



# Mindekirken COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church - ELCA July 2020 No. 197

## MNLCP Travel seminar online: Møre og Romsdal: The Land of Contrasts



*Photo by  
Cindy Hatlevik*

**NEW!** Join Mindekirken's Norwegian Language and Culture Program (MNLCP) for an out of the ordinary virtual tour to Møre og Romsdal, one of Norway's hidden gems. Located in the northernmost part of Western Norway, Møre og Romsdal depicts the dramatic images we associate with Norway — fjords, mountains, islands, narrow roads, interesting small farms hanging over a fjord, waterfalls, snow and skiing (year round), and urban centers filled with beautiful architecture and culture.

During a time when Norway's borders might be closed for all but necessary travel, we will bring a little piece of Norway to you. This virtual seminar will be guided by Magne, a Møre og Romsdal native, using technology tools such as Zoom, Power-Point and other media. Presented in English.

**Wed., July 15 6:30 p.m. —8:30 p.m.** or  
**Wed., August 12 6:30 p.m. —8:30 p.m.**

**Attend either session**

**Cost:** \$30 **Instructor:** Magne Hatlevik  
see p. 5 for registration information →

Mindekirken will continue to offer YouTube worship services until further notice. We join with the bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA, Ann Svenningsen, and many of our sister churches: *“As your bishop, and in alignment with both Presiding Bishop Eaton and Governor Tim Walz, I strongly ask congregations to refrain from in-person worship for the foreseeable future.”* We are working on a plan to prepare for an eventual safe reopening. To find the worship recordings, visit [www.mindekirken.org](http://www.mindekirken.org). New every Sunday!

## From the Pastor: *We Have to Be Safe — On-line services continue*

It's already July, the month when many people travel on vacation. Vacation in Norway seems to be something many members and friends of the Mindekirken want. I do not know how many who have proudly told me they have been in Norway, and they tell me about relatives they have contact with or where their ancestors came from, and many say they want to go to Norway again. But then came Corona!

This year I cannot go to Norway on holiday to visit my children and grandchildren, because I risk not being able to come back. So now I will stay in Minneapolis.



Working in a closed church has not been easy. There have been online worship services to record and many zoom meetings every week. Now we are making future plans for Mindekirken, but the plans can change if the Corona infection increases or decreases. We have to be safe, for places where many are in the same room for a long

time, such as at church services, have proven to be ideal for corona virus spread. In many workplaces, the source of the spread can be traced back to religious services. In one church, I do not say where and I do not say who, in a service with 180 participants, one infected person attended. The staff struggled to track everyone, but many more became infected and 4 of them died.

To all those who say that they can go without a mask and would like to fill the churches with people for worship and gather for church coffee afterwards because they are protected by God - I will say: Would you say to your child: Have faith in God, he will protect you anywhere you go, just jump out onto the main road, for God will stop the cars. No!

We should not tempt God, Luther said. He was well acquainted with the Black Death. In 1527 the plague came to Europe for the second time and although Luther did not escape Wittenberg, he was aware that one should not tempt God by being close to the sick, if it was not absolutely necessary! That's why Luther made his home into a temporary hospital, where only a few had to come to take care of the needs of the sick. So everyone did not need to be exposed to the plague. Luther and the Lutheran followers were criticized for leaving their flock.

But Luther said: *Be like a man who wants to help prevent the city from being destroyed by a major fire. For what is the epidemic, other than a fire which, instead of consuming wood and straw, consume life and body?*

*We should rather think like this: By God's decision, the enemy has sent us poison and deadly feeds. Therefore, I would ask God's mercy to protect us, so we can escape (as Jacob fled from Esau, David fled from Saul, and Paul fled from Damascus) and then I will purify the air and administer medicine and take it. I will avoid people and places where my presence is not necessary so as not to be contaminated and thereafter contaminate and infect others, thereby causing their death as a result of my negligence. It is a godly belief because it is neither brutal nor stupid nor does it tempt God.*

That is why we at Mindekirken have decided that everyone who comes to the church should wear a mask — also in the parking lots outside — and everyone is asked to use hand sanitizer upon entry. We will log names of those who come so that we can easily track down those who have been to the church while one person that we later find out is COVID-19 positive. We love all our members and friends and we feel a moral responsibility to not expose people to unnecessary infection.

*Continued on p. 3  
"from the Pastor"*

## Continued “From the Pastor”

I say to everyone: We all love you, but viruses don't care. We and most churches under the ELCA umbrella will still wait for in-person services until the number of infected is lower. But we can have contact in many other ways and we need each other to create a new normal.

Please come up with imaginative suggestions for what and how we can be church and at

the same time be safe. What about conversations and meetings outdoors in the parking lot and on our lawn? Make suggestions and sign up as volunteers. But for now, no one can just stop by the church when it suits them.

Call or send a message to make an appointment if you need to access the church or staff.

Even though today, on Wednesday, June 17th, I received a negative test result, I continue to walk with my mask and keep my social distance.

Anne Brit Aasland, pastor

## Norwegian Honorary Consulate Moves to Norway House



MINNEAPOLIS, June 3, 2020 – The Norwegian Honorary Consulate General has moved to Norway House, the National Norwegian Center in America. The Consulate will occupy space in the current Albert H. Quie Center and will have a prominent presence in Norway House's new Innovation and Cultural Center.

“It is fitting and most appropriate that the Honorary Consulate General be housed at Norway House,” said Eivind J. Heiberg, Honorary Consul General for Norway. “Given the support the Norwegian government has extended to Norway House and its forthcoming expansion, it is the most logical location for those wishing to do business with the consulate.”

The Honorary Consulate General provides a range of services for people needing information on Norway and Norwegian-American relations. The Consulate provides passport renewals, can help with

citizenship and pension applications and answer questions about visas and residence permits. In addition, it also facilitates business development, educational partnerships, and scientific collaborations between the two countries as well as serves citizens of

Norway traveling to the Upper Midwest. The Consulate has a staff of two and was most recently located in Minnetonka.

“We are thrilled that the Norwegian Honorary Consulate General has chosen Norway House as its new home,” said Christina Carleton, Executive Director, Norway House. “This is an important milestone as we plan to break ground on our expansion later this year and fulfill our plans to be the National Norwegian Center in America. Additionally, its proximity adjacent to Mindekirken – The Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church – centers the consulate in the heart of what was the historic Norwegian immigrant community along Franklin Avenue in south Minneapolis.”

“It is an exciting development that the Norwegian Honorary Consulate General will make its new home at Norway House in Minneapolis,” said Kåre R. Aas, Norway's ambassador to the United States.

## Sunday, July 5 All-Synod Worship

We will offer a special virtual worship experience on Sunday, July 5, by the Minneapolis Area Synod staff. Bishop Ann Svennungsen will give a greeting, the sermon by Pastor Kelly Chatman and children's sermon by Pr. John Hulten, Assistant to the Bishop. Join the wider Lutheran community for this service (in English) available via our website after 9:00 a.m.

The prelude and postlude will be added from our own organist/pianist, Jordan Buchholtz (right)

Thank you to Ingunn Henriksen for making these service recordings, and to volunteers who help get them posted to the website.

All recorded services (Norwegian and English) are archived under the “Sermons” tab at [www.mindekirken.org](http://www.mindekirken.org)



“Norway House has been an important part of my many visits to the region. They understand the importance of connecting culture, business and education between Norway and the U.S. The Consulate is open for appointments only at this time.

## From the Treasurer *Generous Response in May!*

Dear members and friends of Mindekirken,

Once again it was a rainy Syttende Mai in Minnesota but I hope you were able to enjoy the Syttende Mai service (May 17) on YouTube. Listening to the trumpet and organ in the prelude concert brought me into the Sanctuary where I could imagine our usual festive congregation standing and singing as the flags are carried down the aisle. Grieg's Anitra's Dance piano duet by Jordan Buchholtz and Bill Wangenstein was a delight. Thank you to our staff and members who made the service so special during this unusual year.

Thank you to everyone who supported us generously in May. Your donations made May a positive month financially. The Mission Fund sent \$700.00 to Community Emergency Services and \$250.00 to Marie Sandvik Center to help our neighbors in need in the aftermath of the recent civil unrest.

Mindekirken's ministry is built on the financial gifts, staff dedication, volunteer hours of our members and friends. Please continue to be safe and I hope we can all be together again soon at Mindekirken.

Velkommen! Jennifer Thue, treasurer

| 2020       | March     | April     | May      |
|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Income     | \$17,304  | \$22,312  | \$30,674 |
| Expense    | \$31,872  | \$34,267  | \$29,363 |
| Net Income | -\$14,568 | -\$11,955 | \$ 1,311 |

### *Thrivent Choice Dollars*

*An associate member enjoys how this church and block in turn contribute to our ethno-religious heritage, so they will be designating their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Mindekirken.*

*Thank you!*

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.

To follow Mindekirken on Instagram go To @mindekirkenmn

### *Ways to Give your Support*

**Easy ways to give to church:** If you are a Thrivent member, you can designate your Thrivent Choice dollars to go to Mindekirken by logging in to [www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice."



Also, when you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you shop the same way as on Amazon.com with the added benefit that Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases if you elect them to be sent to Mindekirken.

Find updates on Mindekirken Facebook page "Like" us!

Find a link at the bottom of our homepage [www.mindekirken.org](http://www.mindekirken.org) next to the green "Donate" icon (use this link to give directly to the church via the Elexio program) or mailing a check to the church address also still works.



Your support is deeply appreciated. Mindekirken's ministry is built on the financial gifts, staff dedica-

tion, volunteer hours of our members and wide circle of generous friends.



There will be no Tuesday Open House Program in July. The fall program will need to be adapted to the pandemic situation.



# Mindekirken Norwegian Language & Culture Program

## SOMMER SAMTALESTUNDER

*Sommer samtalestunder* are designed to provide learners with opportunities to build confidence and engage in conversations with others at their approximate language level. Topics will include, but are not limited to everyday life, culture and current events. All sessions will take place virtually through Zoom. Find the level that is just right for you. Both new and returning students are welcome!

**Cost: \$60**

## BEGINNING

Recommended for students who have completed at least one beginning level class (*Sett i gang 1*) or the equivalent.

**Wed. 7:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.**  
**July 8, July 22,**  
**August 5, August 19**

**Instructor: Tanya Thresher**

## INTERMEDIATE & BEYOND

Recommended for students who have completed at least one intermediate level class (*Sett i gang 2*) or the equivalent.

**Wed. 7:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.**  
**July 8, July 22,**  
**August 5, August 19**

**Instructor: Ethan Bjelland**

For more information and registration, please visit  
<http://www.mnlcp.org> *Ta ansvar, vis hensyn!*

*Thank you to these Communicator sponsors:*

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Please call to set up time for visit. Velkommen!

## Vær så god! Recipes from Mindekirken members and friends

Cookbooks are available for \$20 by mail order. Order one online, or mail a check for \$20 plus \$7.50 shipping to the church address with your mailing instructions, and phone number. (Postage discount is available when ordering multiple copies.)



The on-line order option using *paypal* on the church's website. "Mindekirken CookBook" is found at the lower left corner of [www.mindekirken.org](http://www.mindekirken.org) homepage. *Full of Norwegian and American recipes*

## WILLIAM K. WANGENSTEEN

ATTORNEY AT LAW

900 EAST WAYZATA BOULEVARD • SUITE 110  
WAYZATA, MINNESOTA 55391

Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts, Probate, Real Estate

Telephone (952) 473-0130 FAX (952) 473-3219

EMAIL: [wangen900@qwestoffice.net](mailto:wangen900@qwestoffice.net)

*A photo booklet of  
Mindekirken's  
Stained Glass Windows  
"The Gospel in Glass",  
with descriptive text*

*by Gracia Grindal and Paul Ofstedal,  
(Photos by Jerry Mathieson and Graphic  
Design by Tom Maakestad) is available for  
\$10 + postage. Contact the church office for more  
information. Photo above: Hans Sandom*



## ALSO INGBRETSEN'S GIFT SHOP

IN NORWAY HOUSE  
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## From the President: *The Church Is the People*



*Jeannette Henriksen*

Dear Members and Friends,

The flowers are blooming, the baby squirrels are learning how to raid the

bird feeder, and the robins in our hedge are empty nesters now. Summer is officially here!

I've been inspired to look forward to a better future for our society by reading speeches and quotes by recent high school graduates featured in the paper. Graduating in the time of COVID-19 has been as unprecedented as everything else this spring. Not only dealing with missing prom, parties, walking across the stage to collect a well-deserved diploma, and other senior rites of passage, many have had to reevaluate their priorities and change their college

or gap year plans. This crop of graduates has learned an early lesson that things can change quickly and drastically and there are many things we have no control over.

But as one senior wrote, quoting the poet Maya Angelou, *"You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them."*

And as another stated in their commencement speech, *"Let's stay strong, never lose hope, and always dream big; by doing so, we will create a better future."*

Congratulations to all of the seniors this year, but a special note of congratulations to Mindekirken member, Anders Urberg Carlson, who is graduating from Southwest High School in Minneapolis and will be attending St. Olaf College in Northfield in the fall. We will miss you at Mindekirken, Anders, but hope you vis-

it often and wish you the very best in all your future endeavors. *Gratulerer, Anders!*

Like the class of 2020, the council and congregation at Mindekirken have learned to pivot with the changes happening around us and embraced online worship services, online Bible study and Norwegian classes, and a lot of Zoom meetings. It was wonderful to see so many people gather together virtually to celebrate *Syttende mai* with us on May 17, with a beautiful online worship service followed by a fun sing-a-long. For a little while it was like we were together again and that felt really good.

We must remember that the church is not the building. The church is the people and we are still a church though we are not meeting in person. We have established a Pandemic Preparedness Team, which is working diligently to create protocols that will allow us to safely return to activities and worship services in the building, starting with smaller groups this summer and hopefully graduating to worship services in the fall. The pandemic has not gone away and we must still be vigilant in taking precautions to protect others and ourselves. In the mean time we continue with online services.

The Minneapolis Area Synod staff has offered another worship service to give pastors and those working to bring worship services online a well-deserved break, so look for that on July 5th.

I wish everyone a happy Independence Day and a lovely July. Be safe and enjoy!

Jeannette Henriksen

## High School Graduate: Anders Urberg Carlson

Anders Urberg Carlson graduated from Minneapolis Southwest High School on June 1 this year. He will be attending St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn. in the fall. Anders is the son of Bradley and Kari Urberg Carlson, and brother of Sofie.

Congratulations Anders!



## Mission of the Month — Community Emergency Services

As I search the Community Emergency Services website, a photo of George Floyd, like many photos I have seen of him since his death by the restraint of Minneapolis police officers, reaches out to me and asks, "What are you doing to make things better?" We are communally grieving a man and pledging not to let his death be in vain.

The CES describes its values in this way, "We operate in a neighborhood that is culturally, ethnically and religiously diverse. We strive to serve all our neighbors in need, as Christ would have us do, without distinction or test. We invite support from volunteers and donors and are open to collaboration with

other agencies, regardless of religious affiliation."



In this spirit, and in the wake of civil unrest affecting neighborhoods close to Mindekirken, CES has now extended its services (as featured in the Mission of the Month for March and April of this year) to include partnerships with churches and nonprofits to reach more of the neighborhoods hurt by the looting and burning of grocery stores and pharmacies, restaurants and businesses. Many of the area's populations have lost not only their jobs due to COVID-19, but now even the stores which supply their essential life needs.

CES is stepping in to support the efforts of local neigh-

borhood organizations, such as partnering with Mount Olive Lutheran Church on Chicago Ave. to distribute CES goods to neighbors near the George Floyd memorial site.

Please help CES by making a financial donation. You may mail a check to church (please write CES on the memo line), donate on-line, (website) or over the phone by calling the church office. For other ways to help in this crisis, please see the Community Outreach Opportunities link listed under the Serve tab on Mindekirken's website. With sincere prayers, peace, love and *takk!*,

—Ann Slettum along with Anne Johnson & Bob Worrall, Mission of the Month Coordinators



### In Memory of Junius Stenseth, who died May 30, 2020

Junius Stenseth, age 91, was preceded in death by beloved son, Jonathan. He is survived by his wife, Inger and son Christopher (Sangeetha) and Jenni West (Michael) and family. Junius was an adventurer and risk taker. After graduating from St. Cloud University in math/science he joined the Navy and served as an officer for 6 years. He sailed the world for 4 years and was stationed in London for 2 years. He settled in Norway where he attended the Univ. of Oslo and played basketball for the university team. He traveled all over Norway on his motorcycle, as well as in Europe and the Middle East.

Junius married Inger and they had two sons. In 1974 they moved to Mpls, where his parents lived. He worked for Salvation Army, Sears, in Real Estate, at the Historical Research Center and fixed up houses, but his passions were the family farm and investments. He loved working on the farm, and going hunting with his son Christopher. He was a

loving father and very proud of his family. Junius had a strong faith, attending St. Paul Lutheran as well as The Vietnamese Church. The Vietnamese people were dear to him, and after a trip there, he helped establish an orphanage for blind children. Junius had strong opinions. He could also be very funny and until the day he died his wit was evident.

He was buried at Valley Grove by Nerstrand, Minn. A memorial service will be held later at Mindekirken. Memorials will go to Doctors Without Borders.

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

(Located 1 block south of E. Franklin & 10th Ave. S.)

office phone: (612) 874-0716 E-mail: [office@mindekirken.org](mailto:office@mindekirken.org) Web page: [www.mindekirken.org](http://www.mindekirken.org)

**Pastor:** Pr. Anne Brit Aasland  
[annebrit@mindekirken.org](mailto:annebrit@mindekirken.org)

**Office Manager:** Kaia Knutson  
[office@mindekirken.org](mailto:office@mindekirken.org)

Open Office hours: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Tues - Fri

**Bookkeeper:** Herb Nelson  
[bookkeeper@mindekirken.org](mailto:bookkeeper@mindekirken.org)

**Choir Director:** John De Haan  
[choirdirector@mindekirken.org](mailto:choirdirector@mindekirken.org)

**Organist:** Jordan Buchholtz  
[organist@mindekirken.org](mailto:organist@mindekirken.org)

**MNLCP (Language Program) Staff:**

Krista Schweppe [norsk@mnlcp.org](mailto:norsk@mnlcp.org)

**Facility Staff:** Terry Parker  
[terry@mindekirken.org](mailto:terry@mindekirken.org)

**Tuesday Open House** chair: Marilyn Sorensen  
[TOH@mindekirken.org](mailto:TOH@mindekirken.org)

**Communicator Staff:** Kaia Knutson

**Deadline:** 15th of July for the August 2020 issue  
No subscription fee – suggested \$25 per year supported by your donations.

**Executive Committee 2020:**

**President:** Jeannette Henrikssen  
**Vice President:** Jana Aune Deach  
**Secretary:** (open)  
**Treasurer:** Jennifer Thue

**Chair of Deacons:** Ann Slettum  
**Chair of Trustees:** Bradley Urberg Carlson

**Pastor:** Anne Brit Aasland

# July 2020

The Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church  
MINDEKIRKEN **COMMUNICATOR**  
924 E 21st St  
Minneapolis, MN 55404-2952



## Worship Services

English translations of the Norwegian sermons are available  
On the church website—AND by request from the church office

*English and Norwegian Worship services are posted on  
Mindekirken's website via YouTube each Sunday by 9:00 a.m.  
Pr. Anne Brit Aasland*

**Sunday, July 5**      **One special worship, by Synod Staff**  
**(in English only)**    *5 Pentecost*      *5 Pinse*  
*Zech 9:9-12, Romans 7:15-25a, Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30*

**Sunday, July 12**      *6 Pentecost*      *6 Pinse*  
*Isaiah 55:10-13, Romans 8:1-11, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

**Sunday, July 19**      *7 Pentecost*      *7 Pinse*  
*Isaiah 44:6-8, Romans 8:12-25, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43*

**Sunday, July 26**      *8 Pentecost*      *8 Pinse*  
*1 Kings 3:5-12, Romans 8:26-39, Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52*

## Other Meetings

**2nd Tuesday— July 14**

**Virtual meetings**

6:00 Deacons/Trustees

7:10 p.m. Congregation Council

**Bible Study**— sign up to receive a  
daily e-mailed hymn blog by Gracia  
Grindal— go to  
[www.hymnfortheday.com](http://www.hymnfortheday.com)

**Tuesday Open House**

On Summer break

**Norwegian Language &**

**Culture Classes** (see p. 1 & 5)

[www.mnlcp.org](http://www.mnlcp.org)

**Choir rehearsal on Thursdays**

On summer break

Mindekirken's office continues to be in operation during regular weekday hours, 10 a.m.—3 p.m.  
(closed for holiday June 29-Jul 3) The building is closed to all other events this month.

[www.mindekirken.org](http://www.mindekirken.org)

Please watch our website for updates and developments as plans are being worked on.  
The situation may change quickly and look different once this issue goes to press. Thank you!