



Mindekirken

COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church - ELCA No. 135 February 2015

Tubfrim

A Mindekirken Mission Project

This past year, Mindekirken collected 23 pounds of cancelled stamps. Please continue bringing in your used stamps and phone cards to



Mindekirken and drop them off in the marked collection basket. *Tubfrim*, a charitable organization in Nesbyen, Norway will give them a new value. *Tubfrim* collects and sells used stamps and phone cards and uses the profits to help handicapped children and youth in Norway, and supports tuberculosis research. Cut stamps off the envelope, leaving a half-inch margin. Damaged stamps are worthless and are thrown away.

Lent Begins

Wed., Feb. 18 Ash Wednesday
7:00 p.m.
Service of Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes (bilingual)
Led by seminarian Kristofer Coffman

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. Report Booklets available Feb. 1. All voting members please plan to attend. Associate members are also welcome to attend.

Welcome to Our New Organist Jessica Schroeder

Jessica Schroeder began as Mindekirken's organist in January 2015. Jessica has already been around Mindekirken's music program for a few years as an accompanist for the Mindekirken Choir, and the Santa Lucia Pageant. She was already familiar with working together with choir director John De Haan, from the music department at the University of Minnesota.

Jessica, originally from Seattle, Wash., studied at the Univ. of Oregon, then at the U of M under Mindekirken's previous organist Dean Billmeyer. She now has her doctorate



Jessica Schroeder

in music in collaborative piano. She teaches piano at MacPhail Center for Music in Minneapolis.

Besides music, Jessica enjoys reading, knitting, and swimming.

Organ Fund

The Organ Committee will continue its task of exploring the best option for our organ, as we will at some point need to do something about it. It is a challenge to play because of its poor condition. Money given to the Organ Fund is protected for this purpose. Your donations may still be designated for the organ fund.

Congregational Conversation Sun., Feb. 1 at 1 pm

Paul Ofstedal, a graduate of Luther Seminary, was ordained in 1959 and served for over 42 years in active ministry as pastor in Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota and Minnesota, also serving as assistant to the bishop in the Iowa District, and filling a one-year position teaching at Waldorf College. He and Dorothea have had four married children, one of whom, Anne, passed away suddenly in 2011. The Ofstedals have been members of Mindekirken since 2008.

Pastor Ofstedal will present an over-arching view of marriage in Scripture.

From the Pastor: *Pray for Peace*



Kristin Sundt

I have only been in Norway 3 days so far on this trip, but I have already seen two programs on NRK (Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation) which deal with events that took place during World War II.

The Norwegian heavy water sabotage was a series of actions undertaken by Norwegian saboteurs during WWII to prevent the German nuclear energy project from acquiring heavy water, which could be used to produce nuclear weapons. A new Norwegian TV-series has been made to depict the events that took place. It is not a historically accurate account of what happened, as some of the plot has undergone changes and fictitious

people have been added.

Two previous movies have been made about the Norwegian resistance movement. The first film, *Kampen om tungtvannet* ("The Battle for Heavy Water") was produced in 1948, followed by the American film *The Heroes of Telemark*, which was released in 1965.

NRK has also produced a Norwegian version of the American genealogy documentary "*Who do you think you are?*" This show features well-known Norwegians exploring their ancestors. A program I watched was about Mona Levin, an author, reporter and theater critic. Mona Levin is of Jewish heritage. Some of her ancestors came to Norway from Lithuania. Many of her relatives lost their lives during WWII, but she was able to escape

to Sweden in a dramatic way as a 3 year old girl together with her mother and father. Her father was the well-known pianist and composer Robert Levin.

We here at Mindekirken are also interested in gaining more insight into events connected with WWII. We will be able to watch an interesting DVD about *The Viking Battalion* at Tuesday Open House over two weeks: February 10 & 17. This is the story of the 99th Infantry Battalion which was formed in 1942 by stranded Norwegian sailors and Norwegian Americans fluent in Norwegian. Bruce Bjorgum, who is part of the 99th Infantry Battalion Educational Foundation, will be on hand to introduce this DVD and answer any questions we might have about the 99th Infantry Battalion, on

"Pastor" cont. on p. 3

From the President: *Take Nothing for Granted*

*"One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD
and to meditate in His temple."
Psalm 27:4*

*"How quickly we forget God's great deliverances in our lives.
How easily we take for granted the miracles he performed in the past."
David Wilkerson*

I freely admit that I take many things for granted. Every day I take for granted that I will always have the freedom to exercise my religious beliefs. I take for granted that I will always have freedom of speech. I take for granted that if I get sick I will receive good health care. I also take for granted, much more than I should, that my family will always be with me and that I am loved. But as we progress through life we learn that things cannot be taken for granted. The recent terror acts in France remind us that we can never take for granted our freedom of speech and freedom of religion. If you are a true Minnesotan, we nev-

er believed that the Minnesota North Stars, Honeywell, the Ford Motor Plant or Northwest Airlines would ever leave Minnesota; until they did.

Mindekirken was founded by Norwegian immigrants who never took for granted their faith and their ability to freely worship in Norwegian. They established a church that was dedicated to Norwegians and for the preservation of Norwegian culture and traditions. For over 90 years, we have preserved these immigrants' vision of a Norwegian church, with worship in the Norwegian language and the preservation of Norwegian culture.

As we approach the 100th Anniversary of Mindekirken, we are working on revising our mission and vision statement. Who are we? What is important to us? How do we define ourselves and our church?

As we work through the process of creating a new mission and vision statement, it prompts many questions. Do we take our church for granted? Do we take for granted that the church will always be here, offering worship services in Norwegian and promoting and providing

Norwegian culture? Do we care if Mindekirken changes, or ends altogether? Will Mindekirken be here in 10 or 20 years?

As I speak with people each Sunday, I hear many stories about the important role Mindekirken has played in our lives. The church family found. The friendships created. The blessings received. What would happen if there was no Mindekirken? How important is it to you that Mindekirken continues?

We ask that you pray for our church, our church leadership and for our future and how we can ensure that Mindekirken will continue to carry out the gospel and ministry of Jesus Christ.

In Christ, **Jana Aune Deach**
President



Jana Aune Deach

Pastor—cont. from p. 2

Tues., Feb. 10. (program at noon, lunch available 11 to 11:30) See p. 4 of this Communicator for details.

This program features interviews with soldiers from the 99th Infantry Battalion, people who interacted with the 99th Battalion various places in the US and on the Continent, and high ranking military personnel in Norway.

It is now 70 years since WWII ended. Many years have passed, but new and old stories are still being told so that we will never forget what happened back then. Let us pray for peace so that the world may never again experience such a war.

Kristin Sundt,
Pastor

HIPAA Privacy Rule

Yes, HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) also affects the church activities of us at Mindekirken. The church office or the pastor cannot obtain hospitalization information about parishioners as easily as before. This information must come from the patient him/herself or from their next of kin. There is no automatic flow of information from clinics or hospitals to the church, nor can the church call a hospital and request information about a church member. The overriding concern here is for the patient's privacy protection.

Anyone who wants the church or the pastor to know of their hospitalization, must themselves or have their next of kin, contact and inform the church office with the information they want shared. This is crucial for those who want the pastor to visit them while in the hospital. Likewise, we would like to keep you in our prayers. In order to bring your name to mention in prayer during service, you will need to give your permission to the church verbally, beforehand.

Thank you!
Frank Brathen
Chair of Deacons

Trustee Report to Congregation

Hopefully you all have seen and appreciate the improvements made to our church in the past year. I think it important to highlight what your trustees have accomplished as well as to recognize their efforts. By now you have seen what the new carpet in the Sanctuary and hallway has done for the appearance of our church. This was a significant undertaking, as we were up against the clock to have all this done so it could be enjoyed by all for our very busy December schedule. This was accomplished, but not without the dedication of hard work and skills of some of your members.

So often, we do not realize the vast amount of talent within our church. An example would be Einar Johansen. Einar's skill as a cabinet maker shows in the wood molding that he built and installed in the hallway. The cabinets in the ladies room, and the library shelves in the nursery are also his work. I could go on and on.

Additionally, the advice and woodworking knowledge of Hans

Sandom was valued in exposing the beautiful bi-fold doors connecting the sanctuary and the former Pastors' office.

Also, special thanks should go to Sandy Deach, Bob Worrall (he does so much!) and Orlyn Kringstad, Hans Sandom, Harald Huglen, and Einar Johansen for their spilling of sweat in the removal of glued down old carpeting in the hallway (old pastor's office). We are all convinced that this was laid down originally by the devil himself.

Also, in 2014 we purchased and erected the canopy over the North entrance door. This was spearheaded by Harald Huglen, for whom we thank for doing a wonderful job.

This past year, with the generous gift of one of our members, we had a new underground irrigation system installed. For the offices, we updated with new computers and software, as well as a new copier, which is vital in the printing of this newsletter. There is no question that I will have forgotten projects and names of those who were instrumental in fulfilling the responsibilities of the trustees.

The 2014 Trustees: Steinar Berg, Dorothy Belgum Knight, Gracia Grindal, Harald Huglen, Sandy Deach, Finn Henrikssen, Einar Johansen & Hans Sandom.

Lastly, as most of you know, our time serving your church is dictated by our Constitution and By-laws. My time has come to step down as your chair, but be assured that your new Chair Sandy Deach will do a wonderful job. I have gotten to know Sandy quite well over the past year, and I would think you will appreciate the results going forward.

You may contact Sandy by calling Kaia in the church office, or e-mail to chair.trustees@mindekirken.org.

It has been a privilege and an honor to have served as your trustee chair, and I promise to continue to help to assure our future success. As always, if you can find it in your heart to pitch in financially and physically, I know it will make you feel so much better. *Takk og Gud velsigne!*

Steinar Berg,

Chair of Trustees 2014

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.

As of December 31st, the ending balance in the General Fund was \$15,343.06.

We will be transferring some of the monies which we received from the fall fund raisers. The trustees and I have been reviewing all the expenditures and hope



Robert J Hanson

to present a budget for 2015 which reports reduced expenditures.

Mange takk
Robert J. Hanson

Welcome to Tuesday Open House in February

11—11:30 a.m. Fellowship and Lunch

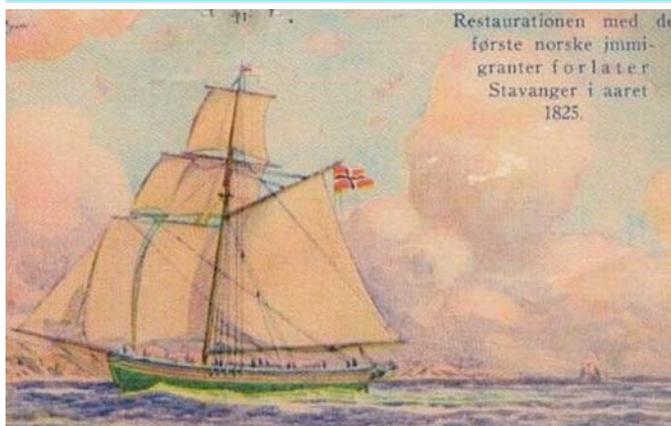
11:45 a.m. Devotions and Announcements

12 noon—1 p.m. Cultural Program

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

tuesdayopenhouse@mindekirken.org

Feb. 3 Blaine Hedberg — Restaurationen Passengers: Recent Research



The "Restauration" with the first Norwegian immigrants departs from Stavanger in the year 1825

Through a series of PowerPoint slides, the story of the first organized emigration from Norway will be told using a variety of primary and secondary sources. Historic letters recently discovered give important details about the families who emigrated on this ship from Norway in 1825, recent projects related to these immigrants, and how the 100th anniversary of this voyage led to the organization of the Norwegian-American Historical Association.

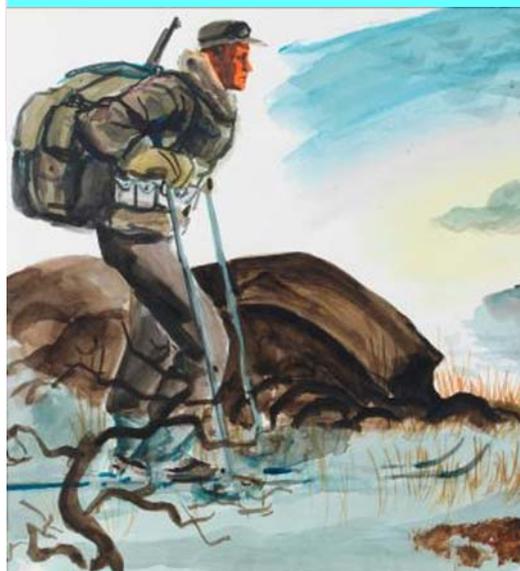
Blaine Hedberg is an experienced Norwegian-American genealogist, living in Westby, Wisconsin.



Blaine Hedberg

(NOTE: Two – part program) Documentary Film on 99th Infantry Battalion

Feb. 10 and 17 Bruce Bjorgum — MN Reserve and the Viking Battalion



The 99th infantry Battalion (Separate) was activated at Camp Ripley, Minnesota on July 19th, 1942 on instructions by the War Department. This unique elite unit was to consist only of Norwegians and Americans with direct Norwegian descent. Soldiers picked out for this elite unit had to have a working knowledge of the Norwegian language and preferably already knowing how to ski.

Come and learn more about the history of the 99th Infantry Battalion.

Bruce Bjorgum, who is the secretary of the 99th Infantry Battalion Educational Foundation, will be present on February 10 to introduce this documentary DVD and answer questions. He is the son of Robert Thorsten Bergum who served in the 99th Infantry Battalion during WWII.

Feb. 24 Chip Laingen — Son of Bruce Laingen, a Norwegian American in the Iranian hostage crisis (1979—81)

Chip Laingen is the director of the Defense Alliance in Minnesota, and he's the son of Bruce Laingen, a 100% Norwegian Minnesotan and the leader of the American hostages held for 444 days in Iran (1979-81). Chip will speak of his Norwegian heritage (Laingen farm in Lom, Gudbrandsdal) and his work with the Defense Alliance, and he'll share his father's stories from the Iranian hostage crisis. He will include information about the impact it had on his family and on the nation.

Chip will provide some of the more interesting "behind the scenes" stories of what happened (some humorous), both in Tehran and back here in Minnesota, where he was a Navy Midshipman at the U of M. While his father was a hostage, he was visited by other ambassadors stationed in Tehran including the Norwegian Ambassador. Chip will talk about how the crisis affected his life (and that of the family), including his father's nomination as Ambassador to Norway after returning, which he turned down for family reasons.



Chip Laingen

TOH Programs in March 2015

March 3 Hal Cropp—Commonweal Theater (Lanesboro, Minn.) program
 March 10 David Ringstad—Pastor Knut Birkeland's story
 March 17 Karen Hansen—Scandinavian settlers dispossess Dakota Indians
 March 24 Joe Shaw—John Nathan Kildahl, Pres. St Olaf College 1899-1914
 March 31 Carolyn Bliss —Come let us go to Jerusalem:
 Nordic hymns for Palm Sunday thru Easter

Cantus — Women's Choir on tour from Norway
Sun., April 26, 1:00 p.m.
Concert at Mindekirken
 along with singer/songwriter Henning Sommerro

In April 2015, the Norwegian female choir **Cantus** is visiting the US and Canada with the tour **Vuelie - The Sound of Norway**. The audience will experience a variety of sacred and Norwegian folk music, including music by Ola Gjeilo and Knut Nystedt, and, of course, their hit from the Disney movie "Frozen" **Vuelie**. The word "vuelie" originates from the Southern Sami language, used by parts of Norway's indigenous population, and translates loosely to "song".

"Dreams do come true" -- Cantus sings the opening song in Disney's animation movie, Frozen!

In summer 2013, Cantus was called by the Walt Disney Company, in Hollywood, telling us that they wanted Cantus to record music for them. They were looking for a Cantus' Nordic sound as well as Nordic music. How Disney heard about Cantus is also a fairytale in itself. They wanted to use Norway as an inspiration for the look and sound of Frozen, and in the spring of 2012, the filmmakers traveled to Norway to find it. Among all the places they saw and things they did, they also happened to pick up our latest CD release; Norwegian Voices (2011). The first track on that CD, *Eatnemen Vuelie*, went straight to the heart of the music producers, and they later told us that they knew they had found their song the moment they heard it.

Tove Ramlo-Ystad has been the conductor of Cantus since its beginning in 1986. (**Cantus** performed at Mindekirken in March 2011—along with solo tubist Øystein Baadsvik). Ramlo-Ystad's artistic project is to develop an ensemble of skilled singers who are not professional. Tove's theory is that a well-functioning amateur ensemble, with the right goals, can reach musical results on the same level as professional ensembles. A homogenous and natural sound, combined with the ability to create a common experience for both singers and audience, is what Tove and Cantus try to achieve in each performance. Cantus has shown, throughout many years, that Tove's methods are correct, and together with the choir she continues to search for magical moments.

More about Cantus: www.cantus.no

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Henning Sommerro returns to Mindekirken with the **Cantus** tour. Sommerro has been one of Norway's most famous singer-songwriters for over 30 years, and he has received several national music awards for his music. He is also a composer and has written music for several theatre and film productions, as well as compositions for choir.



Henning Sommerro



Vi er i gang and 2015 is off to a strong start! We are in the early stages of planning our spring programming and look forward to an April visit from Norwegian author Vidar Sundstøl. Sundstøl will be visiting the Twin Cities in connection with the release of the final installment of the award-winning *Minnesota Trilogy*. Stay tuned for details!

LANGUAGE CLASSES

Spring classes begin

Monday, Mar. 23rd

We always welcome new students of all levels regardless of your prior knowledge or experiences.

KVINNEKOR

It's not too late to join!

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! 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!

Tuesday 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Winter dates: Jan. 6th- Mar. 10th

Director: Margy Sather Peterson

Cost: \$75 annual membership fee or \$25 per term



GENEALOGY SEMINAR

Are you interested in learning more about Treasures in Norwegian Family Research? Stay tuned for information regarding our upcoming spring seminar!

For more information please feel free to contact:

Sharon Arends, N-AGA President:
mnmax424@msn.com

Marilyn Sorensen, N-AGA Research Coordinator:
rddlagen@usfamily.net

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

<http://www.mnlcp.org>

FISKEBOLLER LUNCHEON & LECTURE

University of Minnesota's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's (OLLI) Norsk Special Interest Group and Mindekirken's Norwegian Language and Culture Program (MNLCP) invite you to join us on Feb. 5 for the final *fiskeboller* luncheon event featuring *fiskeboller i hvit saus* and other Norwegian treats.

Program:

Sverre and the Birkebeinere

MNLCP's Norwegian History instructor, John Yilek, is our guest speaker. Yilek will bring our year-long theme of "Portraits of Norway: Glimpses of Creative Norwegians" to life as he presents the life of 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 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 by January 30th.



Fjell og Fjord Local Youth in Norwegian folk dancing group



Fjell og Fjord is a Norwegian folk dancing group for youth in the Twin Cities area. The group meets two times a month on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays, in Minneapolis and Columbia Heights. The dance group performs at various cultural events throughout the year, including the Festival of Nations and *Syttende Mai* (May 17) at Mindekirken. Carol Sersland is the Artistic director. No experience is necessary to join just an interest in Norwegian culture. Members are encouraged to be a part of their local Sons of Norway lodge. All are welcome to join. For more information please contact Suann Dahl 612-834-0649. or check the website: fjellogfjord.weebly.com.

Edvard Grieg Society presents Laura Loge, soprano; Scott Anderson, clarinet Katherine Ananda-Owens, piano; Rachel Ulvin Jensen, Hardanger fiddle In Concert Fri., Feb. 13 7:30 p.m. at Mindekirken



Laura Loge

This program includes pieces by Grieg, Delius, Schumann, as well as Nordic other Nordic composers including Eivind Alnæs, Agathe Backer-Grøndahl, Halfdan Kjerulf and Christian Sinding. A song cycle, sung in Norwegian, entitled "Natt Sanger" by Twin Cities composer Abbie Betinis, will also be part of the program, as well as a newly commissioned piece by Libby Larsen set to the poem "Hestene står i regnet" by Astrid Hj. Andersen.

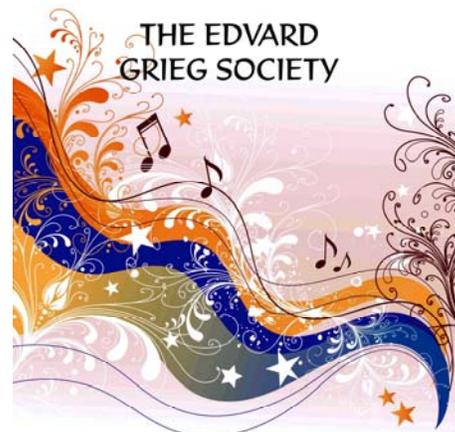
For more information please call Norway House at 612-871-2211 or see www.norwayhouse.org

Tickets: \$20.00 - at the door

Grindal's Bible Study on Tuesdays, Feb. 3 & 17

Gracia Grindal's classes on the Bible Stories portrayed in Mindekirken's stained glass windows meet on Tuesday evenings.

Everyone is welcome. Gather at 6:45 p.m. for refreshments, then the study is from 7 to 8 p.m.



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

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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: Sandy Deach

Pastor: Kristin Sundt

February 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., Feb. 1 4 Epiphany

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

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

Sun., Feb. 8 5 Epiphany

(no 9:00 a.m. service)

10:00 a.m. All Congregation Worship Service (bilingual) / Choir

Followed by the Annual Meeting of the Congregation (in Fellowship Hall)

Sun. Feb. 15 Transfiguration — Fastelavnssøndag

“Fastelavnsboller” (sweet cream buns) served at Kirkekaffe

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

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

Wed., Feb. 18 Ash Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Service of Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

Sun., Feb. 22 1 Lent

(no 9 a.m. service) Installation of Congregation Council

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

Other Meetings

2nd Tuesday— Feb. 10

6:00 p.m. Deacons / Trustees

7:10 p.m. Congregation Council

Council Retreat:

Sat., Feb. 21 at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday Open House — p. 4-5

Tuesday Bible Study 1:30 p.m.

Norwegian Language & Culture

Classes www.mnlcp.org p. 6

MNCLP board meets 2nd Wed.

Newsletter Assembly (tentative)

by volunteers Wed., Feb. 25 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 **March** mailing.*

Coffee served—you may bring

your lunch. Thanks!

The Mindekirken Choir rehearses

on Thursdays, 7—8:30 p.m.

New members welcome any time!

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

Velkommen!