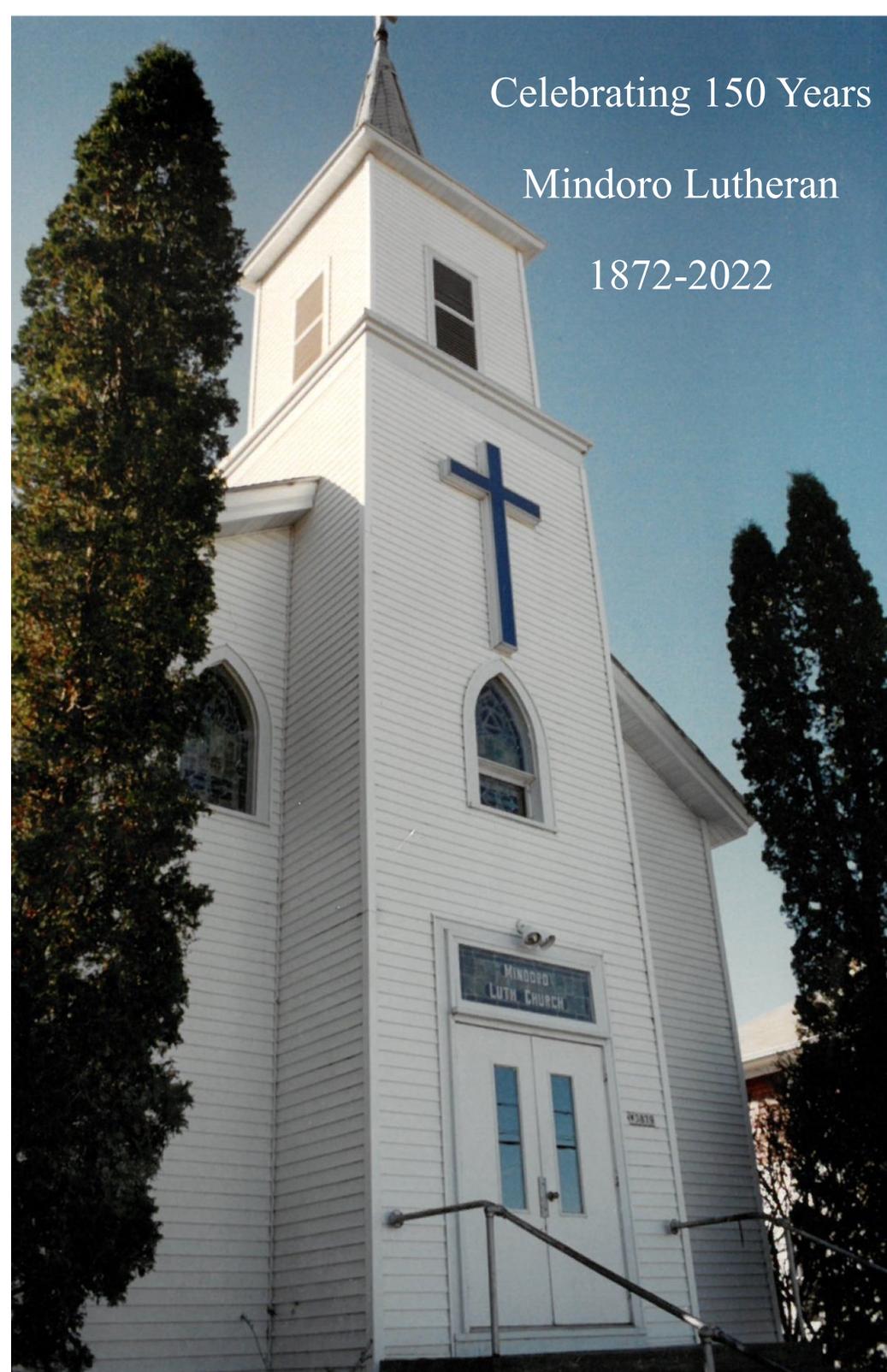


In the past 25 years, we've seen so many wonderful memorials given to our church and shared with our community. We are so fortunate to have many parishioners who willingly volunteer their time and talents. Over the years, many quilts were made and sent to missions overseas or were gifts given to area charities when needed. The late Mildred Timm made many mittens for years. The ladies make shawls, caps, and lap robes. There's a garden on the east side of our church. Many memorials have been given to beautify the area, and our Nativity is in place each Advent season.

Our W-ELCA had members travel to Mississippi with more first aid supplies. We take supplies to the food pantry at West Salem Lutheran Church yearly. Recently, our church added a "Little Food Pantry". Anyone in the community can use it. W-ELCA members volunteer to help serve free meals at area churches. We cooked meals for the Warming Center in La Crosse for many years. We bake and deliver cookies to Campus Ministry. We have 200+ wonderful, caring members at Mindoro Lutheran Church.



Celebrating 150 Years

Mindoro Lutheran

1872-2022

Mindoro Lutheran Church
150th Anniversary Worship
Service of Celebration
Sunday, June 5, 2022

Bishop Felix Malpica, Guest Preacher
Jack Glennie, Lector
Barb Anderson, Organist
David & Mary Kastenschmidt, Greeters
Theme: "A Church's One Foundation"

We extend a very special welcome to Bishop Malpica for being here today.
Your presence makes Mindoro Lutheran's 150th Anniversary Celebration even more eventful.

We are pleased to welcome former pastors and their spouses: Pastor Fred & Kai Thoni; Pastor Mark Jolivette, Pastor Janet Wollam & Dana Fisher, and Pastor Kris & Tom Fahey. Thank you for being part of our celebration.

Everyone is invited to stay for the anniversary lunch in the basement after our anniversary program.

Thank you to each and every one, for sharing this day with us!!



Chauncey & Mary Stetzer
67 years on July 16, 2022



Jacob & Lindsay Bryhn - May 14, 2022



Randolph (Rusty) & Bernice Opland - 66 years on June 9, 2022



Dale & Betty Kirchner - 66 years on June 30, 2022



Mona Jolivette



Ruby Knudson



Grace
Kastenschmidt



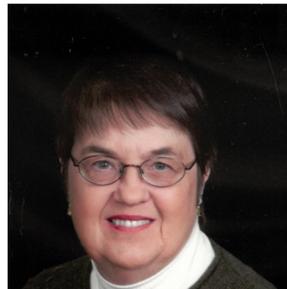
Gail Kirchner



Shirley Olson



Dorothy Christianson



Alice Baumer



Mary Phillips



Gloria Beaser



Bob Sbraggia



Bill Cox

DAY OF PENTECOST
JUNE 5, 2022
10:00AM
AND LIVE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

Please stand as able at parts marked *

PRELUDE

WELCOME BY CINDY TRACEY, MINDORO CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

* THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation. For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne: through the earth, through the city, through every living thing. You rescued Noah and his family from the flood; You opened wide the sea for the Israelites. Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever. You open the gate of righteousness and we pass safely through. In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters. You nourish us and enclose us in safety. You call us forth and send us out. In lush and barren places, you are with us. You have become our salvation. Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more. Claim us again as your beloved and holy people.

Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear. To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb, be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever. **Amen.**

* HYMN..... *The Church's One Foundation* v. 1 and 2.....654

* GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

* KYRIE (SPOKEN)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

God our creator, **the resurrection of your Son offers life to all the peoples of earth. By your Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love, empowering our lives for service and our tongues for praise, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

* ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

O God, **you have promised through your Son to be with your church forever. We give you thanks for those who founded this community of believers and for the signs of your presence in our congregation. Increase in us the spirit of faith and love, and make our fellowship an example to all believers and to all nations. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:1-21 “Filled with the Spirit to tell God’s deeds”
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b..... “Send forth your Spirit and
renew the face of the earth.” Ps. 104:30
Romans 8:14-17 “The Spirit makes us children of God”

STATISTICS OF MINDORO LUTHERAN

Oldest Male Members: (over 80 years young) Chauncey Stetzer, Dale Kirchner, Randolph Opland, Robert Sbraggia, Bill Cox

Oldest Female Members: (over 90 years young) Ramona Jolivette, Ruby Knudson, (and over 80 years young) Mary Stetzer, Grace Kastenschmidt, Gail Kirchner, Shirley Olson, Dorothy Christianson, Bernice Opland, Betty Kirchner, Alice Baumer, Mary Phillips, Gloria Beaser

Longest Married Couples at Mindoro Lutheran: Chauncey & Mary Stetzer, Randolph & Bernice Opland, Dale & Betty Kirchner

Oldest Male Member confirmed at Mindoro Lutheran: Randolph Opland

Oldest Female Members confirmed at Mindoro Lutheran: Ruby Knudson, Mary Stetzer, Gail Kirchner, Betty Kirchner, Ramona Jolivette (as an adult on 01/29/1953), Alice Baumer, Shirley Olson (as an adult on 06/03/1956), Dorothy Christianson (as an adult on 04/08/1954)

Oldest Male Members baptized at Mindoro Lutheran: Dennis Hugh Goodenough, Gary Donald Goodenough

Oldest Female Members baptized at Mindoro Lutheran: Ruby Jean (Anderson) Knudson, Mary Janice (Olson) Stetzer, Gail Ann (Sullivan) Kirchner, (Shirley Olson baptized as an Adult in 04/05/1956), Betty Jean (Tracey) Kirchner, Alice Joanne (Tracey) Baumer

Youngest Male Member baptized at Mindoro Lutheran: James Christopher Loken, son of Thomas & Heather Loken.

Youngest Female Member baptized at Mindoro Lutheran: Harley Lynn Hanson, daughter of Brian & Jenna Hanson.

Newly Married Couple at Mindoro Lutheran: Jacob & Lindsay (George) Bryhn



Dennis Goodenough



Gary Goodenough

Pastor Alyssa Mitchell

Greetings People of MLC and happy 150th!

Jared, Lucas and I are living way out in the country (not in a town at all) North of Vermillion, SD. I am serving a little two-point parish, they are new to each other and I am pleased to be bringing all of the wisdom that you have established with Lewis Valley to make your relationship with one another so beautiful and successful. I hope to help them to follow your example of friendship and joy in the work of the Gospel.



Jared is commuting to Sioux Falls, SD to work at the Washington Pavilion where he manages the Box Office team and all ticket sales for the shows, concerts, science center, and museums.

Lucas, is now one and getting his own little personality. He is minutes away from learning to walk and then there will be no stopping him! He is the light of our world.

I am confident that the next 150 years of Mindoro Lutheran Church will be full of wonderful things as you continue to grow deeper in your commitment to the proclamation of the Gospel and care of the community around you!

Peace and prayers to you!

Pastor Alyssa Mitchell (2018-2021)

Sunday School 2021/2022



Spring Yard Clean-Up Helpers
May 2022

- * The Holy Gospel according to John, the 14th chapter.
- * **Glory to you, O Lord.**
- * John 14:8-17 [25-27] “The Father will give you another Advocate, the Spirit of truth”
- * **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON Bishop Felix Malpica

* HYMN..... *The Church’s One Foundation* v. 3 and 4..... **654**

* APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

OFFERING

* OFFERING PRAYER

**Living God, you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in
your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach
out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen
body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord. Amen.**

* GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

* PREFACE AND SANCTUS

* WORDS OF INSTITUTION

* THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name. Amen.

* BLESSING

God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ☩ bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

* HYMN*The Church's One Foundation* v. 5 654

* DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
Go in peace. Tell what God has done. **Thanks be to God.**

* POSTLUDE

Policy, and the board of World Services Inc. He still serves our synod as a supply pastor.

Two months after leaving the Mindoro and Lewis Valley parish, he was appointed to the national command leadership of the Navy, USMC, and Coast Guard Reserve chaplaincies, as well as being appointed the Mobilization Officer for chaplains and their assistants. He retired from the Navy in 2009, with the rank of Captain (O-6) after 30 years' service.

Sharon had started her Master's in Nursing from Case Western Reserve University in her hometown of Cleveland OH while here, and received it in 2007. She retired in 2018, as an advance practice nurse practitioner, first as a midwife and then doing women's health at Options Inc. She moved her parents to La Crosse from Cleveland, and on the day Mark retired, he did her father's funeral, having lived to the age of 100.

An update on their three daughters: Karin is a pediatric genetic counselor for the University of Iowa Hospitals in Iowa City, with two children. Anne is an English Language Learners' teacher at Osseo MN high school, also with two children. Serena teaches high school vocal music at Edina MN high school.

Both Mark and Sharon are members of the Rotary Club of La Crosse, where Mark is an upcoming president. They have enjoyed being home hosts for Rotarians from Norway, Sweden, Latvia, and Argentina. In 2010, they moved from Onalaska to the south side of La Crosse, where they live on the backwaters of the Mississippi with their mini-golden doodle Callie. On November 4th, they will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

Pastor Janet Wollam

In 2019, Pastor Janet started the Creation Care Committee at the synod. She is also a supply pastor.



Interim Pastor Kris Fahey

Pastor Kris was our long-term interim pastor. She was with us for three years.

Pastoral Ministry:

Pastor, Mindoro & Lewis Valley 1991-1995
Associate Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church (Muscatine, Iowa) 1996-2000
Associate Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church (Hampton, IA) 2000-2002
Pastor, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (Edgerton, WI) 2005-2014
Pastor, Cooksville Lutheran Church (Evansville, WI) 2015-2020

Personal Life:

I loved growing up on a farm and remain close to my family, with many visits and game nights over the years. My mom and dad have passed, as well as the untimely death of a brother and sister to cancer. It has been a gift to live near some of my family for half of my ministry years.

David Griffen and I married at Mindoro in 1993. We parted ways in 2002. In 2005, I married Kevin Brekke and we just had our 17th Anniversary! I am the luckiest woman in the world. He is the love of my life and I am unbelievably happy in our marriage!

After having back pain for many years, since 2016 it intensified and through many MRI's and 2 back surgeries, I learned that my spine is severely arthritic and is pushing on my spinal cord in a few places. I have had two back surgeries. I have nerve pain and weakness in my legs, so now I use a walker. I retired 1 1/2 years ago because of these difficulties.

My last call was as special as my first. I served a rural congregation in the lovely village of Cooksville (even smaller than Mindoro!). It is a lovely drive just 10 miles from our home. We remain members of this congregation.



Rev. Dr. Mark E. Jolivette



Pastor Jolivette (1997-2006) moved to Our Saviors Lutheran Church in downtown La Crosse, from which he retired in 2016. There he served as pastor of the only Reconciling in Christ congregation in our synod, where he advocated for the full inclusion of the LGBTQIA+ Community in the life of our church. He also was deeply involved in neighborhood work with the poor, unsheltered, and those wandering the street due to addictions and untreated mental health issues. While there, he was West Conference Dean and served on the Synod Council, the board of Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, the board of Lutheran Office of Public

Mindoro Lutheran Church
150th Anniversary Program

PRELUDE

WELCOME..... Cindy Tracey, Church Council President

HYMN *Great Is Thy Faithfulness v. 1 & 3* 733

GREETING

SPECIAL MUSIC *Me and God* Rich Sinclair

HISTORY Betty Kirchner

SPECIAL MUSIC *He Was There All the Time* Ginny Wegner

CLOSING

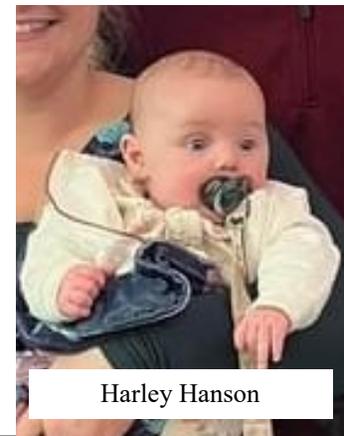
TABLE PRAYER Ginny Wegner

Thank you to the 150th Anniversary Committee: Rita Cox, Mary Kastenschmidt, Betty Kirchner, Debbie Kirchner, Debbie Peterson, Sandy Stetzer, Cindy Tracey, and Mona Van Riper.

Our youngest members baptized at Mindoro Lutheran.



James Loken



Harley Hanson

HISTORY OF MINDORO LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Mindoro Lutheran Church, or as it was originally known, the Upper Lewis Valley Congregation, was organized on May 21, 1872, in the Ole Simonsen home by the Rev JB Frick, then pastor of the Halfway Creek Lutheran parish. A total of 23 were charter members: Mr & Mrs Ole Simonsen and son Bernt, Mr and Mrs Peder Eliassen, Anthinus Anderson, Mr and Mrs Nils Mikkelson, Mr and Mrs Nils Severson, Ole Monson, Mr and Mrs Ole Nilsen, Mr and Mrs Syvert Johnson, Mr and Mrs Erick Olson, Mr and Mrs Johannes Anderson, Mr and Mrs Syvert Anderson, Mr and Mrs Knut Ingebretson.

With a steady increase in membership it became increasingly difficult to accommodate the people at services in the homes. So arrangements were made to have services in the Seventh Day Adventist Church. This continued for several years. It is interesting to note that one of the early janitors was a former negro slave who was known as "Uncle Jack" Taylor. Most of these families lived in Wet Coulee and Severson Coulee.

In 1880, the congregation acquired its first cemetery grounds, the Wet Coulee Cemetery. This land is located on a high and picturesque hill. It was a gift from the Peder Eliassen family. Their two year old son Peder Jr. was the first to be laid to rest in the cemetery, having also been the first child baptized in the congregation after its organization. This cemetery was dedicated at a special service by Pastor Frick on September 20, 1880. It was at this meeting that Pastor Hjort was hired. It is interesting to note that his salary was \$3 for each service plus an offering at Christmas. Later it was agreed to take care of the Pastor's expenses for "himself and his team" in case it was necessary for him to resort to hotel accommodations. This may seem like a small sum, but people of that day gave of their poverty, where we give of our abundance.

Pastor Wollert Frick resigned as pastor of the parish in May 1882 and returned to Norway and was replaced by Pastor O.C.O. Hjort. The congregation now had grown to 31 families.

But renting a church is not the same as owning a church; therefore, at a congregational meeting in 1886, the matter of buying a church was introduced. It was decided \$400 asked was too high for the price of the

Elmwood Church in St. Anthony Village, a north Minneapolis suburb. I served the Elmwood congregation for 17 years. After which I sensed it was time to slow down a bit and I accepted half time position at North Heights Lutheran Church as the Director of Healing Ministry. This is where I currently serve. After 17 years at Northwestern, Kai left the University during the COVID pandemic. She is now busy teaching and ministering to the women at North Heights and volunteering at our North Heights Christian Academy.

Kari and John are now in their thirties. Kari teaches second grade at our academy and John is top sales rep at Tacheny Exteriors. We have four adorable grandchildren, Bennett (9), Landon (8), Bryton (7), and Josephine (5). They all attend North Heights Christian Academy and live nearby.

This summer is the 40th anniversary of my ordination. For this Wisconsin farm boy, it has been an incredible journey of high adventure with the Holy Spirit. I am so grateful to the Lord for our time at Lewis Valley and Mindoro. You taught me much and graciously allowed me to preach and minister the Word of the Lord among you. To God be the glory!

Pastor Karla (Schollmeyer) Brekke

Re-cap: Pre-Mindoro 1991

I grew up in rural Southern Wisconsin with my parents and 5 siblings next to my grandfather's small farm. As a youth and young adult I was active in my home congregation, Luther Valley. I Affirmed Faith in Christ in 1971 and after high school remained active in choir, youth group, and other church groups, becoming a leader.

I was a nursing assistant at a hospital for several years, then graduated college in Indiana, and was the Christian Education & Youth Director at a church in Rockford, Illinois. I entered Wartburg Seminary and graduated in 1991, was ordained 5/26/91 and became your pastor a week later!

The years at Mindoro/Lewis Valley:

I loved my years as your pastor! The people in the congregation and community were the best parishioners and neighbors I could have hoped for. The Mindoro church building, sanctuary and Pastor's Office was so beautiful. The sanctuary is filled with the praises of many generations. I loved all aspects of pastoral ministry among you: worship, group meetings, special events, confirmation classes, VBS, home visits, baptisms, funerals, council, etc.

The Mindoro village and La Crosse area remains the most beautiful natural surroundings that in which I have lived. I enjoyed being the resident pastor for members as well as for the community for town celebrations. I grew close to those I visited regularly. And I will never forget the cheer-filled chats with Margaret Eide who lived across from the church and often invited me over for coffee!



who have been witnesses of God's love in your life. Today, give thanks that God is working in you and through you to pass on your faith in a living and loving Lord.

I am sorry Judy and I will not be with you in person, but be assured that you are in our thoughts and prayers. I have fond memories of our years at Mindoro and Lewis Valley. As a pastor, I could not have hoped for more loving and faithful congregations. May God continue to bless you and keep you in your witness and ministry as you pass on the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor Miles Renaas

Pastor Renaas's email sign-off is:

Å skynde seg langsomt

A Norwegian expression that means "hurry slowly"

(Get there but be patient)

Pastor Fred & Kai Thoni



We left Mindoro in the summer of 1990 with our five-year-old daughter, Kari, and new baby John. We went from eight years of rural ministry to city life. At this time, I joined the pastoral staff of East Immanuel Lutheran Church on the east side of Saint Paul, Minnesota. During my seminary training, I had done my contextual education at East Immanuel. We served at East Immanuel for twelve years. During this time, we bought a house near Lake Phalen in St. Paul. Kai developed computer skills and began to work at an insurance agency, then for the Roseville school district, and eventually several Christian schools. I became greatly involved in men's ministry, the pro-life movement, the national leadership of the Lutheran charismatic movement, and began to travel nationally and internationally as a renewal speaker.

Kari and John attended Christian elementary schools in the area. Ultimately, they both graduated from Concordia Lutheran High School in Roseville, MN. They were both very active in community sports and church youth life.

A significant change occurred in the fall of 2002, when Kai joined the staff of Northwestern College (now University of Northwestern St. Paul) as an administrative assistant to the Deans in the Student Life Department. Shortly after this, I was called to

Adventist church where they were having services. A committee was selected to negotiate renting the Presbyterian Church. Records show that services were soon held here.

Pastor Hjort preached his farewell sermon at Mindoro June 26, 1887. Rev U.C.S. Hjermstad succeeded him and served the church until December 1902. It is noted that his salary was increased from \$36 to \$100 a year plus an additional offering. It was during this time, on April 23, 1896, the congregation purchased the Presbyterian Church for \$610.

The Ladies Aid was formed in 1890; the first choir was organized in 1897 and the Young People's Society (Luther League) in 1907 or 1908.

Thoughts of realigning the parish were consolidated in 1905 when action was taken to form a new parish. Congregations in La Crosse Valley and Burns Valley voted to join the Mindoro Congregation and the pastor (Pastor Turmo) lived in West Salem. The Mindoro congregation voted to raise \$600 toward the purchase of the parsonage in West Salem.

One son of the congregation, Rev BA Johnson was ordained in 1908. He was serving at Decorah, Iowa at the time of his death in November 1961.

In 1909, Pastor Turmo accepted a call in North Dakota. Rev. O. Otterson was called and stayed with the congregation for 33 years.

In 1911, several improvements were made to the church, including a full basement, in addition to the chancel and balcony, and also the installation of complete chancel furniture and stained glass windows.

In 1930, Silver Tea Circles were organized for the women of the congregation.

In 1942, Rev. Otterson closed his ministry here, retiring in July after 50 years of active ministry.

Rev Charles T. Paulson of Rolette, North Dakota, was installed in October. Membership increased. The Sunday school was organized. The Every-Member-Envelope was introduced which resulted in increased contributions. Sunday school attendance was over 70 in

1945. Pastor Paulson resigned in 1945 and moved to Clamar, Iowa.

On April 15, 1945, Rev. O.T. Haaland of Cyrus, Minnesota, was installed by Pastor George Ulvilden, Vice President of the Eastern District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

In 1946, the congregation officially became a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Synod after 74 years as an independent congregation.

On 1949, Joyce L. Ranum of West Hempstead, New York, was called to serve our congregation. He was installed on September 18, 1949; he resigned in 1954 to establish a new congregation in the Edina-Hopkins area in Minnesota.

In 1950, a new sacristy, altar area, kitchen and restroom facilities in the basement, plus oil heat, electric stoves and running water were added.

In 1954, the present two-point parish was formed with Lewis Valley.

A new parsonage was built in Mindoro. Much of the work was donated by members of the parish.

Pastor Winston Grant was installed on June 26, 1955. Pastor and Mrs. Grant and son Stephan were the first to live in the parsonage.

October 9, 1955, was the Dedication and Open House of the new Lutheran Parsonage in Mindoro. Pastor Richard Holleque of West Salem officiated.

In 1957, Sunday school attendance was up to 120.

In 1959, the Circles adopted names of Biblical women.

In 1960, Rev. O. Rolf Olson came to serve our churches.

Mindoro was a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church until 1960 when the American Lutheran Church was formed from the merging of smaller synods on January 1, 1961.

In October 1962, there were 422 baptized members and 287

For 17 years I did not serve as a minister. I remodeled kitchens in the Mason City, IA, area; worked as a receptionist/office manager at a dental office in West Des Moines; led personal growth seminars; and I was a massage therapist for 9 years. In 2008, I was granted Privilege of Call in the United Church of Christ. I have been an Interim pastor in 5 different UCC congregations in central Iowa.

I was in a relationship with David Llewelyn for 20 years. We lived in West Des Moines where David was a Dentist. We were married in 2009 after the Iowa Supreme Court made same-sex marriage legal. David died February 1, 2012.

As of June 4, Fred Breen and I have been in a committed relationship for 10 years and we live in Des Moines.

About the children:
Larisa and her husband, Hai Tong, live in Sacramento, CA. Their twins Violet and Elliot just completed their freshman year of high school. Amy and Vince Keenan live near Peoria, IL. Their oldest child, Elizabeth lives in Wausau where she is studying to be a dental hygienist. Owen just graduated from high school and is heading to the University of Alabama to study engineering. Lilya just graduated from eighth grade. Choi and his significant other, Maureen Millard, live in Houston, TX, where Choi has a management position with UPS.

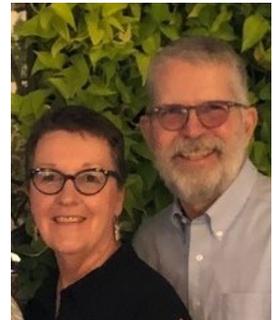
I'm grateful for a life different from what I expected but I am richly blessed and I thank God!

Paul Johnson
pastorpauljohnson@me.com

Pastor Miles & Judy Renaas

Dear sisters & brothers in Christ,

I offer my greetings and my prayers to all the members of Mindoro Lutheran Church as you celebrate your anniversary. As I reflect on the witness and ministry of all the members of Mindoro Lutheran over these past 150 years, I recall Paul's word to Timothy, "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you." (2 Timothy 1:5) Paul's word to Timothy describes the way our faith is passed on, one person to another. During this congregational celebration, we need to remember how we have come to this place and time. Today, give thanks for your grandparents and parents who shared their faith with you. Today, give thanks for your Sunday school teachers and pastors who helped you grow and mature in your faith. Today, give thanks for the men and women, the boys and girls, who worship with you Sunday after Sunday. Today, give thanks for the neighbors and friends and family



Pastor Paul A. Johnson

I was ordained at my home church, Hope Lutheran in Ladysmith, Wisconsin, on June 4, 1972. That's 50 years ago.

My first parish as a minister was St. John, Harrisville, and St. Paul, Crystal Lake. (Montello, Wisconsin)



In 1974 I accepted a call to Mindoro Lutheran Church and Lewis Valley Lutheran Church. My wife, Yvonne, and I, along with our two year old daughter, Larisa, moved into the parsonage at Mindoro on October 30, 1974. The next day we had over 100 trick or treaters come to our door — we were ready. During our 7 years at Mindoro we added two more children. Amy was born in 1975 and Choi arrived from Korea as a 2 1/2 year old.

During our time at Mindoro, the Lewis Valley Church burned. The Mindoro congregation graciously hosted the Lewis Valley congregation for a year while the new church was being built.

In the bicentennial year a large celebration was held in Mindoro and I rode a white horse at the front of the parade, dressed like Paul Revere. I was very active in the Mindoro Lions Club. On Memorial Day each year, I prayed in 3 cemeteries: Lewis Valley Cemetery, Mindoro Cemetery, and Wet Coulee Cemetery.

We built our own house in Mindoro and we heated it with wood I cut on Rusty and Bernice Opland's farm.

I remember with gratitude and thanks the opportunities for pastoral work at Mindoro: leading worship and preaching, baptisms, teaching confirmation class, officiating at wedding and funerals, and providing pastoral care to the wonderful people of the congregation. If I were with you today, I would like to look at the list of baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and funerals in the church record book during my time there.

The congregation also ministered to me when I struggled with serious depression.

I thank God for you and congratulate you on your 150th anniversary!

In 1981, I accepted a call to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Viroqua. With the merger that formed the ELCA in 1988, I became the Assistant to the Bishop of the La Crosse Area Synod.

That position ended when I was outed to the Bishop as gay in May 1991. I had struggled with my sexuality for many years. It was a very difficult time for Yvonne and our children. Yvonne and I divorced. Yvonne continued to live in the La Crosse area and is now married to Lee Cade.

confirmed. There were 127 in Sunday school and Bible classes.

In 1968, Rev. Ivan Vallem became our pastor.

In the fall of 1971, storm windows were bought and installed on the church and basement.

In 1974, Pastor Paul Johnson was called to serve our congregations.

In 1981, Pastor Miles Renaas was called to serve us.

In 1987, Pastor Frederick Thoni was called to serve us. The American Lutheran Church merged with two other Lutheran bodies to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the ELCA.

In 1991, Pastor Karla Schollmeyer was called to serve us.

In May 1994, we dedicated our new addition. It was built at the front of the church. An elevator was added, as well as an enlargement of the narthex, a new office, a restroom, two classrooms, and a new east-side entrance.

In 1996, Pastor Karla Schollmeyer Griffen accepted a call in Muscatine, Iowa. From June 1996 – June 1997, our congregations were served by Interim Pastor Jean Kloss and Bishop Emeritus Stefan Guttormsson, as well as supply pastors. The "With One Voice" Hymnal was purchased and is used along with the green "Lutheran Book of Worship". In 1997, building improvements included new shingles put on the roof, and new carpeting in the basement and the Pastor's office.

In July 1997, Rev. Mark Jolivette accepted our call with 445 baptized members and 356 confirmed members.

In 1998, a Rodgers digital organ with MIDI was purchased and dedicated. A new exterior entrance stairway was added by the Pastor's office along with book shelving.

In 1999, the stained glass windows were reinforced, releaded in places, and had broken pieces replaced.

In 2000, the Parsonage roof and garage roof were resingled, 16 new windows, and a door were trimmed. A ceiling exhaust fan was replaced in the bathroom.

In 2002, Lay Eucharist ministry was started with six members volunteering to visit our shut-ins. An amendment to our constitution's bylaws was unanimously made to allow all baptized children to begin communing on a regular basis at a time determined through mutual conversation that includes the pastor, child, parents, and sponsors within the accepted practices of the congregation.

We continue our strong partnership with Sugar Creek Bible Camp. Quilts are given each year to be sold at their auction in September. We are happy to sponsor our young members to camp each summer.

In 2003, Pastor Mark Jolivette was granted a four month sabbatical.

In January 2006, the Hearts & Hammers Vision Team, headed by Tim Adamson, spent January 27 to February 4 in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, to help with clean-up following the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. Other trips were made. Support continues.

In 2006, Pastor Mark Jolivette accepted a call to Our Savior's in La Crosse. Pastor Dennis Snyder served us February and March; Pastor Luther Larson served us during the Lenten season; and, Pastor Jeff Reutten was our interim pastor April through November.

On December 6, 2006, we welcomed our new Pastor, Jerene Houser.

In 2007, thanks to Pastor Houser's guidance, Mindoro and Lewis Valley began having JOINT council meetings, along with their individual meetings, alternating congregation meeting places.

In 2007, Mindoro Lutheran celebrated 135 years. Pastor Houser helped with our celebration. A potluck dinner was served; memorial plates could be purchased.

In 2008, church members helped Pastor Houser move to Colorado to be with friends as her health declined.

enjoyable and interesting ride, though we first had to negotiate climatic conditions within the vehicle among ourselves. The Lewis Valley delegate drove. He was feeling the cold, wearing gloves and turning the heater on high. The Mindoro delegate sat beside him in front, but he wanted to smoke and have the window open. Trudy and I rode in the back seat. It was hay fever season, and I really didn't want the window open, though I did I think it was rather warm inside the vehicle with the heater on. Trudy was the one rider who did not have a preference that would complicate matters further. Fortunately, we managed to politely resolve these distinct differences and completed our long drive. We thought we had successfully reached our destination upon arrival in the Twin Cities, only to discover that we were all placed in different hotels. (The pastoral vacancy before our arrival had prevented properly coordinated housing arrangements.) More driving was required until each passenger was deposited at their respective hotel.

When the National Convention concluded at the end of the work week, we returned home just in time for a wedding rehearsal. The next day, the day of the wedding in that first week following Easter, was blisteringly hot. Just a week later, in complete contrast, we had snow.

Adding to our first Lenten Season and the just after, the Mindoro Church Council had willingly and readily agreed to drive me to every home in the congregation for a first visit. This was an ambitious and time-consuming task for all of us during Lent, but an immeasurably helpful one for becoming fully acquainted with the congregation. All Council members were happy to take part. I appreciated their willingness and helpfulness very much.

In addition to all this, during that same Lenten season, the Bishop came to officially install me as your pastor at a Sunday morning service. He stayed overnight Saturday at the Parsonage with us. He retired about ten o'clock that evening. After he did so, Trudy and I sat a few more moments to catch our breaths. Suddenly the phone rang. We were informed that another Lewis Valley member was seriously ill in a La Crosse hospital. We immediately set out for the hospital and we were up for most of the night. As the night ended and the sun was rising, we made our way back to the Parsonage. I guess I did wonder for a moment whether I would be in shape for the Sunday morning installation service. Fortunately, the Bishop was preaching the sermon, which was most helpful. We made it through the installation service, despite the lack of a previous night's sleep, and all went smoothly. Even more fortunately and unexpectedly, the Lewis Valley lady lived through the night. In fact, she gradually and slowly recovered. Then she lived for another 40 years!

Once again, during this extraordinarily busy season, the members of Mindoro Lutheran Congregation were extraordinarily kind, understanding, and very supportive.

Thank you again to the Mindoro Lutheran Congregation! God's Blessings on Your 150th anniversary!

Sincerely,
Pastor O. Rolf Olson

Our first step into active ministerial life. I had been ordained into the Holy Ministry just the week before.

That very first evening in the Parsonage, I was informed that a lady belonging to the Lewis Valley congregation was near death in a La Crosse hospital. Not knowing the City of La Crosse at all, I took Trudy along, and we found our way in the dark of the evening to the hospital to call on the lady and her family.

The next day happened to be Ash Wednesday. In the morning, I again called on the ill Lewis Valley lady. She passed away during that day.

In the evening, I presided over Ash Wednesday Services at the Lewis Valley church.

The next evening (Thursday), I presided over Ash Wednesday Services at the Mindoro church. (We were following the Lenten schedule set out by my predecessor.)

On Saturday, I presided at the Lewis Valley funeral service for the lady member who had passed away. Thus concluded our very busy first week in the Mindoro/Lewis Valley parish, all before I had presided over a single Sunday service.

The Lenten Season continued for over a month and a half. Confirmation classes, Luther League events, Church Women's meetings, and Church Council meetings all took place during that time, in addition to weekly Lenten services.

To add to the schedule, on the Saturday before Easter our personal schedule required us to journey to Minnesota, where Trudy was the vocal soloist for her cousin's wedding service.

Easter Sunday arrived. Following the Parish Schedule already set out for that year, the Lewis Valley Church had the first service. The service went smoothly and as expected. Arriving at Mindoro, however, I had a total surprise: I could not get into the Sacristy! The sacristy was full of over-flow congregation members. The Head Usher was doing the only thing he could do by seating people there. After coming to grips with my initial confusion, I went down to the church basement to put on my vestments for the Service.

As the Easter Service began, there was another surprise. I knelt at the Altar for the Opening Prayer (as the Order of Service prescribed at that time). I was startled once again, this time to find that my face had gone right into a bank of flowers. Here again, the space was limited and the only position available for the Altar Guild to place the flowers was directly at the altar. It took me a moment to realize what was happening, but I drew my head back from the floral arrangements and managed to recite the Opening Prayer. I generally have allergic reactions when near any flowering plants, so I was grateful that my usual hay fever did not kick in.

The very next day, the Monday after Easter Sunday, four of us set out for the National Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Body (E.L.C.) in Minneapolis, a few hours' drive. In our E.L.C., every congregation was entitled to one delegate, and every pastor was automatically a delegate to that huge convention of 3,000 members. It was an

In March 2008, Pastor Janet Wollam came to serve us.

In 2008, the parsonage lot line was marked and recorded. Both Mindoro and Lewis Valley are on the deed to the parsonage property.

In 2009, the new cranberry hymnal, the "Evangelical Lutheran Worship", was introduced to replace the green hymnal, the "Lutheran Book of Worship".

In early December 2009, the Hearts & Hammers Team received a call for help from Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Tim Adamson and John McRae headed to the reservation on December 15. A huge load with a variety of supplies was soon on its way due to the generosity of our congregations.

In February 2010, Leon Pfaff and Pete Mades, hauled a load of medical supplies to Pine Ridge Reservation. The supplies were used by the volunteers from Gundersen Lutheran at Pine Ridge. Included in this load were many new Columbia coats. It was touching to watch the children pick out their new coats.

In 2011, our new website launched. The vision teams were added as a new format of church council.

In 2014, a new audio-visual system was installed, including a new sound system, a large screen, and a projector system. A large handmade cross was also installed in the east garden area, a memorial from the Robert and Elizabeth Tracey family.

In September 2015, Pastor Janet Wollam retired; and in November, Pastor Kris Fahey became our Interim Pastor.

In February 2017, the church had its first Carnival Fundraiser.

In June 2018, newly-ordained Pastor Alyssa Weber accepted our call. On July 28, 2018, Pastor Alyssa married Jared Mitchell. We then had Pastor Alyssa Mitchell serving us.

In September 2018, our church services became a part of Sunday morning activities at the Mindoro Lions Spanferkel for the first time.

COVID-19 continues to challenge us.

From March 16, 2020, through April 2021, the church building was closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Pastor Alyssa had worship virtually on Facebook and “Drive-in” joint outdoor worship at Lewis Valley every Sunday, weather permitting. Pastor Alyssa also started Evening Prayer time on Facebook. Worship and activities began again in the church building on May 2, 2021. After the church building was reopened, worship is still live-streamed on Facebook. The council decided that masks should be worn in church. Sunday School was cancelled until further notice.

In April 2021, the parsonage kitchen was remodeled.

Sunday school began again in Fall 2021.

Because of COVID-19, many of our activities were not held. In October 2021, our church held a Pancake Breakfast, combined with W-ELCA sponsoring a bake sale and basket raffle to replace our annual bazaar and Christmas brunch. It was held at the Lions shelter.

Pastor Alyssa accepted a call to a two-point parish, south of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Her last service with us was on November 21, 2021. Guest pastors and lay members have provided services for our parish since late November. We've been so fortunate to have great messages given us.

In May 2022, the parish voted to call soon-to-be-pastor Emma Grinde.

The church now has 280 baptized members and 241 confirmed members.

Since January 1997, there have been 124 baptisms, 115 confirmands, 45 weddings, and 99 funerals at Mindoro Lutheran.

*MAY 21, 2022
HAPPY 150TH ANNIVERSARY
MINDORO LUTHERAN!*

PASTORS AT MINDORO LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wollert Frick	1872-1882
O.C.O. Hjort.....	1882-1887
V.C.S. Hjermstad	1887-1903
Olaf Turmo.....	1904-1909
O. Otterson	1909-1942
Charles T. Paulson	1942-1945
O.T. Haaland	1945-1949
J.L. Ranum	1949-1954
Winston Grant	1955-1960
O. Rolf Olson	1960-1966
Ivan H. Vallem.....	1967-1974
Paul A. Johnson.....	1974-1981
Miles E. Renaas.....	1981-1987
Frederick Thoni.....	1987-1990
Karla Schollmeyer Griffen.....	1991-1996
Interims Jean C. Kloss, Jeffrey Reutten	1996-1997
Mark Jolivette.....	1997-2006
Jerene Houser	2006-2008
Janet Wollam.....	2008-2015
Interim Kris Fahey	2015-2018
Alyssa Mitchell	2018-2021
Emma Grinde	will start in 2022

LETTERS FROM PAST PASTORS

Pastor O. Rolf & Trudy Olson

Dear Members of Mindoro Lutheran Church:

For your 150th Anniversary, please permit me to recall our arrival among you. It was a very special and busy time for us for many reasons. We appreciate the memory as one of the most eventful Lenten and Easter seasons we experienced in the ministry. Throughout that time, the members of Mindoro Lutheran Church were kind, understanding, and very supportive.

Trudy and I moved into the Parsonage of the Mindoro/Lewis Valley parish on March 1, 1960.

