KONTAK



VI ØNSKER DERE ALLE EN RIKTIG GOD JUL OG ET GODT NYTT ÅR!

FALL/CHRISTMAS 2026

Minnekirken's Upcoming Christmas Events

Taste of Norway

Saturday
November 21
10-3



Minnekirken CHRISTMAS CONCERT *and* Community Engagement Concerts

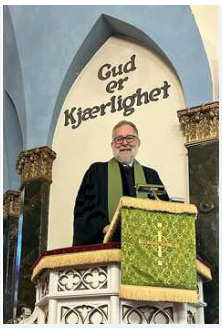


Join us for a musical celebration of Christ's wondrous birth this Christmas season. On Sunday, December 13th, at 1:00 PM, we'll host our joyous Christmas Concert featuring choral and instrumental musicians from the Chicagoland community.

Christmas Day Service is 11AM and also live streamed on Facebook.
Julefest is December 27th after worship service.

In addition, the community engagement outreach concerts throughout the year continue to connect our congregation to the surrounding community through solo instrumental performances and chamber music programs.

Gud er kjælighet! God is Love! Dios es amor!



Greetings from *Pastor Tim Johnson*

MARKING TIME

IN THE FALL OF 2021, I was invited to serve at Minnekirken as interim Pastor. I made an initial commitment of 6 months. I have now entered my sixth year with you. This was certainly unexpected.

A lot of unexpected things have happened these past five years. The death of my wife, Kari and my brother, Darryl tops the list. Those were painful losses indeed. Equally unexpected is the fact that I am still ministering here. For this I am grateful.

As I enter into year six, there are some dates on the calendar which I anticipate with thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving and Advent and Christmas are marks on the calendar that are very meaningful to me. Now I add, Taste of Norway to the mix as it occurs the Saturday before the Thanksgiving holiday. What a full house it is and what a burst of activity. So many people work so hard to make this event so good.

Two other dates on the calendar are favorites of mine. I love Reformation Sunday and All-Saints Sunday. On October 25th, we remembered the immense contributions which Martin Luther made to Christianity. On November 1st we remembered those who we have loved and lost in our lives. We will express gratitude for their faith, for the God that they placed their trust in and for the contributions they made to our faith community. This year we especially remember Lynn Maxson and the mark she made in this church.

Mark with me the time we share together. Let us be grateful for the many ways God has blessed us.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Tim Johnson

MINNEKIRKEN
Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church

STAY IN TOUCH WITH US!
Every Sunday in person...

Join us for Service every Sunday at 11AM
2608 N Kedzie Blvd
Chicago IL 60647
And, yes — after service coffee hour where we look forward to visiting with you.

Every Sunday virtually... on Facebook Minnekirken-Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church

EVERY DAY visit Minnekirken's website.

You'll find the most recent updates on concerts, events and ways for your church to connect with you.
minnekirken-chicago.org

KONTAKT newsletter is published by the congregation of the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church
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Greetings of the Season!

AS WE APPROACH THE CHRISTMAS SEASON and reflect on another year together in faith and fellowship, I would like to share a few thoughts about our church, our accomplishments and the wonderful community which continues to make Minnekirken such a special place.

Our much-anticipated Taste of Norway is in the works! Our dedicated bakers have been busy preparing for this treasured tradition, which will take place on Saturday, November 21, from 10:00AM to 3:00PM. Cookies may also be ordered online through our website at www.minnekirken-chicago.org. We look forward to welcoming friends, family and neighbors for another wonderful celebration of our Norwegian heritage.

Minnekirken continues to be an active and welcoming presence in our neighborhood. Through our food drive, community concerts, and monthly Logan Square Preservation meetings, we remain committed to serving others and strengthening our ties within the community.

We are also pleased that the boulevard reconstruction has been completed, creating a more pedestrian-friendly environment. We continue to work with our Alderman to secure much-needed accessible parking for our church members and visitors.

Looking ahead, one of our greatest priorities remains securing funding for our much-needed roof repairs. We will continue pursuing grant opportunities, and every donation, large or small, brings us closer to our goal. Your generosity and support are appreciated now more than ever. With faith, determination, and the continued support of our congregation, we remain hopeful that this important project will become a reality.

Throughout the years, our church has been blessed with a rich tradition of hospitality, fellowship and caring for one another. In today's fast-paced world, it is often the simplest gestures which mean the most—gathering for coffee after worship, sharing a conversation, listening to one another, or extending a helping hand to someone in need. These small acts of kindness are powerful expressions of our faith and reminders of what makes our church family so special.

I would also like to acknowledge our beloved Leandra Trifunovich, who has devoted so many years to editing and producing this publication for all of us to enjoy. Leandra, your dedication, hard work, and loving service have been a true gift to our congregation. We extend our heartfelt thanks and very best wishes to you. Your contributions will always be appreciated.

On behalf of the Church Council, I want to express my deepest gratitude to our pastor, staff, volunteers and every member of our congregation. Your generosity, prayers, dedication and faithful presence are the foundation of our church. It is through each of you that Minnekirken continues to be a place of worship, friendship, tradition and hope.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, may this Christmas season fill your hearts and homes with peace, love
and joy. May the coming year bring renewed faith, good health and many blessings to you and your loved ones.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

In faith and gratitude,
Beverly Covyeau
Council President



Look who's baking all those cookies!

COOKIES...hundreds of them...thousands of them...all in preparation for Minnekirken's Taste of Norway.

To accomplish this endeavor, the baking begins shortly after Labor Day. A baking schedule is distributed to our dedicated volunteers who gather on Saturdays to create the traditional Norwegian cookies which have become a hallmark of this annual event.

Using treasured recipes passed down from Julejentene, our bakers create Norwegian favorites such as Spritz, Berlinerkranser, Serinakaker, Pepperkaker, Krumkaker and Julekaker.

While most recipes are built on simple ingredients such as butter, sugar, eggs and flour, each cookie has its own distinctive flavor. The recipes will use as many as 30 eggs and 10 pounds of butter! Traditional additions such as pearl sugar, almonds, cinnamon and cardamom give these treats their unmistakable Norwegian character.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Taste of Norway and sharing the flavors and traditions of Norway with our community from near and far.

Remembering Rosemaling Artist, Lynn Sove Maxson



MINNEKIRKEN lost a long time and dynamic member of the congregation this past June.

Even though Lynn did not have a lot of money to support the church, she used her special talents to support it. She used her voice to support it at 17nde mai or Scandinavian day or wherever she went. She knit and



sold curly scarfs and rosemaled ornaments of the church to help support ongoing maintenance. You could always find her at her worktable during the Taste of Norway demonstrating her beloved art of rosemaling.

Lynn sang in the choir and served as the klokker for several years. Lynn also served as the acting president of the church counsel.

But most importantly Minnekirken was Lynn's spiritual home. She will be missed.

NorCham Chicago: A Year of Connection

NorCham Chicago, formerly known as the Norwegian American Chamber of Commerce, works to strengthen economic and cultural ties, trade and investment between the United States and Norway. The chapter is part of NorCham USA, headquartered in Washington, D.C., which works closely with the Royal Norwegian Embassy. Alongside sister chapters in Detroit, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, Seattle and Washington, D.C., it brings together business leaders, Norwegian expatriates and Norwegian-Americans across the region, and it works closely with Susan Meyer, the Norwegian Honorary Consul for Illinois and Wisconsin. The past year has given members plenty of reasons to gather.

A BUSY FALL. Late September 2025 put Chicago at the center of the NorCham network. On September 29, the chapter hosted a NorCham USA reception at the office of Honorary Consul Susan Meyer, welcoming New York–based Consul General Jo Sletbak, Innovation Norway, and the presidents of NorCham chapters nationwide. Former U.S. Ambassador to Norway Tom Loftus presented his book. Earlier that day, the Consul General toured the Viking ship at Good Templar Park in Geneva, and the next evening members joined a Kongsberg Discovery reception at Navy Pier tied to the Oceans 2025 expo.

TRADITIONS IN 2026. The year opened with the annual Julefest at Wildfire in Glenview on January 8, followed by a free "Kaffe og Vafler" gathering ahead of the Norge Ski Jump tournament in Barrington on February 1 and a joint outing to the Chicago Torske Klub luncheon on February 14. Members celebrated Syttende Mai at the Norwegian National League's Constitution Day Luncheon at Park Ridge Country Club on May 16, and the summer closed in classic fashion with the annual party on the patio at Tre Kronor on June 27.

LOOKING AHEAD. The board is investing in the next generation through a Young Professionals program run in partnership with the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce, and the chapter is supporting Margreth Olin's documentary Songs of the Earth. Corporate members including Kongsberg Discovery, UB Greensfelder, North Park University, the Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library, The Anderson Law Firm, American Solution for Business, and First National Bank of Omaha help sustain this work, and membership for 2026 remains open at www.norchamchicago.org — a good moment to join before the holiday season and next year's Julefest.

New Life For An Old Couple



About ten years ago a painting fell from the wall of Minnekirken's fellowship hall, breaking its gold plaster frame. The broken pieces were discarded. Darkened varnish obscured any signature or identification, and the scene of an old Norwegian couple went into storage.

Logan Square Preservation (LSP) president Andrew Schneider noticed its absence at the next meeting. It had always been his favorite. Restoration estimates exceeded $6,000, but fundraising stalled as the church and LSP faced larger priorities, including masonry repairs and a roof replacement.



About a year ago, while researching Norwegian diaspora artists, Schneider found a newspaper clipping in the Palette & Chisel Club's records. There was the painting, pictured for the club's 1916 exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago. Its title was *"An Old Couple,"* and its artist was Ben Blessum.



Blessum, known for his railway posters, lived a few blocks from Minnekirken in 1916. How the church acquired the painting remains unknown, but its rediscovered history prompted Schneider to advance the restoration.

Logan Square's Orlandi Statuary restored the frame, and Parma Restoration cleaned and restored the painting. Beneath the blackened varnish emerged vibrant greens, reds and golds, warm browns, deep black and bright white. Blessum's signature became visible again, and a barely readable tag on the frame confirmed the 1916 exhibition.

The painting will soon return to the fellowship hall and ultimately be loaned to LSP for exhibition at the forthcoming Emil Biorn museum, still under construction at 2616 N Albany.



Other paintings in Minnekirken's collection still have undocumented histories. LSP welcomes information on Emil Espeland, Anton Meyer, Hans Holman, Martin Syvertsen, Per Gulbrandsen and Erling Clausen.

nnleague.org

Norwegian National League

Organized 1899

SCHOLARSHIPS *AVAILABLE for 2027*

The Norwegian National League of Chicago is offering scholarships and cash prizes to deserving students who are of Norwegian heritage residing in the counties of Boone, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, LaSalle, McHenry, Will and Winnebago.

The following scholarships will be available:

$1,500 Haug Family Scholarship will be awarded to a current 12th grade student with a minimum 3.0 GPA with intent on a business degree OR a current university student majoring in business.

$1,000 NNL College Scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior with a minimum 3.0 GPA and who has been accepted by a college or university.

Heritage Awards

$100 cash prize will be awarded to a high school student in grades 9-11

$50 cash prize will be awarded to a student in grades 5-8

$25 cash prize will be awarded to a student in grades 1-4

To qualify, older students must submit an original essay on the topic, "Your Family's Norwegian Heritage" and the students in grade 1-4 must submit an original drawing depicting a Norwegian topic.

Entries must be postmarked by March 1, 2027

For scholarship information and applications, visit the Norwegian National League website at:
nnleague.org
or contact:
Kathy Secora kathysecora@gmail.com