

Dennison Vang Lutheran Parish  
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**Non-Profit organization  
 U.S. Postage Paid  
 Dennison MN 55018  
 Permit # 1**

## April 2021

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

### Dennison Greet & Usher Schedule

	<i>Usher</i>	<i>Reader</i>	<i>Communion Assistant</i>	<i>Communion &amp; Bread Preparer</i>
<i>April 4-9a</i>		<i>Tonya Sauer</i>		<i>Karen Zimmerman</i>
<i>April 18-9a</i>		<i>Deb Raabolle</i>		

### Vang Greet & Usher Schedule

		<i>Reader</i>	<i>Acolyte</i>	<i>Communion Assistant</i>	<i>Communion &amp; Bread Preparer</i>
<i>April 4-11a</i>		<i>Larry Enfield</i>	<i>Alex Flom</i>		
<i>April 11-11a</i>		<i>Paul Ramig</i>	<i>Emma Wood</i>		
<i>April 18-11a</i>		<i>Mary Dalbotten</i>	<i>Kaia Monroe</i>		
<i>April 25-11a</i>		<i>Rene Koester</i>	<i>Devon Monroe</i>		



# April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Easter Dennison 9:00 am Vang 11:00 am Coffee Hour/Egg Hunt 10:00 am	5 Family Ministry Meeting 6:00 pm	6	7	8 Maundy Thursday Vang 7:00 pm	9 Good Friday Vang 7:00 pm	10
11 Vang 11:00 am Vang Special Meeting after service	12 Vang Council 7:00 pm	13 Dennison Council 5 pm	14 Evening Vespers Dennison 7:00 pm	15	16	17
18 Dennison 9:00 am Vang 11:00 am Sunday School Event 10:00 am	19 Contemplated Prayer (Adult Ed) 7:00 pm	20 Kenyon Internship Committee Meeting 7:00 pm	21 Confirmation 7:00 pm	22	23	24
25 Vang 11:00 am	26	27	28 Confirmation 7:00 pm	29	30	

DENNISON LUTHERAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT						
Date	Description	Amount	Date	Description	Amount	
<b>INCOME</b>			<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			<b>Current Running Balance</b>
2/1/2021						
2/1/2021	Balance	\$9,462.58	2/1/2021	Dennison/Vang joint account	\$1,250.00	
2/2/2021	deposit	\$333.21	2/1/2021	City of Dennison/utilities	\$49.60	
2/12/2021	deposit	\$310.51	2/1/2021	Ag Partners/LP contract	\$289.65	
2/16/2021	deposit	\$250.00	2/2/2021	Vang/Dennison joint/Comm fund	\$120.00	
2/17/2021	deposit	\$100.00	2/8/2021	x-cel energy	\$127.52	
2/18/2021	deposit	\$300.00	2/9/2021	guide one Mutual	\$629.48	
2/22/2021	deposit	\$50.00	2/28/2021	Vang/ Dennison joint acct	\$1,250.00	
2/23/2021	deposit	\$1,347.00	2/28/2021	Ag Partners/LP	\$531.68	
2/28/2021	interest	\$0.49				
		\$12,153.79			\$4,247.93	\$7,905.86
Savings Balanc	1/31/2021					
	1729---	\$22534.64				
	1737---	\$238.32				

Submitted by: Karen Zimmerman

## Vang February 2021 Treasurer Report

### February

Monthly Budget \$ 12,897.00  
 Checking Account Deposits 7,765.10  
 Savings Account Deposits 79.47  
 Total Deposits \$ 7,844.57  
 Budget (Shortfall)/Surplus (\$ 5,052.43)

### Year-To-Date

Annual Budget \$ 25,794.00  
 Checking Account Deposits \$ 16,577.68  
 Savings Account Deposits \$ 1,137.06  
 Total Deposits \$ 17,714.74  
 Budget (Shortfall)/Surplus (\$ 8,079.26)

Submitted by Paul Ramig

## ***Vang February Council Minutes...***

The Vang Church council met on Monday, February 8, 2021.

Members present were Pastor Paul, Paul, Don, Jen, Amanda, Jim, Kristi, Rene, Steve. Pastor Paul opened with prayer.

Ann Sviggum was our special guest and spoke about the Kenyon Sunset Home, and what the future of this home looks like. Heartland Senior Management has been hired to maintain the best care to be given to the people residing there.

Minutes from the January meeting were approved as read.

Financial report by Kristi were approved as read.

Total offerings for the month were \$4,296.00. \$16.00 Beacon Subscription, and a \$50.00 Memorial for Brad Mills. Treasurer's report was approved as read. A motion was made by Paul to increase Pastor Paul's wage by \$1,500. Rene 2nd the motion and all voted to approve this increase.

Pastor Paul read his report. He is communicating with a pen pal, conducting Bible Study with a small group and will have a few more during the year. He is making a lot of calls, doing drive thru communion when asked, and sending out cards to members of the congregation.

Lucas will be here for Ash Wednesday service.

Property Committee: Rene is looking at a grant program or historical society donation for the steeple repairs.

Creation Care team: Jen looked at solar gardens, benefits and downfalls of them.

Care team: February's meeting went well with several members attending.

Ministry team: Amanda is giving Sunday school children Valentines kits to make and send out.

Pastor Paul led us in prayer.

Old business: In person services are going well, with some discussion on communion.

The new camera and audio sounds great.

The Annual Meeting will be in-person and live streamed as well. The 2 open council seats were filled by Nicole and Amaia Monroe.

Discussion about Lent and using Holden Day of Prayer - final decisions regarding safety and singing will be announced soon.

New business: The Internship has an opening for a Vang representative. This is a 2 ½ year commitment. The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer Next meeting is Monday, March 8, 2021 Respectfully submitted by Jen Eggum

## **Notes from the Pastor...**

### **The Power of Resurrection**

*Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!*

As we proclaim these words during the Easter season, we celebrate that on Easter, God has changed the world forever. Everything is new. Whenever we eat the bread and drink the wine, whenever we hear the Living Word, wherever we see God's love in action, we will know that we are not alone. The risen Christ is with us, among us, within us. Resurrection has begun. We are part of something new and lifegiving.

Resurrection is a movement of hope, not hate. A movement that uses love, not weapons. Resurrection is a joyful promise of life and peace, not angry threats of hostility and death. Resurrection is outstretched hands, not clenched fists. It is God's future breaking into our present. Resurrection is to be on the road, walking towards and working towards a new and better day.

*Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia.*

## **Notes from the Intern...**

One of the interesting things about the church calendar is how church holidays can sometimes fall on the same day as secular celebrations. This can sometimes make for strange contrasts between the themes of those celebrations. Remember a few years ago when Lent began especially early, and Ash Wednesday happened to fall on Valentine's Day? I can't imagine being told "remember that you are dust" was the most romantic way to spend the day. This year, we get an interesting pairing in April as Maundy Thursday falls on the first of April, April Fools' Day.

While Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday don't go well together, I've been thinking that Maundy Thursday is actually a pretty good fit for April Fools'. Reading through the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet, it's pretty clear that Peter thinks he's being pranked. He doesn't get what Jesus is doing, and he doesn't want to be a part of Jesus' silliness in that moment. Perhaps he's hoping that Jesus will shout "April Fools'!" to him to get out of such an awkward situation.

Jesus doesn't shout that, though. He's being completely serious. This is what the new normal is going to look like through his death and resurrection: Teacher and disciple will serve one another. All the old distinctions between people are gone, and we owe it to all our neighbors to take care of each other. This matters because now that the barriers are gone, the door is wide open, and we're left with the question of how to take care of the people who walk in that door.

With this in mind, I'm going to be hosting a couple of forums in May on what welcome looks like. What is Christian hospitality? How do we go about putting that into practice? What does that mean for how we relate to God? We'll look especially toward what that means for offering hospitality to our LGBT neighbors.

There will be three sessions offered, one on the morning of May 1 over coffee and pastries, one on the afternoon of May 2 over lunch, and one on the evening of May 5. We'll be covering similar content at each session, and we're spreading out times to be sure that everyone who's interested will be able to come. However, if you find that you're free for multiple times, you're welcome to join more than once! In the coming weeks we'll be putting out more information covering the details, and I'm looking forward to seeing many of you there!

## **Faith Growth Opportunity – Contemplative Prayer**

In February, a group gathered for a faith growth opportunity we called “Engaging Scripture.” It was a great group of people and great conversation on questions like what is the bible and how can scripture guide our daily lives.

We will soon offer another adult ed group on contemplative prayer.

Contemplative practices provide the time and space to experience God’s immediate and loving presence in a first-hand kind of way. If your daily life is running a little low on feelings of well-being, love, joy, peace, and hope – or if you’re just generally feeling a bit disconnected in your relationship with the Divine – then contemplative practices may be of help on your journey.

Contemplative practices are an ancient form of prayer. At the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> century, St. Gregory described contemplative prayer as “resting in God.”

We will be starting this group in April. The first session will be April 19 or 20 and will be led by Julie Stevens, the Director of Contemplative Prayer practices at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Rochester. The group will meet weekly for 4-5 sessions. Look for more information to come. Group sessions will be in person, on zoom, or a hybrid of both, based on the preferences of the group.

## **Sunday School Update**

This spring, we are looking forward to seeing the Sunday school kids! There will be a Sunday school event on April 18 at 10:00 AM that will feature games and treats for the whole family. There will be another Sunday school event May. Hope to see you there!

This spring, we will also be giving away tree saplings to Sunday school families, along with some other activities about caring for creation.

## **“Growing Connections” Garden**

It is almost time to get into the garden! We will need lots more help this year with this ministry. To find out how you can help, contact Larry Enfield or Nicole Monroe.



## **Vang Congregational Meeting on April 11**

There will be a brief Congregational Meeting at Vang on Sunday, April 11, following the 11:00 AM service. The purpose of the Congregational Meeting is to approve two additional council members. This is to correct an incomplete ballot from the annual meeting in February due to incomplete information given to the nominating committee. Approving the amended ballot will be the only agenda item, so we anticipate the meeting to be very brief.

## **Free Food Distribution in Kenyon**

Through "Live Well Goodhue County," Community Ed at the school has been able to line up a free food distribution in Kenyon. It will be at the Kenyon Pool parking lot April 16 with volunteers needed from 9-noon.

You can help by sharing information about this event, and The Community Ed committee is looking for folks who could help volunteer with the distribution.

## **Adult Ed Opportunity – A Good Time for the Truth**

During Lent, there was a Lenten forum to discuss the ELCA social statement "Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture." Thank you to all who participated, it was a good conversation delving into scripture and church theological teaching. As a follow-up, you are invited to read "A Good Time for the Truth," in which sixteen of Minnesota's best writers provide a range of perspectives on what it is like to live as a person of color in Minnesota. There will be a book discussion group to come this spring.

## **Worship Helpers**

This newsletter includes a schedule for readers and communion helpers. If you are not able to help on the week on which you are listed, or if you prefer to worship on-line at this time, please either let the church office know or ask someone to take your place. We are not listing greeters/ushers at this time, and will reevaluate that this summer.



## **Celebrating a Faith Milestone – First Communion**

Congratulations to Dennison and Vang's 5<sup>th</sup> graders, who received first communion at the Maundy Thursday service after attending classes with the Pastor. Congratulations to Dylan Geiger, Clara Haugen, and Meranda Wood.

## Safety Reminders for Holy Week

Dear Dennison and Vang Lutheran Parish,

During Holy Week, Lent comes to an end and we gather to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

As we gather for Holy Week, we are all asked to adhere to safety precautions. While there are many hopeful signs regarding the pandemic, risk factors still remain. With that in mind, please observe safe practices as we gather for Holy Week, including:

- Wearing face coverings properly at all times while in the church building.
- Maintaining 6 feet of distance between households.
- Staying home if you have any Covid symptoms or possible recent exposures.
- Keeping socialization in the entry areas to a minimum.
- Frequent hand washing/sanitizing.
- Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter services will be available online
- Your patience and understanding are appreciated as we get through this time together.

**Holy Week**—Holy Week begins March 28 on Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion. More Holy Week information is below.

**Palm Sunday (March 28)** - 9:00 AM at Vang. We will gather outside (weather permitting) for the Processional with Palms, then proceed inside for the remainder of the service.

**Maundy Thursday (April 1)** – 7:00 PM at Vang. The Maundy Thursday service lifts up Jesus' last supper with his disciples, and remembers how Jesus washed his disciple's feet. In addition, we will celebrate the First Communion milestone with Dennison and Vang's 5<sup>th</sup> graders at the Maundy Thursday service.

**Good Friday (April 2)** – 9:00 AM at First Lutheran and 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 that will also be available on-line. 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. If the weather is bad, the 6:00 PM Good Friday service will be inside at First Lutheran. Please bring your own chair.

**Easter Sunday (April 4)** Dennison at 9:00 AM and Vang at 11:00 AM.

**Easter Coffee Hour/Breakfast** – Come enjoy fresh baked goods, juice, and coffee. The Coffee Hour will be outside at Vang at 10:00 AM. All proceeds will go to the ELCA Youth Gathering coming to Minneapolis in the summer of 2022.

**Easter Egg Hunt** – For the young and the young at heart! The Easter Egg hunt will be at Vang at 10:00 AM.



## Gala

Faribault Lutheran School Gala - Opportunity to support Christian Education

The annual FLS Gala will be held on April 16th at the Barn at Crocker's Creek in Faribault at 6:00 pm. The evening will include a cocktail hour, silent auction, live auction, games and a delicious meal. Tickets are on sale now for \$75/person through the FLS office at 507-334-7982 or online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fls-gala-tickets-146975829663>. The Gala is the largest fundraising event of the year for FLS. Covid precautions will be taken, so masks will be required. Seating requests are encouraged, as we will do our best to only seat groups together that have requested to be seated together. Handicap access at the Barn is limited, so please discuss any needs you have with us.

Please contact the FLS office if you are willing to make a donation of cash or auctions items for the Gala. More information is available at the Gala Website at <https://flsgala.weebly.com>.

## April Vang Stewardship Message

With snow melting and spring right around the corner, we are all anticipating nature's reawakening. The annual cycle of life overcoming winter's grip reminds us of our responsibility to care for the world around us. Later this spring the Creation Care committee will be sharing a sapling tree with each Sunday Schooler to take home and plant. Along with caring for our earth, these saplings can serve as an enduring lesson for our children about responsibility (watering), planning (selecting a good location), and long-term rewards (trees maturing, providing oxygen and storing CO2).

And speaking of growth and new life, at our Vang Annual Meeting many of us were pleasantly surprised to hear about our congregational giving during the past year. Despite the challenges and hardships that came with the pandemic, Vang's overall congregational giving didn't suffer. In fact, our giving is as strong as it's been in many years. In the coming weeks, we'll continue to share ways that our giving continues to make a difference in the lives of those in our church family and community. Whether it's a tiny investment in saplings for our Sunday Schoolers, or paying for ultra-effective HVAC filters to allow us to safely reopen for in-person worship, our gifts to Vang continue to impact the world around us. Thank you for continuing to share your gifts and making Vang a priority in your giving.



Thanks to those who provide music for the Lenten services this year – Andrew Deziel, Jen Eggum, Tammy Hanson, Paul Ramig, and Molly Ryan. Thanks for sharing your musical gifts!

A big thank you from Bernice for all those who called, sent cards, and sang Happy Birthday. Especially council and those who sang at the service.



Sun Cha Buchta, 74, of Nerstrand, died Wednesday, March 24, 2021, at her home surrounded by her loving family.

She was born May 5, 1946, in Osaka, Japan, the daughter of Moon, Byuong Taek and Chung, Nyo. They lived in Japan and moved to Korea when Sun Cha was three years old. During the Vietnam War, she met Roger Buchta while he was serving in the United States Army. She moved to Georgia in the late 1970s and reconnected with Roger. They were married on December 13, 1980 and made their home on the family farm in rural Nerstrand. Sun Cha was a hard worker who liked staying active and going on walks. She loved music, singing and dancing. Sun Cha enjoyed playing cards, traveling, going on road trips, wintering for many years and visiting family around the United States and in Korea. Sun Cha adored her family and friends. She will be remembered as being a fun-loving spitfire that was affectionate to all those she loved.

She is survived by her sister, Meng, Sun Hyden of Killeen, TX; brothers, Moon, KiJu of Seoul, Korea and Moon, Dart Ju of Seoul Korea; sisters-in-law, Marlys Buchta of CA, Linda Grant of Canada, Nancy (Lloyd) Pleaschourt of Northfield and Paulette Buchta; brothers-in-law, Bernard Silverstein of GA and Larry (Shari) Buchta of Nerstrand; nieces and nephews, Homin Kang, Trooper Hyden, Rachel Silverstein, Earsel (Sonja) Hyden, Leonard Hyden, Sharon McDavid, Kellie Hyden and Kristi Barker. Sun Cha is also survived by many other extended family including nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Roger Buchta who died on July 9, 2007; and sister, Chol C. Silverstein.

Visitation will be on Monday, March 29, 2021, from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM. Funeral services will be held Monday, March 29, 2021 at 2:00 PM at Vang Lutheran Church with The Reverend Paul Graham officiating. The service will also be available online, please visit: [www.wearelivetoday.com/suncha-buchta](http://www.wearelivetoday.com/suncha-buchta)

Interment will be in the Vang Lutheran Church Cemetery in Dennison. Memorials are preferred to Vang Lutheran Church Cemetery in Dennison.