

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

## October 2021

### Dennison Greet & Usher Schedule

	<i>Usher</i>	<i>Reader</i>	<i>Communion Assistant</i>	<i>Communion &amp; Bread Preparer</i>
<i>Oct 3 9 am</i>	<i>Ron Currer</i>	<i>Jane Currer</i>	<i>Jane Currer</i>	<i>Karen Koester</i>

### Vang Greet & Usher Schedule

		<i>Reader</i>	<i>Acolyte</i>	<i>Communion Assistant</i>	<i>Communion &amp; Bread Preparer</i>
<i>Oct 3- 11 am</i>	Dan Dummer Family	Confirmation Reader	Devon Monroe		
<i>Oct 10-11 am</i>	Bonnie, Darin & Laura Schuster	Caren Sletten	Sophia Elftman		
<i>Oct 17-11 am</i>	Ryan Family	Molly Ryan	Emma Wood		
<i>Oct 24-11 am</i>	Warner Family	Pam Enfield	Erika Nesseth		
<i>Oct 31- 11 am</i>	Wendell Thompson Family	Anja Johnson	Erika Nesseth		

# October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Dennison 9 am Vang 11 am (Blessing of the animals)	4 Family Ministry Meeting-Vang 6 pm	5	6	7	8	9
10 Vang 11 am (Come meet the new intern Al Aakre)	11 Vang Council 7pm	12 Dennison Council 5 pm	13 Lutefisk Supper	14	15	16
17 Dennison 9 am (Songs of My Life) Vang 11 am	18	19	20 Evening Taize Service 7pm Dennison	21	22	23
24 Vang 11 am	25	26 KAIC First Lutheran 7 pm	27 Fall Celebration Vang-5:30 pm meal 6:30 pm Fall Celebration	28	29	30
31 Dennison 9 am Vang 11 am Confirmation Sunday						

DENNISON LUTHERAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT						
Date	Description	Amount		Date	Description	Amount
<b>INCOME</b>				<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
8/1/2021						<b>Current Running Balance</b>
8/1/2021	Balance	\$3,040.66		8/6/2021	Guide One Mutual	\$331.35
8/2/2021	deposit	\$851.00		8/9/2021	City of Dennison-utilities	\$47.75
8/12/2021	deposit	\$1,255.00		8/9/2021	x-cel energy	\$161.55
8/12/2021	deposit	\$310.51		8/9/2021	Cannon River Con dues	\$57.00
8/12/2021	deposit	\$1,325.00		8/17/2021	The Paint Doctor/deposit for church paint	\$11,000.00
8/18/2021	deposit	\$300.00		8/28/2021	Dennison/Vang joint acct expenses	\$1,250.00
8/17/2021	transfer from savings	\$5,000.00				
8/18/2021	deposit	\$50.00				
8/28/2021	transfer from savings	\$1,000.00				
8/31/2021	deposit	\$50.00				
8/31/2021	interest	\$0.47				
		\$13,182.64				\$12,847.65
						\$334.99
Savings Balance	8/31/2021					
	1729-----	\$28561.92				
	1737-----	\$238.46				

Submitted by: Karen Zimmerman

## Vang August 2021 Treasurer Report

### AUGUST

Monthly Budget	\$ 12,897.00
Checking Deposits	\$ 13,407.99
Savings Deposits	\$ 32.89
Total Deposits	\$ 13,440.88
(Shortfall) / Surplus	\$ 543.88

### Year-To-Date

Annual Budget	\$ 103,176.00
Checking Deposits	\$ 86,493.39
Savings Deposits	\$ 14,635.05
Total Deposits	\$ 101,128.44
(Shortfall) / Surplus	\$ (2,047.56)

Submitted by Paul Ramig

## Notes from the Pastor

### Contemplative Prayer

*This is adapted from "Common Prayer," a daily prayer resource by Shane Claiborne, Jonathan Wilson, and Enuma Okoro...*

Over and over again scripture invites us to abide in God. To rest in God. To dwell in God.

Contemplative prayer is not just about activity and speaking but also about listening and resting in God. Many of us have grown up thinking of prayer as a checklist of requests to God, like giving a grocery list to someone headed to the store. Prayer is certainly about sharing our concerns and frustrations with God. Still, contemplative prayer goes deeper.

A primary purpose of prayer is to impress on us the personality and character of Christ. We want to become like Jesus, so the life we live in is no longer ours but Christ living in us and through us.

Prayer is less about trying to get God to do something we want God to do and more about getting ourselves to do what God wants us to do and to become who God wants us to become. There are times when we speak, weep, groan, or shout at God. But there are also times when we simply sit in silence and are held by the one who calls us Beloved. We remember the character of God, the fruit of the Spirit, and the incarnation of Jesus as he reveals to us what God is like with flesh on. And we pray that God's character will become our character. For many of us in the high-paced, cluttered world of materialism and noise, silence is a way we can free up space to listen to God.

In most of our lives, silence gets interrupted pretty quickly. Whether it's a knock at the door, a ding from our phone, or thoughts in our own heads, something always breaks the silence we long for in contemplative prayer. It is tempting to give up – to say that silence is not possible in our context or "I'm not cut out for this." But the wisdom of those who have gone before is helpful here. Teresa of Avila, who was distracted by her own thoughts in prayer, said she learned not to fight them but to let them come and go like waves in the sea, trusting that God was an anchor who could hold her through any storm.

Contemplation is about tending to the lines that anchor us in Christ. For Francis of Assisi, the San Damiano cross was one of those lines, serving as an icon to focus his prayer on Christ's love. It was in hours of prayer before this cross that he heard Jesus say, "Rebuild my church, which is in ruins," then he got up to start the most radical renewal movement in the Middle Ages. Service that builds up the Kingdom of God is rooted in prayer. If we want to join God in changing the world, the place to begin is on our knees before the cross.



*San Damiano Cross*

## Why Did Jesus Die On A Cross?

*You may be surprised!*

Have you ever asked yourself, why did Jesus die on a cross? This is a vital question in our walk with Jesus. Come explore this question at a small group adult ed time starting in October. (Dates yet to be announced.)

This group will meet 5 times during October and November. All are welcome. We will be meeting in person and on zoom.

## Blessing of the Animals

*Bring a picture of your pet to worship*

St. Francis of Assisi was known for his love of nature, and taught that one way we see God is through nature. In October, the church celebrates the feast day of St. Francis, the patron saint of animals and nature.

We too will be celebrating animals and nature at Dennison and Vang!

All are invited to bring pictures of their pets (either a print copy or on your cell phone) for a special "Blessing of the Animals" time during worship on October 3.



Oreo "Mr. Bunny" Graham says "Come celebrate creation on Oct. 4!"

## Internship Update

We look forward to welcoming Al Aakre, the new Kenyon area intern, to Vang!

Al will be helping at the Lutefisk supper, and will be at Vang for worship on Oct. 10 and Oct. 31.

## **Worship Updates**

*Looking forward to hearing God's good news this month.*

Sunday, October 3 – Dennison (9:00 AM), Vang (11:00 AM)

Sunday, October 10 – Vang (11:00 AM)

Sunday, October 17 – Dennison (Songs of My Life, 9:00 AM), Vang (11:00 AM)

Wednesday, October 20 – Evening Taize Service (7:00 PM at Dennison)

Sunday, October 24 – Vang, 11:00

Sunday, October 31 (Confirmation Sunday) – Dennison (9:00 AM), Vang (11:00 AM)

## **Confirmation Sunday**

Come celebrate the milestone of Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation on Sunday, October 31!

Congratulations to this year's confirmands:

Erika Nesseth

Rachel Ryan

Lili Wood

## **Fall Celebration at Vang**

All are welcome to come to a fall celebration at Vang on Wednesday, October 27. There will be a meal at 5:30, and the Fall celebration will begin at 6:30. There will be a hayride, bonfire, and pumpkin decoration, and more!

All are welcome, see you there.

## **Stop by Dennison Lutheran on Halloween**

The doors will be open at Dennison Lutheran Community church on Halloween. Pop in for hot cider, coffee, and (of course) Halloween candy. We would love you to come by and say hello!



## **ELCA Youth Gathering**

Preparations for the Youth Gathering are off to a good start. We have 13 people already signed up to participate! Fundraising and other preparations will begin soon.

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

There is still time to sign up! If you or someone you know would like to participate in this transformative event, please let us know.



## **Welcome to Organist Abbey Kelly-Lanser**

Abbey will be providing music for worship at Vang on October 3, and will play at Vang once a month. Abbey is a student at St. Olaf majoring in music. Welcome to you, Abbey!

## **Contemplative Prayer**

Last spring, a group met to explore contemplative prayer practices. It was a meaningful and fruitful time together learning these ancient ways of prayer.

There will be contemplative prayer offered every third Wednesday of the month at 6:15 PM (prior to the monthly Evening Prayer at Dennison Lutheran.)

All are welcome to come to experience these life-giving and transformative ways to pray.

## Notes from the Intern

Last Sunday, my wife Kari was excited to find her great-grandmother's 1931 confirmation photo still hanging at Hegre Lutheran. As we glanced through the other photos, the ever-changing styles and haircuts stood out to me—as did the ever-changing last names. A few surnames were familiar to the current congregation, but many were not. Each progressing photo brought something new and ushered something away. However, the confirmation photos were not only a good object lesson in change but also stewardship. After all, what is stewardship but stability through change. Every photo showed a different group inhabiting the same exact role. As stewards of a congregation, we are links in a chain that goes back to the first disciples of Christ. Two-thousand years of diligent care for the Gospel and God's called community.

Sometimes we equate *stewardship* with *ownership* and imagine a permanent bond between us and some larger entity. Yet, stewardship has little to do with permanency. Stewardship is the temporary care of something that will long outlive us (and yes, temporary can even mean a lifetime). When we are done using land and resources or belonging to a congregation, they don't just up and disappear. God calls a new steward to care for them. This is an endless cycle that we are blessed to be a part of. Ownership is caring for something because it is ours; stewardship is caring because the item is God's.

Each believer is called to seek out other Christians and worship together as a community, but the congregations that we build are never our own—they belong to God. Kari's great-grandmother eventually married and moved to Fairmont; the time and energy she gave to the congregation was replaced by another's. And although her role as a steward of Hegre was done, God was not done with Hegre. The congregation continues to share the Gospel of Christ Jesus, just as all of our congregations do. Names on our membership rolls come and go; there will be different pastors and interns, but our congregations continue.

Realizing our own role as stewards can take some of the pressure off of our lives. It is not all up to individuals or one family or one group to solve the congregation's problems. God is at work in our changing circumstances and is moving us not only to act but to prepare others to act in our absence. Just as faithful stewards of the earth are rewarded at harvest; faithful stewards of the church will be rewarded at the harvest to come.

If you have a chance to glance at the confirmation photos in your church, I would invite you to do so. Maybe you will see a teenage version of someone who taught you Scripture, Grace, or the basics of cemetery care. Maybe you will find someone who you in turn taught the same.

Al Aakre

## Bingo Night at Vang

*Come out for bingo and a meal on Wednesday, Sept. 29!*

One thing that makes our church special is a sense of community. This is a church where you can be yourself.

So every once in a while its good to do something where we can enjoy each other's company.

All are invited to an evening of fun and community on Wednesday, September 29. The evening will begin with a meal at 5:30-6:30, followed by bingo from 6:30 – 7:30. All are welcome!



## Stewardship

At a recent Vang council meeting we had just finished reviewing the previous month's income and expenses when one of the council members mentioned they had recently reviewed their Thrivent account and directed their Thrivent Choice Dollars toward Vang. There were several of us on the council that didn't know what that meant.

If you or anyone in your family has a Thrivent life, health or investment product, you may be able to direct Choice Dollars charitable grant funds to Vang. Each year, Thrivent allows its clients to identify how it will distribute a portion of its charitable giving, called Choice Dollars. By logging into your Thrivent account, you can select for your Thrivent Choice Dollars to go to Vang Lutheran Church.

The process of selecting Vang for your Thrivent Choice Dollars is simple and only takes a few minutes. Go to [www.Thrivent.com](http://www.Thrivent.com) and login (or create your Thrivent account using your Thrivent ID from a recent Thrivent Statement). Look for the section called "Thrivent Choice," and click on the Direct Choice Dollars link to see if you're eligible and set up Vang as your Choice Dollars recipient. It's that easy!

It takes 10 minutes or less to set up Vang as the recipient of your Thrivent Choice Dollars, but the impact can be significant! If you have a Thrivent policy or product, please consider directing your Choice Dollars to Vang. It is an easy way for Vang to receive additional funds from Thrivent each year, and contribute to supporting Vang's mission.

Steve Schmidt

## **All Saints Sunday – Sunday November 7**

Sunday, November 7, is "All Saints Sunday.

All Saints Sunday is a day to remember all the saints, especially those who have died. On this very special day of worship, all will be invited to light a candle for loved ones who we have lost, and to hear and experience the promise of new life in Christ.

Those from this community of faith who died in the past year will be named and remembered during worship.

# Save the date

## Lutefisk Supper October 13<sup>th</sup> 2021

It is a new era for our annual supper, and the Lutefisk Committee is already at work with modifications, new plans for set up and social distancing. Here are a few examples of changes:

The supper will be closed to sit down meals this year.

*Planned meals last year 600 actual paid meals 770 our goal for 2021 will be 800 meals!*

We are offering carry out and curbside pick.

The church basement will be set up for assembly work.

No country store this year.

We will be asking several church members to help with:

Food assembly \* Curbside team \* Drivers for delivery \*set up and take down

Hours from 11:00am-2:00pm and 4:00pm-7:00pm delivery and pick up.

***New and improved container for carry out/Curbside:***

***Spill proof \* Microwavable \* re-usable \* BPA Free \*Earth friendly***

We are working on a goal of 100% pre-book meals this year with credit card payment on our Pay plus portal.  
(*This was very successful for our 2020 event*)

We will continue advertising through our local papers and distributing flyers, but it is our email list that is important to our success this year and going forward. We look for support from our congregation in posting and sharing our event on social media.

New ticket price \$20.00

Workers price \$10.00

Thank you

Kari Flom \* Pam Enfield \* Ann Sviggum



## American Red Cross Blood Drive

Date : 11/23/2021

Start Time : 12:30 PM

End Time : 06:30 PM

Where : Dennison Vang Lutheran Church  
Dennison City Hall

Address : 37622 Goodhue Ave, Dennison, MN 55018



**American Red Cross**

Go to [RedCrossBlood.Org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) to sign up

## Blessing of the Garden and Back Packs



**Sunday, Sept. 26 at 11:00 AM at Dennison Lutheran Community Church**



# Songs OF MY LIFE

**Songs of My Life** – The first of these innovative worship gatherings will be this Sunday. Let's get Songs of My Life off to a strong start in our community.

The Songs of My Life Gathering is open to anyone who is seeking connection. People are invited to gather to share stories, songs and space with each other. In this way we grow together.

Come experience this new way to be together in God's name.

This description is from the "Songs of My Life" website:

"In Songs of My Life gatherings, our goal is to hear honest testimonies and share ours, sing favorite songs and remember the love in the world, take the hand of our neighbor and feel the peace and understanding of our fellowship. This is a "we" fellowship, it is through our shared experience and our ability to connect with others and the world around us that we have found joy and freedom.

Songs of My Life is a movement that began through work in local churches and in the recovery community. 2021 is the fourth year of gatherings."