

*We intend to continue in the covenant God made with us in **holy baptism**:  
to **live** among God's faithful people;  
to **hear** the word of God and **share** in the Lord's supper;  
to **proclaim** the good news of God in Christ through word and deed;  
to **serve** all people following the example of Jesus;  
and to **strive** for justice and peace in all the earth*



## A Journey to the Border

As I write this, I am reflecting on this season of Advent. Hundreds of years ago, Joseph and Mary were entering into a strange land to have Our Savior born. They were immigrants as almost all of us are. I long for us to open our hearts and minds to help when and where we can for those entering into our land as strangers.

Six years ago, I had no idea what I was getting into when Pastor Sarah asked me to be on the Global Mission/Companion Synod for the SE ELCA MN Synod. She did know that I LOVE missions – global, local, or glocal and I have loved every minute of this commitment.

Three months ago, a family friend emailed the Aarsvold's starting, "My dear Lutheran friends." She went on to say she has frequent flier miles she would give if we were going to the border. Well, on November 25<sup>th</sup>, Mindel bought 5 round trip tickets for us to go to El Paso, Texas!! God surely worked this out for us and we are very grateful for Mindel's generosity. January 12-19 will find five of us flying to El Paso, Texas and Las Cruces, New Mexico. We will be going as an AMMPARO team (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities). Late in the summer, Minneola, St. Paul's of Pine Island, and our SE MN Global Mission sent some financial help to Peace Lutheran in Las Cruces and we now have a wonderful relationship with this church.

Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup> will find us at Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey for a 2 hour worship service. ☺ Then, we will travel by van to Peace Lutheran in Las Cruces. Monday will find us at the Immigration Court in the morning and sorting out donations in the afternoon (memories of Baja come to mind!) Tuesday we will be converting the Church into a hospitality place (air mattresses, sleeping bags, medical room, etc.) Then sometime between 4 and 8 pm the bus will arrive with the refugee families! We will have dinner and accompany them through these stations we set up. Wednesday through Friday we will be helping wherever we can, whether it is playing with the children, helping the adults read a US map, going for groceries, packing up for the families when they leave or taking families to the bus station or airport. We stay with them until they get on the bus or plane.

The five of us will be staying with families from Peace Lutheran who are opening their homes and providing us with meals. Please pray for the team - Kathy, our Mission Director, Pr. Emily, DJ, my brother Mark and myself. We are hoping with this visit to experience and learn from our friends in Christ how we can help 'set a table' for our Central American Refugee Families! We are also hoping to make further mission trips down there.....hint, hint. ☺

This is a quote from December 11<sup>th</sup> Christ in Our Home, "We would do well to participate in God's inclusive work by opening our hearts and lives to people we might name as strangers." I hope and trust we will be doing this and I am thankful for this wonderful opportunity.

- Cheryl Kylo

*There, the beautiful feet are the feet of those who bring good news, the good news of God's compassion, grace, forgiveness and love.*

## January Meetings

**Stewardship Board:** January 6<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30 am

**Property Board:** January 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm

**Planning Council:** January 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 pm

**Youth Board:** January 27<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 am

## Financial Status

Nov 15<sup>th</sup> – Dec 14<sup>th</sup>

Income: \$ 10,194.25

Expense: \$ 13,194.88

**Deficit: \$ -3,000.63**

(as of December 14, 2018)



If you would like to receive a more detailed report on a monthly basis by either mail or email, please contact the office by phone or at [kileen@minneolalutheranchurch.com](mailto:kileen@minneolalutheranchurch.com).

## Financial Secretary Report

The 2018 budget approved by the congregation at the annual meeting was a total of \$124,797. This breaks down to an average of \$2400 per week. Our giving picture for operating expenses this month is:

Operating Income \$ 10,194.25

Average needed per week = \$ 2,400

Actual average per week = \$ 2,549

Building/Siding Fund Income = \$ 1,000

Feed My Starving Children = \$ 33.13

Food Shelf – Thanksgiving = \$ 207.20

Fuel Fund = \$ 60

Thanks to all who continue to give as they are able to support our ministry.

## Scrip Card Update

The Stewardship Board would like to thank all members who ordered Scrip Cards this past month. The instant rebate to Minneola from your orders amounted to \$316. Scrip funds will be used in the coming year to support Synod goals developing spiritual and resilient leaders, decrease the debt load of first called rostered ministers and support campus ministries. Our next Scrip card order will take place in May. Thanks again for your support!

## Volunteers for Habitat

I bet you thought you wouldn't be hearing from me until the spring but here I am asking for volunteers. Goodhue Habitat has purchased 2 homes to rehab for two new families. One of the homes is full with bags and garbage. It's not a fun job but we really want to get moving on the

home. If you could help us with rounding up some volunteers for us we will take teens from 16 and up.

Please help us out and try to get some volunteers. I don't have a sign up website for this so just give me a call to arrange days and times. Thanks friends and have a blessed Christmas. Jodi 507-403-7868

## December Council Update

- Minneola is finding itself to be financially solvent as 2018 comes to a close
- The 2019 budget is well under way for approval at our February Annual meeting
- We look forward to what God calls us to as a community in 2019!

## Article from USA Today



The Episcopal cathedral of Indianapolis brought its Nativity statues of the baby Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, onto its lawn early this year. In early July, Christ Church Cathedral also put together a cage made of a chain-link fence topped with barbed wire and placed the holy family inside of it.

The downtown Indianapolis church, which is the seat of the diocese including 9,000 members across the southern two-thirds of Indiana, did it as a protest of the Trump administration's zero-tolerance policy, said Stephen Carlsen, dean and rector of Christ Church Cathedral. The policy has resulted in holding families arrested near the U.S.-Mexico border in detention centers. Lee Curtis, one of the clergy serving at the cathedral, came up with the idea for the demonstration, citing Matt. 2:13–14 as the holy family being refugees seeking asylum in Egypt.

"This holy family is every family, and every family is holy," he said.

Advocacy for immigrants springs from the church's diverse congregation, Carlsen said. "This is an easy one for us," said Carlsen, a member of the Faith in Indiana group that advocates for immigrants. It doesn't feel like we're out campaigning. This is about people I know and love, and I'm going to stand with them." Mark Reckart, a member of the congregation, said he is proud of his church protesting families being detained after crossing the U.S. border. It's a perfect way to show what's happening: it's families in cages," Reckart said. Fred Andrews, a sexton at Christ Church Cathedral, said he hopes the demonstration reminds people to vote in the next election. "Somewhere along the line," Andrews said, the fact that people coming to the U.S. are "just hoping for a better life has been lost."

People walking by said the display was a powerful way to bring awareness to the situation at the border. "I think it's bold," said Matthew Roberts of Indianapolis. "It just makes me think about those families that are separated and pray for them."

Aija Evonen, a visitor from Finland, also appreciated the protest. "They were one of the first refugees," she said of the holy family. [In late June, Parkside Community Church in Sacramento, California, constructed a similar display with chicken wire, zip ties, and wood, except with the statues of Mary and Joseph separated from the baby Jesus. The church said it would continue to have the display on its lawn until all immigrant children are reunited with their parents. Bonnie Rambob, co-pastor of the United Church of Christ congregation, told a local news station that the protest was also "a theological imagination exercise to help us imagine what it would be like for our own holy family to be in this situation." ] —USA Today

### Thank You

"Mange Takk for the beautiful flower arrangement I received from you for Christmas. It is always wonderful to feel appreciated - and Minneola does a fantastic job of making people feel appreciated. You are a blessing to everyone." Mary Veiseth

*Suzanne and I agree!! Well said Mary! - Kileen*

## Christmas Family Extravaganza

Minneola It is an utter joy and privilege to watch you all embody your generous and tender hearts each Advent season. This year was no exception as you all came together to give, give, give. Here is 2018's Christmas Families by the numbers: 5 families, 20 children, 7 parents, approx. 73 gifts wrapped, 5 grocery cards, 3 deliveries and the amount of joy from finding, signing up, purchasing, wrapping and giving much less the receiving...priceless. Honestly siblings in Christ, I am once again awed, inspired and overwhelmed by the love of Jesus that shines through this community's tender and generous heart. Thank you!

- Pr. Hannah

### Happy Anniversary

Brittany and Joshua Arndt 1/11

### Happy Birthday

Mandi Kylo-Lunde 1/02

Greg Blakstad 1/04

Paula Blakstad 1/07

Paul Hokanson 1/07

Brantlee Sprick 1/07

Tanner Morseth 1/08

Mary Hartfield 1/09

Mindy Hartgers 1/10

Lil Aarsvold 1/11

Bennett Shelton 1/11

Yvonne Skordahl 1/12

Laden Nerison 1/14

Janelle O'Brien 1/14

Sophia McClure 1/20

Karen Kylo 1/24

Ashley Hartfield 1/25

Vanessa Olson 1/26



### Excerpt from "He Came Down"

*He came down that we may have love,  
He came down that we may have light,  
He came down that we may have peace,  
He came down that we may have joy;  
Hallelujah forevermore.*



# January, 2019

## Minneola Lutheran Church

13628 County 50 Blvd  
 Goodhue, MN 55027  
 Telephone Church Office: 507-824-2685  
 Rev. Hannah Bergstrom de Leon Cell: 952-564-7002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b> 9:30 am Women's Bible Study	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>  10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Stewardship Board	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Property Board 7:30 pm Planning Council	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 10:30 am Worship w/communion	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Quilting 6:00 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 10:30 am Worship Adult Choir to sing	<b>21</b> 	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 6:00 pm Confirmation	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:00 am Youth Board 10:30 am Worship w/communion	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7:00 pm Bread of Stone Concert for Confirmands			
	<i>We wish you a Blessed 2019!</i>			<b>Upcoming Events:</b> No Sunday School in January Annual Meeting - February 2 <sup>nd</sup>		