

Rachel Peterson who is the Program Manager of the Nobel Peace Prize Forum will talk about the history of this annual program and some about the program at this year's forum. Rachel has a master's degree in peace and conflict trans-

formation studies from the Centre for Peace Studies at the University of Tromsø in Norway.

Peterson has worked as a Regional Leader for Save the Children in Norway, and is a former villager and staff member at Concordia Language Villages.

### Jan. 20 Donnita R Rogers — YOUR ANCESTORS - STRONG WOMEN Surviving the challenges of life in pre-Christian Scandinavia: The Women of Beowulf.

**Book I Faces in the Fire (2013)**

**Book II Fanning the Flames (2014)**

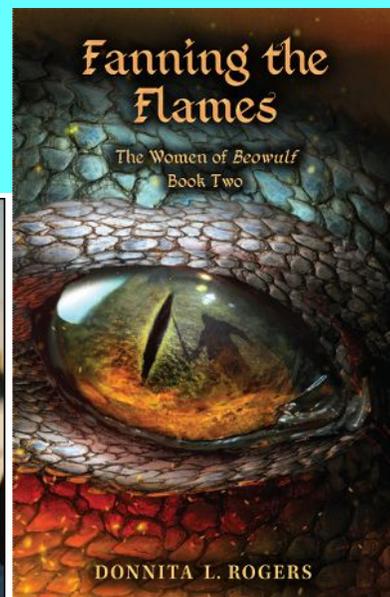
**Book III Crossing the Whale Road (est. 2015)**

The setting is the 6th century of Viking times. The second book in a trilogy about the women of Beowulf titled *Fanning the Flames*, came out in July 2014. Freawaru is the proud daughter of Danish King Hrothgar.

This book takes her to Sweden, where she and Beowulf share many

challenges. Fleeing to Beowulf's country after the deaths of her father and brothers in Denmark, Freawaru arrives in the midst of a crisis: Beowulf's king has been killed in a raid.

Donnita Rogers is a specialist in English Literature.



## Jan. 27 Dennis Gimmestad — Bridging Continents, Bridging the River: Norwegian-American Engineers and the Mississippi in the Twin Cities

The Mississippi River bridges in Minneapolis and St. Paul have long been icons of the Twin Cities. Many were the work of Norwegian immigrant engineers, who came to America with valuable skills for building the nation's infrastructure. Today, several of their bridges are being rehabilitated by state and local agencies for continuing transportation use.

Dennis Gimmestad is recently retired from the Cultural Resources Unit of the Minnesota Department of Transportation, and previously worked for the State Historic Preservation Office of the Minnesota Historical Society. He serves on the board of the Norwegian-American Historical Association (NAHA).



## Tuesday Open House Birthday gift in 2015

The congregation of Mindekirken will reach the age of 93 years on January 9, 2015. Each year TOH celebrates this birthday by giving a gift to the church.

The money collected for the 2015 Birthday Gift will be used to help The Mindekirken Choir buy new Choral Music from Norway. Choir Director John De Haan & Pastor Kristin Sundt met in Norway in the summer of 2012 to visit *Norsk Korsenter* (Norwegian Choral Center). They made a list of new choral music that the Mindekirken Choir would like to purchase. The Choir has been able to buy some of the titles on this list, but we still have a way to go as sheet music from Norway is expensive.

We encourage you to give a gift that has some relationship to the number 93. For example, the donation could be \$.93, \$9.30, \$93 or any combination you choose. Please bring your gift to TOH on Jan. 13, 2015 or send it to the church office (payable to Mindekirken) with a memo "TOH birthday" so that the donation will be directed to the Mindekirken Birthday Celebration Project. We will celebrate Mindekirken's



93rd birthday at the TOH event on Jan. 13.

Members of the Mindekirken Choir will thank everyone for their generous donations by providing the program at the TOH Christmas gathering in 2015. The Mindekirken Choir will at that time have rehearsed some of the music that is purchased with the money received from this gift.

Find updates on  
"Mindekirken" Facebook page

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Famous 1869 Norwegian painting by K. Bergslien

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WELCOME TO THE GALLERY  
PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL FIRST

## TOH Programs in February 2015

- 3 Blaine Hedberg—new research into the Restaurationen early Norwegian emigrant ship (1825)
- 10 to be announced
- 17 to be announced
- 24 Chip Laingen-- father's stories from Iranian hostage crisis

### WILLIAM K. WANGENSTEEN

ATTORNEY AT LAW

900 EAST WAYZATA BOULEVARD • SUITE 110  
WAYZATA, MINNESOTA 55391

Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts, Probate, Real Estate  
Telephone FAX

(952) 473-0130 (952) 473-3219

EMAIL: wangen900@qwestoffice.net

The Team that works for you!



Kari Friel  
612-532-8565

Gail Beckman  
612-209-4940

gailbeckman@msn.com

## REALTY HOUSE

Office: 952-831-3201  
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Edina, MN 55439





**Tusen hjertelig takk til alle sammen for enda en fantastisk høst sesjon!**

We appreciate everyone that helps bring our program to life! As the year draws to a close I would like to share with you Mindekirken's Norwegian Language and Culture Program (MNLCP)'s top highlights from 2014:

↪ **Mangfoldige classes** including beginning, intermediate, and advanced language classes and History of Norway, Celebrating the Norwegian Bicentennial through seminars led by Rune Engebretsen, John Yilek, and Christine Midelfort

↪ **Collaboration** with organizations such as the University of Minnesota's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's (OLLI) Norsk Special Interest Group (SIG) and The Norwegian-American Genealogical Association (N-AGA), and Trillium Tours, LLC

↪ **Sommer samtalestunder** where learners of all levels explored the theme 'sommerferie' as they stepped outside their comfort zones and interacted *på norsk* in fun and meaningful ways

↪ **Program participation** by returning and new students who shared their enthusiasm and curiosity for a wide variety of facets of Norwegian language, life, and culture

↪ **Familie juleverksted** where 14 families and five instructors came together to sing, play, and create *på norsk*

**LANGUAGE CLASSES**

Winter classes will begin the week of Monday, Jan. 5. We always welcome new students of all levels regardless of your prior knowledge or experiences.

**KVINNEKOR**

*Kvinnekor* draws together women who share an interest in Norway and choral music. Join our lively troupe as we turn from fall term's *jul* repertoire to songs from childhood, culture and geography for winter term. Pronunciation is taught and reinforced as we rehearse, and native and fluent Norwegian singers are invited as well! Choral experience is helpful but not necessary; we sing in unison, 2- and 3- part harmony. Members make song choices and share vocal technique tips. We meet weekly and new singers are always welcome. Class fees can be paid on a term by term or annual basis. We would love to add a pianist!

Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
January 6th- March 10th  
Director: Margy Sather Peterson  
Cost: \$75 annual membership fee

**GENEALOGY SEMINAR**

The Norwegian-American Genealogical Association (N-AGA) and MNLCP invite you to join us for a seminar that explores the theme: Treasures in Norwegian Family Research. This seminar will assist participants in locating the variety of treasures available to enhance Norwegian family research. Learn techniques for locating information in various types of records including books, various databases, and original digitalized records whether they be in the United States or Norway.

For more information contact:  
Sharon Arends, N-AGA President:  
mnmax424@msn.com  
Marilyn Sorensen, N-AGA Research Coordinator: rddlagen@usfamily.net

Saturday, Jan. 31  
Registration opens at 8:30 a.m.  
Seminar 8:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Cost: \$20

**FISKEBOLLER LUNCHEON & LECTURE**

University of Minnesota's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's (OLLI) Norsk Special Interest Group and MNLCP invite you to join us for a *fiskeboller* luncheon event featuring *fiskeboller i hvit saus* and other Norwegian treats.

**Sverre and the Birkebeinere**

Join us in February as we welcome MNLCP Norwegian History instructor, John Yilek, as our guest speaker. Yilek will bring our year-long theme of "Portraits of Norway: Glimpses of Creative Norwegians" to life as he explores the life of one of the most significant, creative, and mysterious people in the history of Norway.

Yilek will provide an interesting presentation on one of the most significant, creative and mysterious people in the history of Norway. Sverre was a young priest from the Faeroe Islands who led a ragtag band called the Birchlegs to improbable victories in the Norwegian civil wars and became the King of Norway. He also founded a dynasty and government that ruled Norway throughout its Age of Greatness in the late Middle Ages.

John Yilek, our speaker, teaches Norwegian history in the MNLCP. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and the University of Minnesota Law School who studied European history, politics and language in college. He has also traveled extensively in Norway, including visits to his family in Røros and Nordland.

Thursday, Feb. 5 at 11:45 a.m.  
Cost: \$20

If you would like to attend, please make reservations at <http://www.mnlcp.org> or email [norsk@mnlcp.org](mailto:norsk@mnlcp.org) by January 30th.

## December Scenes at Mindekirken



Trio of Santa Lucia Pageant maidens  
Sunday, Dec. 14



Terry  
Parker,  
Lucia  
Pageant  
Coordinator,  
as well as  
Kitchen  
Coordinator



Marilyn Sorensen (TOH Program  
Committee Chair) welcomes at-  
tendees to Tuesday Open House

### From the Kitchen Coordinator

Thank you to everyone who brings food to share at events. We now have accumulated a number of serving dishes that do not belong to the church. These dishes are placed on the bookshelf by the lower level elevator. Please check if any of these dishes belong to you, and take them home.

Other Lost & Found items are displayed on those shelves as well.

### Grindal's Bible Study on Tuesdays, Jan. 6 & 20

Gracia Grindal's class on the Bible Stories portrayed in Mindekirken's stained glass windows will be changed to Tuesday evenings. Everyone is welcome.

Kristofer Coffman will not be offering a Bible study in January.

## Application for Grants from the Mindekirken Foundation

The 2015 Mindekirken Foundation grant application deadline is Jan. 15, 2015. Foundation members (full & assoc. members of Mindekirken, and members of Klubb 500) are allowed to submit grant applications. You can get a copy of the grant application from the church office or download it at [www.mindekirken.org](http://www.mindekirken.org). Click on About Us and then on Mindekirken Foundation.

Please submit completed applications to the grant making committee box in the church office. The committee will review all grant applications and present their recommendations to the Foundation board which has the final vote. All grants will be awarded at the Foundation annual meeting in March 2015. If you have any questions, please contact the Grant Making committee at: [foundation@mindekirken.org](mailto:foundation@mindekirken.org)

## American Swedish Institute Holiday Display

Visit the Norwegian Christmas Room decorated by Norway House and Mindekirken, at the American Swedish Institute!

The Winter Wonderland exhibit is open through Jan. 11, 2015.  
2600 Park Ave. Minneapolis MN  
[www.asimn.org](http://www.asimn.org) Tel: 612-871-4907

## MNLCP from p. 6

To learn more about our program or to register online for classes visit us at <http://www.mnlcp.org>

Liker du MNLCP og det vi står for? Become our fan on Facebook. We always welcome new students regardless of your prior knowledge or experiences.

*Velkommen skal du være!*

Vennlig hilsen  
Krista Marie Schweppe  
Program Administrator  
[norsk@mnlcp.org](mailto:norsk@mnlcp.org)  
<http://www.mnlcp.org>

## Den Norske Lutherske Mindekirke, ELCA 924 E 21st St., Mpls MN 55404-2952

(Located 1 block south of E. Franklin & 10th Ave. S.) office phone: (612) 874-0716 fax (612) 874-1971  
E-mail: [office@mindekirken.org](mailto:office@mindekirken.org) Web page: [www.mindekirken.org](http://www.mindekirken.org)

**Pastor:** Pr. Kristin Sundt  
[kristin@mindekirken.org](mailto:kristin@mindekirken.org)  
Appt hrs: Wed.- Fri. 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
**Office Secretary:** Kaia Knutson  
[office@mindekirken.org](mailto:office@mindekirken.org)  
Open Office hours: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Tues - Fri  
**Bookkeeper:** Magne A. Hatlevik Mon & Fri  
[magne@mindekirken.org](mailto:magne@mindekirken.org)  
**Custodian:** Les Tufte [les@mindekirken.org](mailto:les@mindekirken.org)  
**Choir Director:** John De Haan  
[choirdirector@mindekirken.org](mailto:choirdirector@mindekirken.org)  
**Organist:**

**Event Coordinator:** Magne Hatlevik  
[magne@mindekirken.org](mailto:magne@mindekirken.org)

**Kitchen Coordinator:** Terry Parker  
[kitchen@mindekirken.org](mailto:kitchen@mindekirken.org)

**Webmaster:** Magne A. Hatlevik

**Communicator Staff:** Kaia Knutson, Pr. Sundt  
Photos: by Vera Hørven Olcott

Deadline: 15th of January for February issue  
No subscription fee – suggested \$15 per year  
supported by your donations.

### Executive Committee for 2014:

**President:** Jana Aune Deach  
**Vice President:** Edel Mauritzen  
**Secretary:** Jennifer Thue  
**Treasurer:** Robert J Hanson

**Chair of Deacons:** Frank Brathen  
**Chair of Trustees:** Steinar Berg

**Pastor:** Kristin Sundt

# January 2015

MINDEKIRKEN **COMMUNICATOR**

924 E 21st St

Minneapolis, MN 55404-2952



## Worship schedule—Everyone is welcome!

*English transcripts provided for the Norwegian service*

Nursery care and Sunday School is provided during the 11:00 services

### **Sun., Jan. 4**      *Epiphany*

9:00 a.m. English Worship with Holy Communion

11:00 a.m. Norwegian Worship Service with Holy Communion

*Guest preacher: Dean Gustav Danielsen, Nord-Innherad Prosti in Norway*

### **Sun., Jan. 11**      *Baptism of Our Lord*

9:00 a.m. English service

11:00 a.m. Norwegian Worship / Baptism / Choir

### **Sun. Jan. 18**      *2 Epiphany*

*Rev. Jorunn Raddum*

9:00 a.m. English Worship with Holy Communion

11:00 a.m. Norwegian Service with Holy Communion / Choir

### **Sun., Jan. 25**      *3 Epiphany*

(no 9 a.m. service)      *Seminarian Kristofer Coffman*

11:00 a.m. Bilingual Worship Service (Sermon in English) / choir

The Communicator is posted in full color on the church website [www.mindekirken.org](http://www.mindekirken.org). (News & Media tab) Sign up on-line to receive a weekly schedule and updates by e-mail, for free.

## Other Meetings

### **2nd Tuesday— Jan. 13**

6:00 p.m. Deacons / Trustees

7:10 p.m. Congregation Council

**Tuesday Open House** — p. 4-5

**Tuesday Bible Study** 1:30 p.m.

### **Norwegian Language & Culture**

**Classes** [www.mnlcp.org](http://www.mnlcp.org) p. 6

MNCLP board meets 2nd Wed.

### **Newsletter Assembly (tentative)**

by volunteers Fri., Jan 23 at

10 a.m. — Please call to confirm

this date when the time is closer.

Volunteers are appreciated!

*Join us for an hour or two to help fold and label the **February** mailing. Coffee served—you may bring your lunch. Thanks!*

**The Mindekirken Choir** rehearses

on Thursdays, 7—8:30 p.m.

(except Jan. 1)

New members welcome any time!

## Velkommen!