

Dennison Vang Lutheran Parish
 PO Box 117, Dennison, MN. 55018
 Pastor Paul A. Graham – Cell (507)581-2484
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 Follow us on Facebook and Instagram
 Website - <https://dennisonvang.org>
 Office - 37514 3rd Ave. Dennison, MN
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 Vang Church Kitchen – (507)789-5186
 Vang Custodians:
 Denise Olson – (612)366-0259
 Nicole Monroe – (952) 465-7747

Non-Profit organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Dennison MN 55018
Permit # 1

December 2022

Dennison Greet & Usher Schedule

| | <i>Usher</i> | <i>Reader</i> | <i>Communion Assistant</i> | <i>Communion & Bread Preparer</i> |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Dec 4th 9 am</i> | <i>Ron Mickelson</i> | <i>Starr Mickelson</i> | <i>Dorothy Howie</i> | <i>Brian Haugen</i> |
| <i>Dec 11th 9 am</i> | <i>Norliene Wells</i> | <i>Karen Koester</i> | | |
| <i>Dec 18th- Songs of My Life 9 am</i> | <i>Karen Zimmerman</i> | <i>Barbara Amy</i> | | |
| <i>Dec 24th- 5 pm Christmas Eve</i> | <i>JT Cormicon</i> | <i>Karie Svien</i> | | |

Vang Greet & Usher Schedule

| | <i>Usher</i> | <i>Reader</i> | <i>Acolyte</i> | <i>Communion Assistant</i> | <i>Communion & Bread Preparer</i> |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Dec 4th 11am</i> | <i>Emery Maher Family</i> | <i>Paul Nygaard</i> | <i>Hayden Remme</i> | | <i>Pam Enfield</i> |
| <i>Dec 11th 11 am</i> | <i>Brian & Chris Treblehorn</i> | <i>Lori Ramig</i> | <i>Rylan Berg</i> | | |
| <i>Dec 18th 11 am</i> | <i>Paul Nesseth Family</i> | <i>Greg Nesseth</i> | <i>Dylan Geiger</i> | | |
| <i>Dec 24th- Christmas Eve 8 pm</i> | <i>Denise Olson Family</i> | <i>Steve Sviggum</i> | <i>Ava Flom</i> | | |

December 2022



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---------|---|----------|--------|--|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 2 nd Sunday of Advent Dennison 9:00 am Vang 11:00 am | 5 Family Ministry Meeting Vang 6:00 pm | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 3 rd Sunday of Advent Dennison 9:00 am Vang 11:00 am | 12 Dennison/Vang Council 6:00 pm | 13 | 14 Community & Faith Night at Vang. 6:30 pm Adult Ed, Confirmation, activities for grades K-6 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 Dennison 9:00 am (Songs of my life) Vang 11:00 am (Christmas Play) | 19 | 20 | 21 Evening Prayer Dennison 6:30 pm (followed by Christmas Party) | 22 | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve: Dennison 5 pm Vang 8 pm |
| 25 One service (with Christmas Carols) Dennison 9:00 am | 26 | 27 | 28 Community & Faith night Vang 6:30 pm MOVIE NIGHT | 29 | 30 | 31 |

| DENNISON LUTHERAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|--|---------------------|---|------------|--------------------------------|
| Date | Description | Amount | | Date | Description | Amount | |
| INCOME | | | | EXPENDITURES | | | Current Running Balance |
| 10/1/2022 | Balance | \$1,098.45 | | 10/3/2022 | Excel energy | 243.63 | |
| 10/11/2022 | deposit | \$1,697.50 | | 10/5/2022 | Grinnell ins | \$262.53 | |
| 10/14/2022 | deposit | \$250.00 | | 10/14/2022 | Dennison/Vang joint /outreach funds for flc | \$56.80 | |
| 10/13/2022 | deposit | \$310.51 | | 10/14/2022 | Vang/Dennison Joint acct | \$1,250.00 | |
| 10/13/2022 | deposit | \$100.00 | | | | | |
| 10/14/2022 | deposit | \$250.00 | | | | | |
| 10/18/2022 | deposit | \$389.00 | | | | | |
| 10/20/22 | deposit | \$50.00 | | | | | |
| 10/31/22 | interest | 0.09 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | \$4,145.55 | | | | \$1,812.96 | \$2,332.59 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Savings Balance | 9/30/2022 | | | | | | |
| | 1729-----33130.81 | building | | | | | |
| | 1737-----238.70 | Lutheran brotherhood | | | | | |

Submitted by: Karen Zimmerman

Vang October 2021 Treasurer Report

OCTOBER

Year-To-Date

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Monthly Budget | \$13,209.00 |
| Checking Deposits | \$11,328.96 |
| Savings Deposits | \$630.33 |
| Total Deposits | \$11,959.29 |
| (Shortfall) | (\$ 1,249.71) |

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Annual Budget | \$132,090.00 |
| Checking Deposits | \$87,095.90 |
| Savings Deposits | \$26,568.38 |
| Total Deposits | \$113,664.28 |
| (Shortfall) | (\$ 18,425.72) |



Notes from the Pastor...

Advent, Waiting, and Being Midwives for God

Advent (which means “the arrival” or “the coming”) is a time of expectant waiting. Christians began to observe Advent as a season of expectation during the 4th and 5th centuries. During Advent, we celebrate the coming of the Christ child - what God has already done. We look for signs of the Spirit among us – what God is doing right now. And we wait in expectation of the full coming of God’s reign on earth – what God yet will do.

But this waiting is not passive waiting. It is an active waiting – like the waiting of a family expecting a child. As expectant parents know, waiting involves preparation, exercise, nutrition, care, prayer, work; and birth involves pain, tears, joy, release, community. It is called labor for a reason. Likewise, we are in a world pregnant with hope, and we live in the expectation of the arrival of God’s kingdom on earth. As we wait, we also work, cry, pray, ache. Someone once said that being a Christian is like being midwives of another world.

Advent is a good time to remember the “great cloud of witnesses,” forbears in faith like St. Nicholas, who was a faithful man of God long before he was a cultural icon. Today, the season between Thanksgiving and Christmas that we try to recognize as Advent is the biggest frenzy of retail spending of the year. Billions of dollars are spent as we celebrate the birth of the homeless Son of God in that stinky manger.

How might we rethink Advent as a time of compassion rather than consumption?

Peace and all good,

Pastor Paul

A Subversive Christmas

“By the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us, and guide our feet into the way of peace.” (The Song of Zechariah, Luke 1: 78-79)

“Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth” (Song of the Angels announcing the birth of Jesus, Luke 1)

“Jesus’ birth, his death, and his resurrection subverts systems of violence with God’s nonviolent love. Jesus reveals the absurdity of believing that the means of violence can achieve the goal of peace. The terrible truth is that our world has never established lasting peace through violence. “Victory” through violent means establishes not peace, but lull. Thereafter, violence returns once again, and always worse than before. And it is that escalator violence that endangers our world.

The birth of Jesus should be cause for real reflection and discernment. Will we trust in false promises of peace through violence, or will we follow Jesus, who brings peace through self-sacrificial and non-violent love?” *(Adam Erickson, the Raven Foundation)*

A Christ-Centered Christmas: Ideas and Resources

Here are some ideas for celebrating Advent and Christmas differently, and more deeply.

Tell the Story – The Gospels according to Matthew and Luke tell of Jesus’ birth, and the events leading up to it. These are amazing stories! This Christmas and Advent, take some time and read the stories. Tell them to your kids and grandkids. Encourage your children (and yourself) to creatively engage the story. Act it out. Create artwork or drawings based on the story. Have the older kids read parts of the story together. There are lots of ways to engage the Christmas story in the bible.

Discover the Real Santa Claus – The real Santa Claus embodies the true spirit of Christmas. His name was St. Nicholas. St. Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need and his love for children. Many stories still exist of St. Nicholas’s life and deeds, including Nicholas saving people in times of famine, helping those in prison, and fighting for the lives of people innocently accused of crime. He did many kind and generous deeds in secret, expecting nothing in return. St. Nicholas continues to be a model for a compassionate and godly life. Have you or your kids Google “St. Nicholas” and see if you can learn more about this inspiring saint.

Observe Advent. Advent marks the beginning of the church year calendar, and is a time of preparation for Christmas. The Advent wreath is a great way to observe Advent and deepen the meaning of Christmas. Light the candles, do the devotions, learn the significance of each candle. In those moments around the Advent wreath, home becomes church.

Spend less. Spending less isn’t about stopping giving gifts; it’s about not spending money on gifts we won’t remember in less than a year. By spending wisely on gifts we free ourselves from the anxiety associated with debt so we can take in the season with a full heart.

Purchase meaningful gifts. This holiday season, “spend less and give more” by ordering gifts for friends and loved ones from gift catalogues such as “ELCA Good Gifts.” Catalogues are available at the church or on the web at www.elca.org/goodgifts.

Another good gift idea is Fair Trade products such as Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate, or hot cocoa from Fair Trade organizations such as Equal Exchange. Equal Exchange fair trade products are available at the church or on the web at www.equalexchange.com

The gifts you give can make a difference!

Slow down and be at peace – Jesus is Emmanuel; God-with-us. God gives us all we need. In the hectic pace of the Christmas season, take some time to relax, take a deep breath, and simply enjoy God’s blessings. Jesus is the Prince of Peace!

What are your Christmas and Advent traditions? What new traditions might you start? During the busy times of holidays, those traditions (old and new) are a haven and a refuge. This Advent, light a candle, and tell again the story of our Savior’s birth.

Breath Prayer for Advent

Prince of Peace

Inhale, exhale

Abide with me

Advent and Christmas at Dennison and Vang

Come experience "Good news of great joy!"

Sunday, December 4 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Dennison - 9:00

Vang - 11:00

Sunday, December 11 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Dennison – 9:00

Vang – 11:00

Sunday, December 18

Dennison – 9:00 AM – (Songs of my Life)

Vang - 11:00 (Christmas Pageant and Worship)

Wednesday, December 21 - Advent Evening Prayer

Dennison – 6:30 PM

Evening Prayer will be followed by a congregational Christmas party with a bonfire, hot chocolate, and a Christmas service opportunity

Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Dennison – 5:00 PM

Vang – 8:00 PM

Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

Dennison – 9:00 AM (Combined service with Christmas Carols)

Advent 2022 – Alive in the Adventure of Jesus

For Advent this year, we will be using a resource from author Brian McLaren called "We Make the Road by Walking." It is a great book well worth picking up. The Advent focus will be "Alive in the Adventure of Jesus."

December 4 – "Women on the Edge" (Luke 1: 5-55)

December 11 – "Keep Herod in Christmas" (Matthew 1: 18-2:15)

December 18 – "Surprising People" (Luke 2: 8-20)



Christmas Family



Again this year we will have a family to help during the holidays.

Let's all help to make it great for them.

We are in need of **money** donations to help purchase gift cards and material for tie blankets the 9th grade confirmation students will be making for them.

Please send/give your donations to Kari Flom.

Thanks, Vang WELCA



"Holy Family of the Streets" by Kelly Latimore

Community and Faith Formation Nights – December

For Adults, Youth, and Children

All are invited to community building and faith formation at Dennison and Vang! On the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, Dennison and Vang will offer a time for all ages to gather, worship, and grow together. The evenings will start with a brief worship time, followed by learning and faith growth time for children, youth, and adults.

Wednesday, Dec. 14 at Vang, 6:30 PM –

Adult Bible Study – Going Deeper into the Christmas story
Confirmation Session
Christmas Activities for k-6

Wednesday, Dec. 28 at Vang, 6:30 PM

Movie Night!

Dennison Lions and Heritage Bank

Community Gathering

Saturday December 10th 2022

9:00-11:00 am

Dennison Heritage Bank

With Santa in his Sleigh

Enjoy: Cookies-Apple Cider-Coffee



Ninth grade confirmation service project ideas from Alex Flom:

My first idea was to collect canned goods and donations for area Food shelves. I feel there is a need for that with the rising cost of groceries that are impacted many families.

But last week while at Dennison church preparing frozen meals for folks whom would enjoy a prepared meal. I noticed the faucets in the kitchen at Dennison church are in need of replacement. I would like to collect funds for the church to get two new faucets. I will need help locating a plumber.

I will have a box for each church for both of my service projects.
Please donate canned goods or funds to help us reach our goals.
Thank you , Alex Flom



Receiving New Bibles



Food Making Night



Adult Education at Fireside