



Mindekirken COMMUNICATOR



Newsletter of the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church - ELCA No. 206

May 2021

Syttende Mai -- Norway's Constitution Day... A Virtual Celebration!

In this continued time of COVID, we will again celebrate safely distanced.

Hipp Hipp Hurrah!
Mindekirken will bring you our Festival Worship Service online, and together with Norway House and Syttende Mai Minnesota even more ways to celebrate!
(All events are free)



Watercolor by Kari Fosse

Backward Parade

Saturday, 15 May (10am-12pm)

Mindekirken/Norway House Parking Lots

To get in the spirit and get ready for Syttende Mai, we'll do a Backwards parade! You drive by, and the parade happens around you! Wave your flag, and *hipp-hurra* safely from your car. We've got flags and goodies for the kids; songbooks for the sing along for families of all ages to take home in preparation for a *strålende 17. mai feiring* (wonderful 17th May celebration) at home!

Instructions: Enter lot from 10th Ave. S. (east side) Proceed through the parking lot to exit at E. 21st Street. To aid against congestion in the parking lot, we encourage those with last names starting with letters A-M come between 10-11am, and last names N-Z come between 11am-12pm.

Syttende Mai Festival Worship Service Sunday, 16 May (11:00am) **bilingual**

A special worship with *17. mai* music where we reflect on history and giving thanks. The Honorary Norwegian Consul in Minneapolis, Eivind Heiberg, will bring a greeting. Sermon by Pr. Anne Brit Aasland, in English. Piano music from Edv. Grieg, and patriotic hymns. Join us a few minutes early for the countdown to the start of the service. Link on www.mindekirken.org

Norwegian Online Sing-Along Sunday, 16 May (12:30pm)

Join online for a fun Norwegian Sing-Along (*Allsang*), for children and everyone, with Ethan "Esten" Bjelland. Find the *Sanghefte* (Song Book) links on Mindekirken or Norway House websites.



Syttende Mai Minnesota! Monday, 17 May (7pm)

Syttende Mai Minnesota will host an online event in honor of Norway's Constitution Day with remarks from Ambassador Anniken Krutnes, Norway's Ambassador to the United States. Ethan Bjelland will lead us in singing a few celebratory songs! This event is complimentary and accessible to everyone.

Please register by May 16th at: <https://syttendemaiminnesota2021.eventbrite.com>

You can add to the fun by sending us a short personal video message (5-10 seconds only please) with your Syttende Mai greeting for the group (*Gratulerer med dagen* ("congratulations on the day"), *Hipp Hipp Hurra*, or something similar) by May 10th to: 17maicommitee@gmail.com We'll make a short video. Help spread the word about this fun online celebration!

For more information please visit the following websites:

www.norwayhouse.org/17mai
www.mindekirken.org



**Ambassador
Anniken
Krutnes**

From the Pastor: *A Light and a Hope!* Anne Brit Aasland

“Being human is not easy!” my mother always said, and I add: it should not be easy either. No one has promised us a dance on roses, not even God has promised us a simple life. When Adam and Eve were no longer allowed to live in the Garden of Eden because they had broken the only commandment they had been given, God said to the woman: I will increase your labor and your groaning. And unto the man God said: The ground shall be accursed on your account. With labor you shall win your food. You shall gain your bread by the sweat of your brow.

Yes, life is hard and has been extra difficult for many of us over the past year. A lot of loneliness, mourning, grief, fear, sadness and confusion has happened both because of Covid and too many impressions from the news where we have seen that the police that we thought should protect us, are the ones we should be most afraid of, especially if we have a little color on our skin. And the horror videos from the invasion of the Capitol can scare anyone.

But the Norwegian pastor Karsten Isachsen writes in his book [Like When a Child Comes Home](#), “A philosopher has said ‘If I had to choose between grief and nothing I will choose grief!’ A statesman once said ‘Let us not pray for a light burden, but let us ask for a strong back!’”

Karsten also writes that it is not primarily about how you feel, but how you take it: that you take it seriously that you live in the phase you are right now and do not always dream of being in another situation or a another place.

I also struggle and do not believe that all the challenges and problems and the sorrows I have experienced in my long life, have only been a blessing. The difficulties of my life have at times been very hard for me too. The worst have been the situations where I have experienced that people I thought I could trust failed me, exploited me and hurt me - it has nearly broken me down. The feeling of not being able to trust anyone is perhaps the worst thing you can experience.

In such dark times, it has been good for me to read the books by Karsten Isachsen. He did not have an easy life either. He was certainly not an ideal person, but he was a good speaker and has written many good books. Today I have found solace in what he says about not only dreaming of a time when our sorrows and difficulties will be over. It may be good to have a hope for a better future, but the dream of the future must not take the light from the experience and the joy I can have of living now and rejoicing in the work I do today, even if it is not as good and as much as I wish. Karsten says that if you cannot find meaning, joy and challenges in the work and life you have today, you must try to change this. You cannot afford to waste large parts of your life, waiting for better days, according to Karsten.

Many of us are now on a rocky, bumpy, winding road and we do not know where it leads. Then it is good to have a light and a hope that the future can be better, but we are greeting the future now. Fear, loneliness and isolation cannot be solved by daydreaming, but concrete action. The most important thing for us now is to be able to take the challenges seriously and enjoy every little thing we can accomplish. For the future comes - no matter how much we worry, but it is the present and the situation we are in now, which is all we have. Tomorrow is unknown, Jesus and



his love are with us today. Luther put it this way: "If I knew that Judgment Day was tomorrow, I would still plant an apple tree today."

So let us live and rejoice in every minute, and let us receive God's blessing on the great and small challenges of everyday life. Now it's spring and the days are getting longer. Most emotional problems are always best solved in conversation with other people, so if we make contact with someone now, we are helping to improve our own future.

Anne Brit Aasland, pastor

Make your reservation to attend the in-person, bilingual Service of Holy Communion on Pentecost, **Sunday, May 23 at 11 a.m.** by contacting the church office by Thurs., May 20. Seating is limited. (masks and distancing required)

Centennial Plans Underway! 1922-2022



Mindekirken's Centennial Calendar for 2022!

Unique watercolor art by Kari Fosse, (who joined Mindekirken in 1965) with scenes from church life through the years at Mindekirken, and noted historic dates will be featured. Kari's original art will be on display at Mindekirken and also available for sale, along with calendars, starting July 31, 2021.



Mindekirken Norwegian Language & Culture Program

Vil du lære norsk? We offer a variety of language, literature or conversation classes designed specifically with beginner to more experienced learners in mind. Our spring session is underway, but we are already making plans for our summer programming. Learn more about our program and register for classes at <http://www.mnlcp.org>

DEN NORSKE KLUBBEN

*Den Norske Klubben is an online Norwegian language and culture group for kids **around ages 6 to 10** led by Sofie Urberg Carlson and Krista Schweppe every other Sunday of each month, from 10-11am.*

*The theme for the year is **Sanger og fortellinger** (songs and stories). With an informal structure, activities may include games, songs, art projects, and dramatic play. There will be a theme for the year, but each week is independent from one another, so children can attend as they are able.*

*Registration is required and it is **FREE** to attend. **Location:** on Zoom
Spring Dates: Sundays, May 9 & 23
Time: 10:00-11:00 am*



NORWEGIAN TRAVEL SEMINARS

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. These two-hour virtual seminars guided by Magne Hatlevik, a Møre og Romsdal native, will use technology tools such as Zoom, PowerPoint and other media.

Seminars will be in English.

Registration closes at noon the day of the event.

Spectacular Mountains, Waterfalls, and Fjords of Norway

Join us for a tour across beautiful landscape as we visit some of Norway's most important national symbols featured in Eidsvoll, Hamar, Lillehammer, Åndalsnes, and Trollstigen. We will also travel through Western Norway's rugged terrain winding our way from Sunnmøre all the way back to Oslo.

Wednesday, May 12th 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.
Cost: \$30 Instructor: Magne Hatlevik

Krista Marie Schweppe,
Program Administrator
norsk@mnlcp.org



Velkommen til kirkekaffe!



Join us for Sunday Virtual "Kirkekaffe" at noon

May is normally a very busy month, both in our personal lives and in celebrations at Mindekirken. With lingering Covid-19 concerns, we continue to navigate together through a combination of online activities and safe public interactions. One friendly place that many have come to love is our Mindekirken Virtual *Kirkekaffe*. Join us each Sunday (except May 16) via website homepage or Facebook page.

Many of our regulars "stop by" from their cars, after various online church services, or from other states (even Norway!) because the personal fellowship and spiritual connection has deep meaning in their lives. During May you can find special themes of the week, like *Syttende Mai!*, in the descriptions on our website and in the weekly update email sent to subscribers on Fridays. *Velkommen!*

Coming by May 1:
Launch of
new church website—
Same web address,
new design!
www.mindekirken.org

Tuesday Open House—Virtual Programs May 11 and 25, 2021 at 11 a.m.

Tuesday, May 11 Piano Concert

Sara Aimée Smiseth, Oslo, Norway, returns to Tuesday Open House with a virtual performance of some of her favorite Norwegian composers. Piano music by Halfdan Kjerulf, Agathe Backer Grøndahl, David Monrad Johansen, Alf Hurum and of course Edvard Grieg. In between the music pieces she will tell stories about the music, the composers and about life in Norway the past year.



Sara Aimée Smiseth

This concert will be recorded in Haugerud kirke in Oslo — a Lutheran church built in the 1970s with a beautiful Bechstein grand piano.

Sara Aimée Smiseth (b. 1986) pursued her musical education at the Norwegian Academy of Music with professors Einar Steen-Nøkleberg and Einar Henning Smebye. In recent years she has performed close to a hundred solo recitals and lecture-concerts throughout Norway. Smiseth has also played concerts in Japan, Canada and the US. In addition to her solo career she is also working at the Norwegian Opera and Ballett as an accompanist, lecturer, and guide.

Tuesday, May 25 A Munch Mystery: by Jane Becker Nelson

In October 2018, Jane Becker Nelson initiated scientific analysis of an unattributed portrait of the violinist Eva Mudocci, believed to be by Norwegian artist Edvard Munch. Coinciding with the publication of Rima Shore's *Lady with a Brooch: Violinist Eva Mudocci*, the inquiry garnered international attention, culminating in Becker Nelson's visit to Oslo's Munchmuseet to meet with leading Munch scholars and curators. To learn more about the early stages of the inquiry, read [A Munch Mystery](#), and visit [Flaten Art Museum's website](#).

Jane Becker Nelson is Director and Curator of the Flaten Art Museum at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn. where she oversees the museum's collections and exhibitions and serves as a specialist in and advocate for visual teaching and learning. Becker Nelson has worked in museums and galleries across the U.S. and Canada, serving as curator, educator, gallery manager, and fundraiser at institutions including the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Walker Art Center, Groveland Gallery, Highpoint Center for Printmaking, Seattle Art Museum, and Agnes Etherington Art Centre in Ontario. Becker Nelson holds a BA in studio art and art history from St. Olaf College and an MA in art history from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

Zoom links to programs will be posted on www.mindekirken.org by the date of the program.



Jane Becker Nelson

Coming in June to TOH: June 8—Lin McLaughlin Bruce "It's Never Too Late to Say 'Yes' to Bigger Things"
June 22 — Historian David Jones on the History of the US Flag

Mission of the Month—IHELPFRIENDSHIP—Bohol, Philippines



Warmest thanks to the members and friends of Mindekirken on behalf of our neighbors who come to Community Emergency Services for help with their food

budget each month. When those of us who have enough share with others in need, the blessing comes around full circle. In June, we'll report the two month total of our donations to our local food shelf.

In May our Mission of the Month focus will be on helping serve the needs of a challenged community in the Philippines, through our mission partner IHELPFRIENDSHIP. Founded by Gunnar Kristiansen fifteen years ago, this organization helps with mental health services as well as education and social services on the island of Bohol. It's

a small organization making a big difference.

Please donate to this valuable service by sending a check to church, with M.O.M on the memo line or click on website mindekirken.org, "Donate to Mindekirken" button, select "Choose a fund- dedicated fund", then select the dedicated sub-fund to which you wish to contribute. If you would like help with donating online, please call the church office at (612) 874-0716. Gratefully yours,
The Board of Deacons, along with Anne Johnson & Bob Worrall

1st and 3rd Wednesdays Evening Virtual Bible Study

Bible study with Gracia Grindal will continue through May as we conclude the year of studying scenes from the Viborg Cathedral. All are welcome to our zoom meeting. We begin with conversations about how everyone is doing and start the study at 7:00 p.m. We conclude with prayer no later than 8:15.

Request a Zoom link by email from ggrindal@luthersem.edu.

Gratulerer med dagen! From Mindekirken Foundation



To our Mindekirken Foundation family -- We hope you are coping and staying well during this challenging time. We sincerely appreciate your continued support of the Foundation and Mindekirken.

Call Mindekirken or email Legacy@mindekirken.org to find out how you can leave a legacy gift and become a member of the Mindekirken Legacy Society.

**Thank you to Mindekirken Foundation
for supporting the color printing of this issue!**

**Tusen takk!
Many thanks
to all!**

Betty Lou Strand, born Nov. 19 1927, passed away on March 26, 2021 at the age of 93. Betty was a willing volunteer in all the organizations she belonged. One of her specialties was Hardanger embroidery, and her hands were never idle as she was working on a new piece. Betty and her smile was one of the first people our Tuesday Open House attendees would see as they entered the Fellowship Hall. She will be missed by many.

Betty's associate membership at Mindekirken began when Jens Dale was the pastor. Also at that time she began attending the Tuesday Open House program. Shortly before Pastor Dale went back to Norway (2005), Betty was asked to be at the donation and greeting table. Betty faithfully handled all the donations with a happy greeting and skill in managing the funds collected. In this way she was able to greet everyone and it was a special day for her each week. She missed seeing everyone during the pandemic. We extend our sympathies to her family, friends, needlework folk and fellow genealogy enthusiasts.



Betty Lou Strand

From the Treasurer *Thank you for your steady support!* Jennifer Thue

Dear members and friends of Mindekirken,

I am very excited to announce that we will launch the new Mindekirken website in May. Our current site is long overdue for an upgrade. The new site will use the same web address www.mindekirken.org so don't be surprised if the next time you visit it looks different. You will still find much of the same content just in a different format. Most importantly, you will find the online services on the home page along with links to all our programs.

To make a financial contribution, click on the "Give" button in the top right corner of the new homepage. Thank you to the

2020-21	Income	Expense	Net Income
January	\$57,225	\$32,262	\$24,963
February	\$17,795	\$30,841	-\$13,046
March	\$22,925	\$38,947	-\$16,022



web committee for their work designing the new website: Magne Hatlevik, Ingunn Henrikssen,

Jeannette Henrikssen, Jason Tang and myself.

We had 10 members and friends who directed their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Mindekirken last month – *tusen takk!*

If you are a Thrivent member, you can designate your Thrivent Choice dollars to Mindekirken by logging in to www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice."

I hope you can join us online for the Syttende Mai celebration this year. *Velkommen!*



From the President: *New Ways of Connecting with One Another*

*“Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give you.*

*I do not give to you as the world
gives. Do not let your hearts be trou-
bled and do not be afraid,”*
(John 14:27).

Syttende mai greetings to you all! May brings with it a plethora of occasions to reflect on and celebrate, including Memorial Day, Mother’s Day, as well as the blossoming of spring flowers and the promise of summer. But for Mindekirken the focus this month has always been *Syttende mai*. This May we commemorate with Norwegians everywhere the signing of the Norwegian constitution (also known as *Grunnlovsdagen* – Constitution Day). After 400 years under the rule of Denmark and wanting to avoid being ceded to Sweden after Denmark’s defeat in the Napoleonic Wars, the constitution declared Norway an independent kingdom in 1814 by the Assembly at Eidsvoll, Norway. It took almost another 100 years before Norway was entirely independent from Sweden, but by then *17. Mai* was an established national holiday. Unique among independence days, Norway celebrates in a very non-military way with children’s parades taking place all across the country, the largest in the capitol city of Oslo. Celebrations also take place across the world in Norwegian ex-pat and immigrant communities, including the United States, and of course in Minnesota.

In Minneapolis, Mindekirken has been a special place to gather and celebrate *Syttende mai* for many years and for many people, with a festival service that includes wonderful music, greetings from the consulate, a parade (*folketog*) through the neighborhood, and of course children’s games, hot dogs, and as much ice cream one can eat. There is often folk dancing and other entertainment after the parade and a chance to reunite with friends we haven’t seen in a while. Everyone is always welcome to attend and celebrate! As we once again find ourselves planning to celebrate *Syttende mai* online this year we are adding some fun new ele-



Jeannette Henriksen

ments, which you can read about on the front page.

Hipp hipp hipp hurrah!

On April 11th, at an on-line meeting of the congregation, members of Mindekirken voted to call Pastor Gunnar Kristiansen to serve as our pastor when Pastor Anne Brit Aasland moves back to Norway in the fall of 2021. Many of you know that Pastor Kristiansen served Mindekirken from 1998 to 2000 and has often been back to visit. He is eager to lead us through our Centennial in 2022 and has many plans and ideas to implement; I very am grateful the congregation moved to call him, and for the hard work of the Call Committee.

As we prepare to celebrate Norway’s constitution and independence this month it is important to reflect on the continued struggle for freedom happening today.

On April 20th a jury declared a Minneapolis police officer guilty in the murder of George Floyd. This tragedy happened just minutes from Mindekirken nearly one year ago, which set off a year of upheaval in our cities and neighborhoods across the nation and world. The verdict is another step forward in addressing systemic racism and an opportunity for healing in order to continue the work that lies ahead.

In this time of great change, when the eyes of the nation and world have been on Minneapolis again, many of us are weary. We need time for both prayerful reflection *and* purposeful action as we do the hard work of making our communities safer and better for everyone. At Mindekirken our purpose is to serve in response to God’s love to meet human needs, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations. If we want to respond to the world with compassion and love in order to make positive changes, we also need to sustain ourselves. I invite you to find such a space here at Mindekirken, a space to be present and find stillness in order to be rightfully responsive to the challenges of our time. For now our worship services continue to be offered online, but we will offer another in-person service on May 23rd, the first of what I hope will be many.

*Jeannette Henriksen
President of Congregation*

***Gratulerer
med dagen!***

A few times each year we include a mailer envelope in this newsletter, with the request that those who subscribe to the Communicator send us some support for the costs of producing this mailing.

A suggested donation is \$25 per year.

Many thanks to those who donate above and beyond this amount to make it possible to send this communication out to over 1100 homes!

The Communicator is available for free on the website (pdf format).

We love your comments of appreciation, and loyal readership!

Mange takk! Thank you so much!



Ways to support Mindekirken

throughout the year: When you shop at smile.amazon.com you can select "Mindekirken" to receive a charity percentage of the sale. These little bits add up to generate income for the church — all year long!

Mindekirken Cookbook *Vær så god!*

Cookbooks are available for \$20 (+\$7.50 shipping) by mail, or on-line order on www.mindekirken.org.
Full of Norwegian and American recipes!

We are gathering people that are willing to be on a committee (*Utegrupper*) to consider the needs regarding the grounds around the church. If you are interested, please contact: Russ Erickson, 612-695-0968 or email utegruppera@mindekirken.org Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you to these Communicator sponsors:

NORWAY ART® -- the latest news!

- Doing business offsite while Norway House location is temporarily closed
- Call or email Mary Jo, Owner, to say "Hello" or talk about Scandinavian art
- See new additional website for wonderful original Norwegian art: norwayartoriginals.com
- Some fine prints imported from Norway are still available (see: norwayartonline.com)
- Mail is being forwarded from Norway House at 913 E. Franklin, Mpls. 55404 or send to M.Thorsheim 2615 Park Ave, Mpls. 55407 ☎ Phone 612.339.7829
[Email: mjtmng@gmail.com](mailto:mjtmng@gmail.com)

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Andrea Idsø Nelson REALTOR®
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651.444.0452 Call/Text
AndreaNelson@edinarealty.com



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

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 Web page: www.mindekirken.org

Pastor: Pr. Anne Brit Aasland
annebrit@mindekirken.org
Office Manager: Kaia Knutson
office@mindekirken.org
Open Office hours: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Tues - Fri
Bookkeeper: Herb Nelson
bookkeeper@mindekirken.org
Choir Director: John De Haan
choirdirector@mindekirken.org
Organist: Jordan Buchholtz
organist@mindekirken.org

MNLCP (Language Program) Staff:
Krista Schweppe norsk@mnlcp.org
Facility Staff: Terry Parker
terry@mindekirken.org
Tuesday Open House chair: Marilyn Sorensen
TOH@mindekirken.org
Communicator Staff: Kaia Knutson

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No subscription fee – suggested \$25 per year supported by your donations.

Executive Committee 2021:
President: Jeannette Henrikssen
Vice President: (open)
Secretary: Cindy Hatlevik
Treasurer: Jennifer Thue
Chair of Deacons: Jason Tang
Chair of Trustees: Kris Grodahl
Pastor: Anne Brit Aasland

May 2021

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



Virtual Worship Services

English translations of the Norwegian sermons are available
On the church website—AND by request from the church office
*Worship services are posted on Mindekirken's website via YouTube
each Sunday morning. Pr. Anne Brit Aasland*

May 2 5 Sunday of Easter

Act 8:26-40; 1. John. 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

May 9 6 Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48; 1. John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

May 16 Syttende mai Celebration service (11 am bilingual)

1 Timothy 2:1-4; Luke 15:1-10 (Norwegian lectionary)

May 23 Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27; and 16:4b-15

*An **INPERSON bilingual** service with Holy Communion
will be offered— 11 a.m. on May 23. **Advance registration
required (for limited seating)** via the church office by
Thursday, May 20*

office@mindekirken.org or 612-874-0716

May 30 Holy Trinity

Virtual worship provided by the Minneapolis Area
Synod staff of The ELCA 1 service in English
Isaiah 6:1-8; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

Other Meetings

2nd Tuesday— May 11

Virtual meetings

6:00 Trustees

7:10 p.m. Congregation Council

Virtual Bible Study —

1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m.

Sign up to receive a daily e-mailed
hymn blog by Gracia Grindal—
contact the church office

Virtual Tuesday Open House

May 11 and May 25 at 11 a.m.

Norwegian Language & Culture

www.mnlcp.org



Mindekirken's office
continues to be in
operation during
regular weekday hours,
10 a.m.—3 p.m.

The building is closed
to all other events this
month.