



Dennison Lutheran Church

Annual Report 2021

Sunday, January 30th

Dennison Lutheran Church Annual Meeting

January 30th, 2022

Agenda

11:00 a.m. Worship Service	Pastor Paul Graham
Call to Order	Joe Amy, Council President
2021 Annual Meeting Minutes	Barbara Koester Amy
President's Report	Joe Amy
Pastor's Report	Pastor Paul Graham
WELCA Report	Dorothy Howie
SEMN Synod Report	Bishop Regina Hassanally
Family Ministry	Pastor Paul
Sunday School Treasurer Report	David Wood
Care Team	Pastor Paul
Financial Secretary Report	Betsy Messner
Treasure's Report	Karen Zimmerman
Joint Treasure's Report	Betsy Messner
Old Business:	
New Business:	
Adjournment	The Lord's Prayer

Dennison Lutheran Church Annual Meeting

February 7th 2021

Meeting was called to order by council president Joe Amy.

No 2020 annual minutes – Tabled.

Joe Amy discussed President's comments about upcoming year.

Pastor Paul – *Recap Paul's report*

WELCA – Opportunity to use WELCA funding to purchase paint to refresh the interior.

SEMN report -

Family Ministry report – Looking to get Sunday School back in person after Easter.

Financial secretary report offerings total \$41,654.44 roughly flat to last year.

Both churches received \$10k grant to use to update technology.

PPE money funding to help with financials though the year as well

Financial split between Vang/Dennison is steady at 75/25 split

Savings account balances:

Savings account (#1729) - \$22,532.07

Building Fund (#1737) - \$238.30

Treasurer's report - Ending balance of \$10,509.23

Total transfer though 2020 from checking to savings is \$13,000.

Joint Treasurers report

Old business -

Readers outlook and future services to discuss during council

New Business –

Exterior painting in need – will need to get bids

Replacing small windows in kitchen and back door – will need bids

Couple council vacancies if interested contact Pastor Paul

Margret moved to accept meeting - seconded

Pastor Paul closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer, and the meeting was adjourned.

Barbara Koester-Amy, DLC Sectary.

“There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12: 4-6)

The people of this community of faith make Vang and Dennison Lutheran Parish a special and unique community. So a big thank to all the people that make up this community of faith. Thank you for your generosity in sharing your time, talents and treasure. As St. Paul writes, “to each is given a manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” Thanks to all who shared their gifts for the common good in 2021, and thanks in advance to all those who will do so in 2022.

Thank you to our office manager, Betsy Messner. She jumped right in and is doing a great job. Thank you to Vang’s janitors, Denise and Nicole. They work hard and care about what they do. Thanks also to Nicole for running the live stream. Her work on that is a huge gift. Thanks to our musicians who share their musical gifts in leading worship.

2021 was a year filled with joys and challenges for all of us. But through the highs and lows, as the psalmist sings, “The Lord is gracious and compassionate, and abounding in steadfast love.” This community of faith has been innovative and is learning new things. This community of faith has been generous, as seen in the generosity of time, talents, and giving in 2021. This community of faith has been active and serving in the community.

Some highlights from 2021 include:

- Adult Ed/Faith formation – We had two wonderful adult ed opportunities – Engaging Scripture and Contemplative prayer. Pastoral Intern Lucas helped lead these events. I was grateful for these times together.
- Use of technology – Church council decided to livestream every Sunday service for the foreseeable future. Through the live stream we offer another option for worship and reach people who can not be with us physically. We are making more use of our Facebook page, which is currently up to 236 members. We look forward to other opportunities to use technology in sharing the love of Christ.
- Internship Supervisor – I was the supervisor for pastoral intern Lucas Shurson in 2021. It was a joy and a privilege to accompany him on his internship year. The internship program is a great example of a ministry we can provide through collaboration with other churches.
- COVID innovations – COVID is certainly not a highlight, but our responses showed creativity and adaptability. For instance, we altered some worship practices, and established a safety team to help deal with the on-going covid challenges.
- Conversations on Race and Culture – We had a number of conversations on race and racial justice in 2021. We used resources such as the ELCA Social Statement entitled “Race, Ethnicity, and Culture,” “A Good Time for Truth” (essays written by Minnesota authors,) and had Lenten forums. I am encouraged by how these difficult conversations went.
- Dennison’s Outreach Vision – Shelved for a time with the onset of the pandemic, Dennison began enacting pieces of an outreach plan in 2021, including establishing two innovative worship opportunities – Songs of My Life and Taize evening prayer. Next steps include continued outreach, and seeking ways to host more community events at DLC.
- Family Ministry – The Family Ministry team has been working hard in the midst of challenging times, and has been having good conversations about what family ministry can look like in the midst of a changing culture. I also learned how many people love bingo!
- ELCA Youth Gathering – We currently have 16 people signed up for the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer in Minneapolis. This is very exciting! In addition, there will be 3 youths attending a pre-gathering event called MYLE (Multicultural Youth Leadership Event) which empowers young people of color. Be looking for future fundraising activities.
- We have served in the community in a variety of ways, including the Growing Connections garden, the availability and distribution of homemade meals, and several community service activities at Christmas time, including the Christmas Sharing program and a generous gift given through ELCA Good Gifts.

- Ministry in the community – I am grateful for opportunities to serve in the community, including participating in a pen pal program for people in ICE detention through an organization called “Conversations with Friends,” and participating in a mentorship program through the KW schools.

Of course, amid highlights there are also challenges. Challenges of course include on-going covid challenges and concerns. Worship and Sunday school attendance seems to be not as high since the onset of the pandemic. And there is always on-going discernment about where God is calling this community and how we can best witness to the love of Christ.

There is much to look forward to in 2022. Some focuses I will be bringing into 2022 include: Providing adult ed/faith formation opportunities (including contemplative prayer practices,) youth and family ministry, continued conversations on race and culture, and getting a worship team established to assist with creative worship planning.

As we look back at 2021, I hope we can celebrate the ways that the Spirit moves in and among this church. As we look ahead to 2022, I pray we can listen together for where the Spirit is leading.

Pastoral Acts: Dennison and Vang Lutheran Parish 2021

Baptisms: Rose DuFresne, Kailey Ehn, Kathleen McGinnis, Harrison Treblehorn

Funerals: Dan Braithwaite, Suncha Buchta, Duane Buchta, Granville Grant, Theodore Lorch, Stan Nord, Norma Sands, Susan Thompson, Chuck Wells

Weddings: Leif Olson and Jessica Ginter

Confirmations: Erika Nesseth, Rachel Ryan, Lili Wood

New (Or Renewing) Members: We did not have an official new member welcome in 2021, due to COVID and other factors. We will be having a new member evening in February with 9 people invited.

01/10/2022

Dennison Lutheran Church WELCA checking account

Starting balance on 01/01/2021	\$1,043.57
Paid to Judy's Floral (Easter flowers)	- 68.85
Balance on 12/31/2021	= \$974.72

Submitted by Dorothy Howie

2021 SYNOD MINISTRY REPORT



Southeastern Minnesota Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



I am often asked what my vision for the synod is, and my reply is always the same: that we would be a people walking together for the sake of the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I know that how we live into that proclamation in our particular communities and congregations will change with the resources we have and the context in which we serve. How we proclaim is nuanced, but what we proclaim (the gospel!) is unified and unchanged.

It seems fitting to pause, reflect upon, and give thanks for all the ways the Spirit has invited us into this holy vocation of proclamation in 2021.

For the first time ever, the Southeastern Minnesota Synod hosted a one-day digital Synod Assembly. We learned some things along the way. Overall, the Assembly was a success: we accomplished necessary business, heard from ministry partners, celebrated some milestones, and cast our sight toward the coming year. It is our hope and plan to meet in person for Synod Assembly in 2022. We will, of course, make adjustments as necessary.

As COVID ebbs and flows, so too has our ability to gather in person. We have continued to take full advantage of all digital and hybrid options, and, as we have been able, we've had in-person gatherings, too. 2021 allowed us to host gatherings for pastors and deacons new to the synod, retired rostered ministers and spouses, and candidates for ordained ministry.

Pastors, deacons, and church professionals were able to gather for a few days this fall to explore together the theme of Embracing Sabbath. The learnings that happened during that retreat are already being shared in congregations across the synod.

While our ability to physically visit our global partners has been hindered, our connections with them remain strong. We have continued regular conversation and partnership with our siblings in Colombia, South Sudan, Tanzania, and ministries at our southern border.

The greatest joy of 2021 has been being present with congregations again. The Office of the Bishop staff and I have delighted in worshipping with you on Sunday mornings, enjoying outdoor fellowship and festivities over the summer months, and sitting around meeting room tables as we discern the work of God together.

It is my fervent hope that in 2022 our ability to gather together will only increase and that we will continue on the road of gospel proclamation together.

In Christ,

Rev. Regina Hassanally

Bishop Regina Hassanally

Southeastern Minnesota Synod ELCA | www.semnsynod.org

Family Ministry Report

The mission of the family ministry team reads: *"Through family ministry at Vang and Dennison Lutheran Parish, we seek to grow faith, build relationships, and serve together."*

The Family Ministry team worked hard in 2021 to provide family ministry during changing and challenging times. Primary duties of the family ministry team include providing leadership for ministries such as Sunday School, community events, and milestone ministry. The Family Ministry Team also provides input on confirmation and high school ministry. Highlights from 2021 include being with the kids in Sunday school, celebrating faith milestones such as giving bibles to our young people, Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation, and graduation, and hosting monthly community events such as Bingo Night and the Christmas Dinner and Play.

Serving on the Family Ministry team is Amanda Flom, Rachel Johnson, Jodie Olson, Lori Ramig, Molly Ryan and Louise Starr, and Missy Sviggum. All are welcome to be a part of this ministry team, or to help out with family ministry in any way. The Family Ministry team meets on first Monday of the month at 6:00 PM

Looking ahead, we hope to continue to discern what works best in providing faith growth opportunities for kids and families, and to provide support for the upcoming ELCA Youth Gathering.

2021 Vang/Dennison Sunday School Annual Report

Prepared by David Wood the Vang/Dennison Sunday School Treasurer (507)-259-3914 (Cell) 507-789-5589 (Home)

Account	Date	Transaction	Checking	Savings	Checking Balance	Savings Balance	Total	
Vang Sunday School Account	1/1/2021	Starting Balance						
Vang Sunday School Account	2/26/2021	Donation Deposit	\$1,405.36	\$1,644.62	\$1,405.36	\$1,644.62	\$3,049.98	
Vang Sunday School Account	3/31/2021	Interest		\$10.00	\$1,405.36	\$1,654.62	\$3,059.98	
Vang Sunday School Account	5/21/2021	Easter Breakfast Deposit		\$0.62	\$1,405.36	\$1,655.24	\$3,060.60	
Vang Sunday School Account	6/30/2021	Interest		\$350.00	\$1,405.36	\$2,005.24	\$3,410.60	
Vang Sunday School Account	9/30/2021	Interest		\$0.67	\$1,405.36	\$2,005.91	\$3,411.27	
Vang Sunday School Account	12/31/2021	Interest		\$0.72	\$1,405.36	\$2,006.63	\$3,411.99	
Vang Sunday School Account	10/27/2021	Sunday School Supplies (Chk#1086)		\$0.73	\$1,405.36	\$2,007.36	\$3,412.72	
Vang Sunday School Account	12/13/2021	Sunday School Supplies (Chk#1087)			\$1,350.63	\$2,007.36	\$3,357.99	
Vang Sunday School Account					\$1,323.50	\$2,007.36	\$3,330.86	
Vang Sunday School Account	12/23/2021	Dinner and Play Deposit for Farm Gift			\$1,851.50	\$2,007.36	\$3,858.86	
Vang Sunday School Account	12/23/2021	Sunday Special Offerring for Buying Farm Gift.			\$1,991.50	\$2,007.36	\$3,998.86	
Vang Sunday School Account		Year End	\$140.00		\$1,991.50	\$2,007.36	\$3,998.86	
Account	Date	Transaction	Checking	Savings	Checking Balance	Savings Balance	Total	
Vang Youth Fund Account	1/1/2021	Starting Balance						
Vang Youth Fund Account	12/23/2021	Noisy Offring Deposit	\$655.03	\$797.00	\$655.03	\$797.00	\$1,452.03	
Vang Youth Fund Account		Year End		\$411.10	\$655.03	\$1,208.10	\$1,863.13	
Account	Date	Transaction	Checking	Savings	Checking Balance	Savings Balance	Total	
Meals Account	1/1/2021	Starting Balance						
Meals Account		Year End	\$16.80	\$70.00	\$16.80	\$70.00	\$86.80	
Account Totals			Meal Funds	Sunday School Funds	Youth Funds	Checking Savings	Total Funds of all Accounts	
			\$86.80	\$3,998.86	\$1,863.13	\$2,663.33	\$3,285.46	\$5,948.79

Dennison and Vang Care Team Annual Report

The Dennison and Vang Care team provides caring outreach in our community, especially with people unable to attend worship. Caring outreach is provided through things such as visits, sending cards, phone calls, dropping off meals, and providing respite care.

Goals of the care team for this year include providing more respite care, and providing training for people to bring communion to people unable to attend worship.

If you would like to be part of the care team, or would like to provide caring outreach, please contact the church office or Pastor Paul

Offerings 2021

General offering	\$49,422.00
Building	75.00
Missions	\$110.00
Special/Initial	\$1,000.00
Loose change	\$363.00
Misc.	0
Interest	\$6.02
Memorials	\$9,910
Total	\$60,886.02

2018	2019	2020	2021
\$1,975.00	\$1,689.11	\$2,313.39	\$2,975.38
\$2,197.95	\$1,534.07	\$4,709.17	\$2,393.49
\$3,480.21	\$4,701.65	\$4,577.53	\$3,026.97
\$4,771.50	\$4,324.50	\$2,540.38	\$4,258.51
\$1,903.67	\$1,450.17	\$1,420.31	\$4,130.55
\$1,857.00	\$1,645.09	\$2,350.30	\$3,778.39
\$3,013.08	\$3,920.07	\$3,690.37	\$3,180.32
\$1,500.09	\$1,466.08	\$1,682.84	\$4,101.47
\$2,206.06	\$3,854.08	\$2,410.31	\$4,165.51
\$2,146.47	\$6,635.12	\$3,458.34	\$3,585.30
\$2,101.12	\$2,817.33	\$2,755	\$19,687.86
\$3,785.88	\$6,967.29	\$5,635	\$4,408.02
\$30,938.03	\$41,004.56	\$37,542.94	\$60,866.02
From Previous Year	From Previous Year	From Previous Year	From Previous Year
\$-4,774.24	\$10,066.53	\$-3,461.62	\$23,323.08

This chart is tracking the last four years of offerings.

Submitted by: Betsy Messner

Dennison Vang 2021 Annual Joint Report

EXPENSE	ACTUAL	<u>Budget 2021</u>
US Bank/Coordinated	\$5324.33	\$4,500.00
Century Link Phone	\$664.29	\$600.00
Northfield WIFI	\$455.16	\$455.00
Secretary	\$3,188.84	\$4,500.00
Postage	\$447.90	\$1,400.00
US Treasury	\$205.53	\$500.00
1517 Media	\$502.64	\$2,000.00
Pastor Paul salary	\$68,000.04	\$68,000.00
Portico Benefits	\$24,898.80	\$25,000
SE MN Synod	\$250.00	\$700.00
Organist	\$7,775.00	\$6,000.00
Vanco (offering fees)	\$428.37	\$600.00
Family Ministry/Conf.	0.00	\$500.00
Lent/Soup Supper	0.00	\$100.00
Advertising	0.00	\$250.00
Supplies	\$581.36	\$1,000.00
Misc.	\$25.00	\$750.00
Pulpit Supply	\$537.00	\$750.00
Bank Charges (Checks)	0.00	\$25.00
Continued Education	\$1,241.71	\$800.00
Total	<i>\$114,525.97</i>	<i>\$118,430.00</i>