

Dennison Vang Lutheran Parish  
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 Denise Olson – (612)366-0259  
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**Non-Profit organization**  
**U.S. Postage Paid**  
**Dennison MN 55018**  
**Permit # 1**

## March 2021

***We have resumed in-person Worship and have included information on our greeter & usher information.  
 However, if you prefer to worship online please contact the church office.***

### ***Dennison Greet & Usher Schedule***

	<b><i>Usher</i></b>	<b><i>Reader</i></b>	<b><i>Communion Assistant</i></b>	<b><i>Communion &amp; Bread Preparer</i></b>
<i>Mar 7-11a</i>	<i>Justin Cormican</i>	<i>Joe Amy</i>		
<i>Mar 21-11a</i>	<i>Dorothy Howie</i>	<i>Deb Raabolle</i>		

### ***Vang Greet & Usher Schedule***

	<b><i>Greet/Usher</i></b>	<b><i>Reader</i></b>	<b><i>Acolyte</i></b>	<b><i>Communion Assistant</i></b>	<b><i>Communion &amp; Bread Preparer</i></b>
<i>Mar 7-9a</i>	<i>Bryan Eggum Family</i>	<i>Rachael Johnson</i>			
<i>Mar 14-9a</i>	<i>Joe Jacobson</i>	<i>Joe Eggum</i>			
<i>Mar 21- 9a</i>	<i>Ken Vesledahl Family</i>	<i>Emily DuFresne</i>			
<i>Mar 28- 9a</i>	<i>Desmond Monroe Family</i>	<i>Eric Nesseth</i>			

# March 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Family Ministry 6:00 pm	2	3 Lent service Vang 7:00 pm Stewardship Team after service	4	5	6
7 Dennison 11:00 am Vang 9:00 am Dennison Annual Meeting after service.	8  Vang Council 7:00 pm	9  Dennison Council 5:00 pm	10 Adult Forum at Vang 6:00 pm Lent service Vang 7:00 pm	11	12	13
14  Vang 9:00 am	15	16	17	18	19	20
21  Dennison 11:00 am Vang 9:00 am	22	23  Kenyon Internship Committee Meeting 7:00 pm	24 Adult Forum at Vang 6:00 pm Lent service Vang 7:00 pm	25	26	27
28 Palm Sunday Vang 9:00 am	29	30	31			

DENNISON LUTHERAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT						
Date	Description	Amount		Date	Description	Amount
<b>INCOME</b>				<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
1/1/2021						
						<b>Current Running Balance</b>
1/1/2021	Balance	\$7,511.98		1/10/2021	Guide One Ins	\$331.35
1/6/2021	deposit	\$1,450.00		1/11/2021	City of Dennison/utilities	\$39.17
1/12/2021	deposit	\$310.51		1/11/2021	X-Cel energy	\$100.74
1/14/2021	deposit	\$3,310.85		1/14/2021	Sreven/in kind service	\$250.00
1/14/2021	deposit	\$250.00		1/14/2021	transfer to savings	\$3,000.00
1/19/2021	deposit	\$300.00				
1/20/2021	deposit	\$50.00				
1/31/2021	interest	\$0.50				
		\$13,183.84				\$3,721.26
						\$9,462.58
Savings Balanc	1/31/2021					
	1729---	\$22534.64				
	1737---	\$238.32				

Submitted by: Karen Zimmerman

## Vang January 2021 Treasurer Report

### January

Monthly Budget	\$12,897.00
Checking Account Deposits	8,812.58
Savings Account Deposits	1,057.59
Total Deposits	9,870.17
Budget (Shortfall)/Surplus	(3,026.83)

### Year-To-Date

Annual Budget	\$ 12,897.00
Checking Account Deposits	8,812.58
Savings Account Deposits	1,057.59
Total Deposits	9,870.17
Budget (Shortfall)/Surplus	(3,026.83)

Submitted by Paul Ramig

## Notes From the Pastor...

### Engaging Scripture

What is the bible, anyway? Can scripture guide my daily life and deepen my relationship with God, and, if so, how?

Have you ever found yourself asking those kinds of questions? Scripture is “a light unto our path,” but digging into scripture can also be confusing and overwhelming.

This year’s Lent focus is “Engaging Scripture.” Each week in Lent we will explore different approaches to interacting with God’s holy word.

As Christians in the Lutheran tradition, we have a very clear starting point when we come to scripture. We believe that the bible is a “means of grace” that reveals Christ to us. It shows us God’s grace-filled and loving heart. The bible is the story of God’s unfolding plan to redeem and restore all of creation.

The bible is complex, but trusting that the story of God’s steadfast love and mercy in Jesus is the heart and center of what the Scriptures have to say brings a degree of clarity and helps us ask the right questions of scripture.

Martin Luther once wrote, *“God’s Word is a treasure. At whatever time God’s Word is heard, read, and pondered, there the person, the day, and the work is made holy.”*

During Lent this year, you are invited to come “hear, read, and ponder” God’s word together.

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Last month, there was a group from Dennison and Vang that did a bible study together that we called “Engaging Scripture.” It was a joy to dig into God’s word together. Over the course of five weeks, we explored four different approaches to scripture, as well as engaged with podcasts, videos, and books individually during the week.

In 2021 we will offer 3-4 short term, high commitment opportunities 3-4 times, with a focus on different approaches to discipleship and spiritual growth and health.

In addition, we will be offering adult forums on a variety of topics. With everything that has been going on recently, we would do well to ask together, what does scripture say and what does the church teach?

I hope you will be able to join in on a group or an adult forum in the upcoming year.

God bless,

Pastor Paul

## **Notes From the Intern...**

### **Adult Ed/Faith Formation Opportunity**

*Intern Lucas Shurson to offer a forum after Easter on hospitality*

One of the unexpected joys of this year so far has been seeing how wide a group of people the Kenyon area congregations have been able to reach. With the crash-course we've all had in online worship and fellowship this past year, we've seen people from all over getting involved. I see people from the Kenyon area watching services at multiple places on a Sunday, and I know we regularly have people participate from around the country. I've heard that we have people watching from as far away as Oregon (Hi, Mom!) and Pennsylvania. Our churches have connected with people who we wouldn't otherwise be reaching on account of distance and on account of past baggage that can come with attending church in person, and it's been a great thing to see how this past year has opened up new chances for hospitality.

With that theme of hospitality in mind, I'm planning on hosting a forum on the subject in the weeks following Easter. It'll be a time to discuss what it means to be good neighbors, reaching out beyond our walls and helping those who are already here to feel more at home. We'll be focusing especially on what that might look like in the context of our LGBT neighbors. We're in the planning stages of what that forum will look like at this point, so be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks and months!

### **Stewardship**

Stewardship at Vang

One of the ways that we can be good stewards in our church community is by giving our time to help develop and grow the faith of the youngest members of our Vang family. Like our church overall, the Vang Sunday School program has continued in spite of new challenges presented by Covid this year. Our dedicated and creative team of teachers continues to teach Vang children, and provide positive role models of faith in action. Vang has many members currently involved in supporting Sunday School education. Please thank a Vang Sunday School teacher when you next have a chance – they are laying the foundation for future people of faith.

Thanks,  
Steve Schmidt  
952-270-1162

### **Lent 2021**

Lent services will be on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM at Vang. The focus is "Engaging Scripture." Each week in Lent we will explore different approaches to interacting with God's holy word. We will be using Holden Evening Prayer for midweek worship services. All are welcome and hope to see you there.

And, just a reminder, due to safety concerns, there will be no Lenten meals this year.

### **Lenten Forums**

The traditional disciplines of Lent are prayer, fasting, and works of love. One way we will live this out during Lent this year is by offering two adult forums.

**Life at the Border (Wednesday, March 10, 6:00 PM at Vang):** In January of last year, a group from Vang traveled to El Paso, TX and heard firsthand accounts of life at the border. We have put together some videos about the experience. Come for conversation, to hear about the amazing work being done by ELCA churches in the area, and to hear stories of people who seek to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God” in our borderlands.

**The Ethics of Care: Understanding Racism (Wednesday, March 24, 6:00 PM at Vang)** Talking about race is not easy. It takes courage to try. But when we do so not from a place of guilt or shame, but from a place of empathy, compassion, and humility, good things can happen. Come hear a clear and concise video presentation from a University of Minnesota Distinguished Professor of Family Therapy about what racism is, what it isn't, and how you can be a part of the healing.

## **Worship Information for March**

*“O Come Let Us Worship the Lord!”*

Sunday worship times in March are:

**March 7** – Vang, 9:00 AM

Dennison, 11:00 AM

**March 14** – Vang, 9:00 AM

**March 21** – Vang, 9:00 AM

Dennison, 11:00

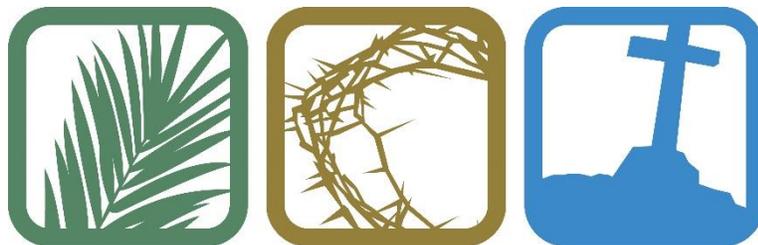
**March 28** (Palm Sunday) Vang – 9:00 AM

We will be joined by Intern Lucas Shurson for the Palm Sunday service.

*(Schedules subject to change. Please check email updates, the church website, or call the church office for the most current worship information.)*

## **Dennison Lutheran Church Annual Meeting**

Please mark your calendars for Dennison's annual meeting. The Dennison Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, March 7, following the 11:00 service at Dennison.



# HOLY WEEK

## Holy Week

Holy Week begins March 28 on Palm Sunday. Please mark your calendars for these Holy Week services.

**Palm Sunday (March 28)** - 9:00 AM at Vang

**Maundy Thursday (April 1)** – 7:00 PM at Vang

**Good Friday (April 2)** – 9:00 AM at First Lutheran

6:00 PM at First Lutheran

We are collaborating KW area churches for Good Friday. The 9:00 AM service will be an in-person worship service at First. The 6:00 PM Good Friday service will be a community “Way of the Cross” service in the parking area at First Lutheran. Around a bonfire, there will be an outdoor worship time based on Stations of the Cross. The worship experience will feature the passion story, prayer, and music.

**Easter Sunday (April 4)** Dennison – 9:00 AM

Vang – 11:00 AM

We are working on safe options for Easter Breakfast. Look for more details to come.

## Children's Sunday School



## Sunday School Update

Sunday School families helped send Valentines cards to elder members on Valentines day, and did a Lenten Prayer chain activity at home during Lent. The family ministry team is working on activities for after Easter, and looking at in-person options.

## COVID Safety Update

Thank you all for your patience and adaptability during this pandemic time. We continue to learn and experiment while paying attention to the shifting COVID situation. The number of vaccines going out and the case numbers going down have been encouraging. When we gather for worship, please remember the basic safety practices of proper mask wearing and physical distancing. We have been in conversation about safe communion practices, and believe we have safe options that will work. If you are not able to attend in person services and would like to receive communion, please call the church office or Pastor Paul. We want to make sure that everyone who would like to receive communion can do so safely.

Beloved is Where We Begin

Last week, the gospel reading was about Jesus' time in the wilderness. "Wilderness" is often used as a symbol for Lent, and can be a useful metaphor for living in this pandemic time. The wilderness can be frightening and frustrating, but God is there in the wilderness with us.

Below is a blessing from Jan Richardson about entering the wilderness called "Beloved is Where We Begin."

### **Beloved Is Where We Begin**

If you would enter into the wilderness,  
do not begin without a blessing.  
Do not leave without hearing who you are:  
Beloved,  
named by the One who has traveled this path before you.  
Do not go without letting it echo in your ears,  
and if you find it is hard  
to let it into your heart, do not despair.  
That is what this journey is for.  
I cannot promise this blessing will free you  
from danger, from fear, from hunger or thirst,  
from the scorching of sun or the fall of the night.

But I can tell you that on this path  
there will be help.  
I can tell you that on this way  
there will be rest.  
I can tell you that you will know  
the strange graces that come to our aid  
only on a road such as this,  
that fly to meet us bearing comfort and strength,  
that come alongside us for no other cause  
than to lean themselves toward our ear  
and with their curious insistence  
whisper our name:  
Beloved.  
Beloved.  
Beloved.

