

Dennison Vang Lutheran Parish
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 Denise Olson – (612)366-0259
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Dennison MN 55018
Permit # 1

May 2021

Dennison Greet & Usher Schedule

	<i>Usher</i>	<i>Reader</i>	<i>Communion Assistant</i>	<i>Communion & Bread Preparer</i>
<i>May 2- 11a</i>		<i>Karen Koester</i>		<i>Norliene Wells</i>
<i>May 16-11a</i>		<i>Jane Currer</i>		

Vang Greet & Usher Schedule

		<i>Reader</i>	<i>Acolyte</i>	<i>Communion Assistant</i>	<i>Communion & Bread Preparer</i>
<i>May 2-9 a</i>		<i>Brian Koester</i>	<i>Erika Nesseth</i>		
<i>May 9-9 a</i>		<i>Denise Olson</i>	<i>Claire Berndt</i>		
<i>May 16-9 a</i>		<i>Kelly Graham</i>	<i>Emma Wood</i>		
<i>May 23- 9 a</i>		<i>Sandy Anderson</i>	<i>Malori Prior</i>		
<i>May 30-9 a</i>		<i>Sandra Johnson</i>	<i>Kaden Wood</i>		

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 "Hospitality" Forum with Intern Lucas. Zoom or First Lutheran
2 Dennison 11:00 am Vang 9:00 am Church Council Blessing "Hospitality" Forum with Intern Lucas	3 Family Ministry Meeting 6:00 pm	4	5 "Hospitality" Forum with Intern Lucas Holden Lutheran	6	7	8
9 Vang 9:00 am	10 Vang Council 7:00 pm	11 Dennison Council 5 pm Contemplative Prayer 7:00 pm	12 Last day of Confirmation 7:00 pm	13	14	15
16 Dennison 11:00 am Vang 9:00 am End of year Sunday School party 10:00 am Garden Planting	17	18 Contemplative Prayer 7:00 pm	19 Evening Vespers Dennison 7:00 pm	20 "A Good Time For Truth" Conversation First Lutheran	21	22
23 Vang 9:00 am Pentecost Sunday	24	25 Internship meeting 7:00 pm	26 Baccalaureate	27 "A Good Time For Truth" Conversation First Lutheran	28	29
30 Vang 9:00 am	31					

DENNISON LUTHERAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT						
Date	Description	Amount	Date	Description	Amount	
INCOME			EXPENDITURES			Current
3/1/2021						Running
						Balance
3/1/2021	Balance	\$7,905.86	3/10/2021	Guide One Insurance	\$331.35	
3/8/2021	deposit	\$96.80	3/22/2021	e-cel energy	\$151.53	
3/9/2021	deposit	\$2,075.00	3/22/2021	City of Dennison-utilities	\$47.75	
3/12/2021	deposit	\$310.51	3/29/2021	Vang/ Dennison joint acct	\$1,250.00	
3/15/2021	deposit	\$250.00				
3/18/2021	deposit	\$300.00				
3/22/2021	deposit	\$50.00				
3/31/2021	interest	\$0.56				
		\$10,988.73			\$1,780.63	\$9,208.10
Savings Balanc	3/29/2021					
	1729---	\$22540.10				
	1737---	\$238.36				

Submitted by: Karen Zimmerman

Vang March 2021 Treasurer Report

February

Year-To-Date

Monthly Budget	\$ 12,897.00	Annual Budget	\$ 25,794.00
Checking Account Deposits	7,765.10	Checking Account Deposits	\$ 16,577.68
Savings Account Deposits	79.47	Savings Account Deposits	\$ 1,137.06
Total Deposits	\$ 7,844.57	Total Deposits	\$ 17,714.74
Budget (Shortfall)/Surplus	(\$ 5,052.43)	Budget (Shortfall)/Surplus	(\$ 8,079.26)

Submitted by Paul Ramig

Vang March Council Minutes...

Vang Church Council met on Monday, March 08, 2021. Members present were Pastor Paul, Paul Ramig, Jen Eggum, Amanda Flom, Rene Koester, Brian Koester, Steve Schmidt, and new members Nicole Benjamin and Amaya Monroe.

Pastor Paul opened our meeting with devotion. February minutes were approved as read with a motion by Brian and seconded by Steve. Motion passed. Financial Secretary report was read by Jen. Paul made motion to accept the report and seconded by Brian. Motion passed. Treasurer's report was submitted by Paul. Amanda made motion to accept as read and seconded by Brian. Pastor Paul's report: Engaging scripture will begin again after Easter.

Holy Week was discussed and what it will look like. Look for details in April's newsletter. Committee report: Rene announced that this year will be the 125th birthday of the church building... maybe plan a celebration? The steeple needs quite a bit of work, possibly starting with the center. The Historical Society does have grants, but we may need to be on the National Registry to qualify. Rene will continue to research this opportunity. The parking lot needs to be seal coated.

Stewardship Committee: Met on March 3rd, and discussed showing stewardship throughout the year. They discussed the Financial Secretary report for the Annual report and the tiers of financial giving and the possibility of parishioners of Vang going up a tier this year. This will be the April topic. They also discussed fund drives to help raise money for the expenses with the steeple. Creation Care Team: Jen, Nicole and Amaya will meet in April. If anyone would like to be a part of this group, please contact Jen, Nicole or Pastor Paul. Pastor Paul led us in reflection and prayer.

Old Business: Annual Meeting feedback - went too long, was the only complaint. Pastor Paul will speak to Phil Maring about the reader/greeter schedule. Open council seats: At the Annual Meeting, Clyde Eggum announced that Don and Dave's council terms were up, and there was discussion regarding that announcement. Clyde, on the Nominating Committee, was correct, and there will be a special meeting on Sunday, April 11, 2021 to vote on a new council member, as Dave Topp declined a 2nd term on the council. Don Kottke has agreed to another term on the council. There will be a congregational meeting and vote to fill the two open council seats.

New Business: A new endorsement stamper is needed for the Financial Secretary. We welcomed Nicole and Amaya to the Church Council. Installation and blessing will be held on April 11, 2021 during church. Discussion on who has a key to the church, and setting the alarm system was discussed. Pastor Paul discussed the Memorial Committee and Usher Committee should not require a vote in the Annual Meeting. Also, those going off the council should be in charge of designating new council members to provide a diverse and unique group of new members. One person from the Nominating Committee should stay in place as the head of the group. Paul Ramig would like to discuss his \$40.00 Easter challenge. He asked the church to donate \$40.00 to the SE MN Synod - forty days, \$40.00. Anyone who would like to match this donation can talk to Paul. This donation helps Amparro and their endeavors. Jen made motion for Vang to donate \$40.00 and Steve seconded the motion. Meeting Closed with The Lord's Prayer. Next meeting will be Monday, April 12, 2021 Respectfully submitted by Jen Eggum

Notes from the Pastor...

On Sunday, May 23, the Church celebrates the day of Pentecost. Sometimes Pentecost is called “the birthday of the church,” because the Holy Spirit moved in a mighty way and created a new community.

Take some time to read about Pentecost this month (Acts 3.)

As the story of Pentecost begins, it says there were people “from every nation living in Jerusalem.” When the Holy Spirit came, sounding “like the rush of a violent wind,” the disciples began to speak, and each person in Jerusalem could hear in their own language. “In our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.”

Professor Eric Barretto from Luther seminary says that one purpose of the Book of Acts is to “give us a God-tinged imagination.” The power of God is at work among us, and Acts helps us see what God is doing.

Each heard in their own language! When the Holy Spirit moved, all were welcomed as they were. God loves difference and diversity. Difference is a gift from God! God’s power is found in the amazing diversity of people, cultures, and languages, and in the amazing diversity of plants and animals in creation. Wouldn’t the world be boring if everything and everyone was the same? In Revelation, the last book of the Bible, there is a vision of “a great multitude, from every nation, all tribes, and peoples and languages” gathered around the throne of God giving praise (Revelation 7)

During Lent, we had adult forums where we discussed important and complicated issues such as the refugee crisis and racial justice. We reflected from a scriptural perspective and shared personal stories. As we sought greater understanding of the experiences of people from different backgrounds, we were in a small way living out the vision of Pentecost.

Understanding difference takes empathy, courage, listening, and willingness to learn. It is difficult and holy work. But if the Book of Acts and the story of Pentecost teaches us anything, it is that God delights in surprise, and the Holy Spirit helps us to see the world differently. God’s power is already at work among us, and we pray the Holy Spirit gives us eyes to see it.



Notes from the Intern...

Now that May is here, I've been feeling down that confirmation classes are winding down. I've enjoyed getting to know the kids and working with them as they grow into their faith. Soon enough, though, they'll have been confirmed, making that transition into being adult members of the church. The month of May is full of moments like that. Many churches hold confirmation that month, graduations are on the horizon, and in more normal years there would be lots of weddings to attend. This is a season where we and our loved ones find ourselves on the verge of stepping into something new.

It has me thinking about the thresholds of our lives, those times when we move from one way of being in the world into another way. The Bible is full of moments like that. Think of God giving Sarah and Abraham their new names. That was a time when their new future was opened up for them to be the parents to a great nation. Jesus was involved in times like these too; Jesus' first steps into ministry happened at a wedding, where the couple was starting a new life together. We could even think of Jesus having those experiences too. He made the transition from life to death and then back again, and everything was different after those moments at the threshold.

These moments of transition in our own lives, whether graduations, weddings, funerals, or whatever else, are places where God is at work with us. God rejoices with us when new possibilities open up and comforts us when old ways are no longer possible.

The church itself is a place where God is at work in the threshold of our lives, too. We might not think of a normal Sunday at church that way if we attend regularly, but this is how the early Christians saw it. In many ancient churches, the baptismal font was placed by the entrance to show how we find a new family as we start our life with God. The font reminded people that we are always stepping into something new with God. When that happens, the church takes on a big responsibility! The church's members make the commitment to make the love of new family a reality, both within and outside the walls of the church.

With commitment made at the threshold in mind, I'm going to be hosting a number of forums in May exploring what we mean when we talk about making that new family. What does it look like to welcome people to church these days? What makes church a comfortable place for people? What is God's place in making this hospitality? It will be a time of discussion and listening, and we'll be looking especially at what hospitality looks like toward LGBT people.

Three sessions with similar content will be offered, so feel free to choose the one that best fits your schedule. They will be Saturday May 1 at 10:00 am at First Lutheran, Sunday May 2 at 10:00 am at Vang Lutheran, and Wednesday May 5 at 7:00 pm at Holden Lutheran. A Zoom link for the May 1 session will be available as well, and you can contact me at lshurson001@luthersem.edu for that link.

I'm excited for those times of discussion and fellowship, and I look forward to seeing many of you there!

Peace,
Intern Lucas

A Fresh Coat of Paint at Dennison Lutheran

Last month, a few generous volunteers painted the entry way at Dennison Lutheran. A fresh coat of paint makes a big difference!

DLC is looking for some volunteers who can continue the painting work. One project we hope to complete soon is repainting the bathrooms. Please contact the church office if you can help with this project.

Thanks!

Growing Connections Community Garden at Vang

The Vang garden's planting date will be Sunday, May 16th with a back up plan date of May 23rd. Tomatoes and peppers are already started, but Larry will be setting up a seed board for donations for the garden. All are welcome to help!

Nicole Monroe is starting a calendar for caring for the garden as well, if your family, friends, Sunday School & Confirmation class and church group you belong to, or just you and your significant other would like to reserve a week to care for the garden please reach out to Nicole or Jen Eggum. We are hoping for a lot of help this summer so we can donate to the Kenyon Food Shelf as well as shut-ins who enjoy fresh produce from the church garden. Your help and donation of your time is greatly appreciated!



A Thank You From Dorothy Vesledahl

In February, the Sunday school families sent Valentine's Day cards to some of our elder members. Last month, Dorothy sent this thank you note:

To the Vang and Dennison Sunday School students and teachers, this is a belated thank you for the nice Valentines day card. I really enjoyed it. It was nice of you to think of me. This was in my devotion book and I thought it was one that all children should hear, and adults also. We are all children of God. Thank you again.

This is the devotion Dorothy included with her thank you note. The devotion is based on Jeremiah 14: 13-18

"I have a student who believes the earth is flat. Despite every piece of evidence, science, pictures from space, he can't be dissuaded. He only listens to voices, watches videos, or reads articles that feed his point of view. This is called "confirmation bias" – that is, our tendency to be drawn to ideas that confirm what we want to hear.

In the reading from Jeremiah the king's prophets are saying only what the king wants to hear and are rewarded for doing so. In the end they would be wrong, and the kingdom would fall to invading armies. The king was victim of his own confirmation bias. We can easily fall into the same trap.

But we are called to practice humility, to set aside our biases in order to listen to other points of view, to listen to the other side of the matter, to learn and to grow. We are called to be careful with the voices we allow into our lives, lest they be prophets lying in God's name, saying only what we want to hear. Risk humility, and hear a new word."

A Time For A Good Conversation - A Good Time For the Truth

You are invited on Thursday May 20th and Thursday May 27th to First Lutheran in Kenyon at 6:30 for a conversation about true stories, shock, grief, dreams, and recognition. You are invited to read a book, *A Good Time For the Truth*. The conversation will center around 2-3 essays from this book. We will listen and learn about one another's real lives in Minnesota.

During our Thursday May 27th conversation Kao Kalia Yang will join the conversation. She is an award-winning Hmong-American writer, author of the memoirs *The Latecomer*, *The Song Poet*, and *Somewhere in the Unknown World*. She co-edited the ground-breaking collection *What God is Honored Here?: Writings on Miscarriage and Infant Loss By and For Indigenous Women and Women of Color*.

Vang is collaborating with First Lutheran on this project as a follow up to our on-going conversations on the ELCA Social Statement "Race, Ethnicity and Culture." This is a conversation you will not want to miss. This will be possible in person and on Zoom.



Author Kao Kalia Yang

Church Council Blessing

On May 2, there will be a blessing of the Vang Church council, and an installation of new council members. We welcome new council members Amaya Monroe, Nicole Monroe, and David Wood.

Come surround your church leadership with blessing and prayer!

Faith in Action at Dennison and Vang

Thanks to all who make this community of faith a special and caring place. A few examples from last month include:

- A generous donation was made to Vang in the form of free meal tickets for the Goodhue County 4-H hog roast fundraiser. As a result, we were able to deliver meals to some of our seniors in the area.
- We gave away 40 spruce and black cherry trees at a tree give away last month as a way to celebrate the wonder of God's creation
- Dennison Lutheran has received a few generous grants for projects around the church



A Black Cherry Tree flower

Generosity abounds! Thank you for all you do in support of God's mission in this place.

Sunday School Party

It has been an unusual year (to say the least), and Sunday School has looked different this year too. We thank everyone for their understanding. In spite of the challenges, we had good times of learning and fun, including an Easter Egg hunt, Bible trivia, interactive learning about the Beatitudes, letters and cards to our elders, and at home activities.

We want to end the year on a joyful note, so all are invited to an end of the year party on May 16 at 10:00 AM at Vang. This is for the whole congregation.





Dennison Community Garden

Spring is coming! The Dennison Lutheran Community church is making garden space available this year in the space behind the church. If you would like garden space in the community garden, please contact Joe Amy or call the church office.

Summer Worship Times

May 30 (Memorial Day Weekend) – Vang - 9:00 am

June 6 – Vang, 9:00 am

June 13 - Vang, 9:00 am

June 16 – Vang, 9:00 am

June 20 – Vang, 9:00 am

June 27 – Vang, 9:00 am

July 4 – Dennison, 9:00 am

July 11 – Dennison, 9:00 am

July 18 – Dennison, 9:00 am

July 25 – Dennison, 9:00 am

Aug. 1 (Dennison Days) – Outdoor service @Dennison Park, 11:00 am

August 8 – Vang, 9:00 am

Aug. 15 – Vang, 9:00 am

Aug. 22 – Vang, 9:00 am

Aug. 29 – Vang, 9:00 am

Sept. 5 – Vang, 9:00 am (Labor Day Weekend)

Sept. 12 – Regular Worship schedule resumes

We are considering various options for summer worship, including outdoor worship options. Any ideas or feedback regarding summer worship is welcome!

Wednesday Evening Vespers

We are living through challenging times. All the more reason to find ways to connect with Christ, our peace. Dennison Lutheran will be offering a mid-week time for you to pause and be nourished in God's loving presence. Come take a rest from the busy-ness of the week. Dennison Lutheran will be offering evening vespers on Wednesday, May 19 at 7:00.

"Let your light scatter the darkness, and shine within your people here." (ELW Evening Prayer)

Stewardship

May Vang Stewardship Message

Each year at our Vang annual meeting, we share offering information that lists the average weekly gift given by each family. This list includes the gifts from over 100 families that belong to Vang.

At a recent Stewardship committee meeting, we spent a few minutes reviewing the levels of giving. What a blessing it is to have a congregation that makes it a priority to sustain Vang's mission through their financial gifts. From these gifts Vang can play a more vital role in the lives of our members, our community, and our world.

As we head into summer months (where giving in prior years has dropped off until fall), what a wonderful thing it would be if as a congregation we could maintain our monthly giving, or even increase by a small amount! If summer months may keep you from attending service as often, remember there are several ways to provide your weekly gifts to Vang if you are unable to attend in person:

- 1) Mail your offering to the Vang/Dennison mailbox (*Betsy – can you insert the correct address?*)
- 2) Make a one-time or recurring donation through the church website:
Dennisonvang.org/contribution
- 3) If you know you will be away, consider providing your offering early

Imagine the possibilities and continued good works that are possible when we sustain or even increase our summer giving! Thank you for your generous gifts to Vang, and for making the financial good health of our church a priority.

-Vang Stewardship Committee

Congratulations to Rose Vail Dufresne who was baptized on Sunday, April 25th. Parent's Names-Kyle and Emily DuFresne, Sponsor's Names-Andrea and Robb Finnigsmier

