



Dennison Lutheran Church Annual Report 2022

Sunday, January 29th, 2023

Dennison Lutheran Church Annual Meeting

January 29, 2023

Agenda

11:00 a.m. Worship Service	Pastor Paul Graham
Call to Order	Joe Amy, Council President
2022 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	Amanda Flom
Sunday School Treasurer Report	Betsy Messner
Care Team	Fern Vesledahl
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

Annual Report for 2022
Pastor Paul Graham
Dennison and Vang Lutheran Church

(The Lord said) "Do you think this is the kind of fast day I'm after: a day to show off humility?

To put on a pious long face and parade around solemnly in black? Do you call that fasting, a fast day that I, God, would like?

This is the kind of fast day I'm after: to break the chains of injustice, get rid of exploitation in the workplace, free the oppressed, cancel debts.

What I'm interested in seeing you do is: sharing your food with the hungry, inviting the homeless poor into your homes, putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad, being available to your own families.

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly;

Your righteousness will pave your way. The God of glory will secure your passage.

If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out,

Your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight.

I will always show you where to go. I'll give you a full life in the emptiest of places— firm muscles, strong bones.

You'll be like a well-watered garden, a gurgling spring that never runs dry.

You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew, rebuild the foundations from out of your past.

You'll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again. (Isaiah 58)

In vivid imagery, Isaiah points the people towards God's agenda. We do need to continually discern what God is up to in this place, and seek to sync up our priorities with those of Jesus. Then, "our light shall break forth," a community like a "gurgling spring that never runs dry."

I would like to thank our staff. Thanks to Betsy Messer for all of her hard work and dedication. Thanks to our janitors, Denise Olson and Nicole Monroe, for keeping the churches looking great. Thanks to those who provide music for worship – Tammy Hanson, Lori Ramig, Todd Thompson, and others who played here last year.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your pastor. It is a meaningful, challenging, and often times joyful vocation. Thank you for the gift of a sabbatical this summer. It was a time of rest and renewal, and of visiting family, especially my dad as he was on hospice care. We had many good visits together this summer. Thank you for all your kind words when he passed in December. And thank you to Rev. Grant Aaseng for filling in for me this summer.

This summer I took vows as a novice Brother in the Order of Lutheran Franciscans. The Order of Lutheran Franciscans is a religious community seeking to live out spiritual path of St. Francis. This will be a source of on-going spiritual formation for me in both Lutheran theology and Franciscan spirituality.

Highlights from 2022 include:

- Adult faith formation (including Centering Prayer Introductory Workshop, Adult Ed book study on "Jesus Unforsaken," presentations on El Camino Santiago and Franciscan spirituality, and Wednesday Evening adult ed)
- Community events (such as bingo night and blessing of the animals)
- Community Outreach (including establishing "Community Chests" at Vang and Dennison, the frozen meal ministry, the "Growing Connections" Garden, Care Team, training in people to take communion to people's homes, parent's night out)
- New Worship services at Dennison (Songs of My Life, Evening Prayer)
- Cultural Encounters (JustMove led worship in May, A Migrant's Journey joint confirmation event, Border Immersion presentations)
- Christmas Play

As a way to lift up healthy stewardship, I often will highlight something positive our churches have done in the previous week. It is never hard to think of something. Our churches are active and making a difference in Christ's name.

Goals for 2023 include:

- Faith formation opportunities for adults. I hope to begin an on-going Centering Prayer group in February, and adult ed opportunities at the Wednesday community nights.
- Work on ways our local churches can share ministries and resources. Good things happen when we collaborate, and I feel this could be a source of vitality for our churches moving forward.
- Continue Dennison Outreach.
- Begin planning summer a youth/young adult trip for this summer and the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2024.
- Continue to seek opportunities to engage and learn about other cultures.

Pastoral Acts: Dennison and Vang Lutheran Parish 2022**Baptisms:**

Funerals: Marcia Drew, Harold Fogelson, David Henke, Harland Kasa, Richard Olson, Sandra Olson, Dorothy Pince, Carol Remme.

Weddings:

Confirmations: Kyle Brogger, Henry Hannenberger, Joseph Mills, Kaia Monroe, Kaden Wood

New (Or Renewing) Members: John Annon Svien, Ryan Olson and Shannon Pflaum

01/17/2023

Dennison Lutheran Church WELCA checking account

Starting balance on 01/01/2022	\$ 974.72
Deposit 3/24/22	+ 25.00
Paid to Judy's Floral (Easter flowers)	- 183.80
Balance on 12/31/2022	= \$ 815.92

Submitted by Dorothy Howie



Southeastern Minnesota Synod



At our 2022 Synod Assembly, we gathered under the theme *Imagine: Endless Possibilities in God's Grace*. As we live into the future God has for us, we see what we had once only imagined start to take shape in concrete ways.

This year has brought a new way of meeting the needs of congregations in transition as we have explored various models for pastoral ministry. Most prominent among them is what we call a Bridge to Settled model. This new model allows congregations to work with a Bridge pastor (different than an intentionally trained interim) while forming a call committee and engaging in the call process with the understanding that both the pastor and congregation are open to transitioning from the Bridge into a settled call. It is not the right model for every congregation, but it has greatly benefited many.

We have also seen a gentle uptick in individual congregations exploring partnerships of all kinds. Some congregations are forming new joint parishes, others are working together to meld two part-time calls into full-time work for a single candidate, and still others are merging weekly confirmation classes. More and more of our congregations are realizing the profound benefits and joy of collaboration.

It has been fun to walk alongside folks as they lead their congregations into new ways of being the People of God in their community in this time and place.

As 2023 approaches, I remain ever hopeful for all that the Spirit will continue to do in and through us as the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. Looking ahead to our next Synod Assembly, I am excited to announce that we will be joined by Drs. Susan Brower and Matt Bloom. Drs. Brower and Bloom will give us tools to understand our communities as they are presently and as they are projected to be. They will also explore ways congregations can ignite flourishing in the communities to which they are called.

I am excited to continue imagining alongside each of you as we discern what God is doing in our midst and calling us to do. What a wonderful time to be the church together for the sake of the world.

In Christ,

Rev. Regina Hassanally

Bishop Regina Hassanally



Family Ministry Team – Annual Report for 2022

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.”*

Primary duties of the family ministry team include providing children’s ministry, community events, and milestone ministry. The Family Ministry Team also provides input on confirmation and high school ministry.

Ministries in 2022 included:

Service and Learning trips: There were 16 people signed up for the ELCA Youth Gathering. The Gathering was to be last summer, but was cancelled due to COVID concerns. A number of other trip options were explored as an alternative. We had signed up for a service trip in Chicago, but that too was cancelled at the last minute due to lack of staff. We are exploring options for a trip this summer, and are looking ahead to the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2024.

Confirmation Ministry: 7th and 8th grade confirmation meets weekly on Wednesdays at 6:30. Thanks to Amanda Flom for all her help this year with this ministry. The 9th grade confirmation group is focusing on service projects.

Community and Faith Formation Nights,” providing worship, and faith ed opportunities for children, confirmation students, and adults.

Milestones celebrated in worship included First Communion, Confirmation, Graduation, and bibles to 3 year olds and 3rd graders.

Community events – Including “parents night out” and bingo night.

Worship participation opportunities for children – including the Christmas Play, bulletin cover artwork, noisy offerings, children’s messages, and “Lectio Visina.”

One challenge in the upcoming years is that we will be having smaller class sizes in the upcoming years than we have had in previous years.

Moving weekly children’s activities from Sundays to Wednesdays was a big change this year. Part of the intent was to have community nights where adult, youth, and kids were all engaging in worship together, and then breaking into age groups for faith formation and continuing ed activities. This is intended as an experiment that will be evaluated at the end of the year.

Serving on the Family Ministry Team are Amanda Flom, Lori Ramig, Molly Ryan, Louise Starr, and Missy Sviggum. The family ministry team meets on the first Monday of the month at 6:00 PM.

2022 Vang/Dennison Sunday School-Youth Account

Sunday School/Youth	Date	Transaction	Sunday School	Youth	Total
Deposit from SS/Youth account	2/14/2022	Deposit into Joint			\$ 5,167.39
Easter Breakfast	4/17/2022	Deposit into Joint		\$ 296.00	\$ 5,463.00
Bingo Night	4/28/2022	Deposit into Joint		\$ 55.00	\$ 5,518.00
					\$ 5,518.00

Vang Dennison Care Team – 2022 Annual Report

Vang Dennison Care Team usually meets a few times during the year to discuss different topics relating to the needs of people in our congregation or others that may need some extra support or a visit. One topic was, “Recognizing Depression in the Elderly”.

During the Pandemic, as we all know it became a challenge to visit people in person. Team members came up with new ways to let people know we care; by sending Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Thinking of You cards and letters.

For Valentine’s Day a group gathered to make and decorate Valentine Cookies. Plates of cookies that were decorated with love were delivered to church members.

At Christmas we collaborated with our youth to decorate cookies and put together fruit and cookie trays that were delivered to church members and others in our community.

Care team members keep in touch with individuals with phone calls or in person visits. They can even get into playing cards on visits, bringing frozen meals, homemade treats, flowers, or even donuts for Donut Day.

Communion has also been brought to members requesting it, especially when Pastor Paul was on vacation.

We would love to have you join the Care Team, We’re a group of people dedicated in caring for the Congregation, members and friends alike. The time commitment is small and the reward HUGE and GRATIFYING. If interested, please contact Pastor Paul or Fern Vesledahl (507-649-1322).

Submitted by Fern Vesledahl and Pam Koester

Offerings 2022

General offering	\$29,633
Building	\$470
Missions	0
Special/Initial	\$1,100
Loose change	\$1021
Misc.	\$1,765.90
Interest	\$2.58
Memorials	\$3225
Total	\$37,217.48

2018	2019	2021	2022
\$1,975.00	\$1,689.11	\$2,313.39	\$2693.50
\$2,197.95	\$1,534.07	\$4,709.17	\$2,242.39
\$3,480.21	\$4,701.65	\$4,577.53	\$2,894.58
\$4,771.50	\$4,324.50	\$2,540.38	\$3,092.18
\$1,903.67	\$1,450.17	\$1,420.31	\$4,415.27
\$1,857.00	\$1,645.09	\$2,350.30	\$2,132.15
\$3,013.08	\$3,920.07	\$3,690.37	\$3,926.12
\$1,500.09	\$1,466.08	\$1,682.84	\$2,631.08
\$2,206.06	\$3,854.08	\$2,410.31	\$1,930.07
\$2,146.47	\$6,635.12	\$3,458.34	\$2,272.09
\$2,101.12	\$2,817.33	\$2,755	\$3,908.13
\$3,785.88	\$6,967.29	\$5,635	\$5,677.99
\$30,938.03	\$41,004.56	\$37,542.94	\$37,217.48
From Previous Year	From Previous Year	From Previous Year	From Previous Year
-\$4,774.24	\$10,066.53	-\$3,461.62	-\$325.42

This chart is tracking the last four years of offerings.

Submitted by: Betsy Messner

1/1/2022-1 12/31/2022 Dennison Lutheran Treas. Report

Deposits		Expenses	
beginning bal	\$10,771.14		
January	\$2,733.51	0	
February-	\$2,556.51	City of Dennison	\$586.65
March	\$2,905.51	Propane-	\$4,868.54
April	\$3,473.85	Xcel energy-	\$1,977.25
May	\$4,455.78	Cannon River Conf	
June	\$7,172.66	sh re of budget	\$57.00
July	\$6,578.51	Guide-One insurance includes wworkers com	\$1,302.69
August	\$2,621.51	Misc -organist, Augsburg , website	
September	\$2,470.59	Publishing, suppliess/travel	\$2,121.59
October	\$3,047.10	Dennison/Vang joint acct	\$15,000.00
November	\$2,888.64	Paint Doctor-interior painting	\$9,939.75
December	\$13,033.12	windows	\$4,677.48
Interest	\$2.59	S E Mn synod	\$300.00
		transfer to savings	\$5,400.00
		Out reach funds	\$81.80
		Grinnell Mutual ins	\$2,617.67
		Duncan Mechanical-new furnance	\$7,195.10

Total-	\$64,711.02	Total-	\$56,125.52	Ending Balance	\$8,585.50	12/31/2022
fund balances	Checking \$	\$8,585.50				
	Building	26422.56	savings acct			
	Luthern Brotherhood	\$2385.54	savings accout			

Dennison Vang 2022 Annual Joint Report

EXPENSE	ACTUAL	<u>Budget 2022</u>
US Bank/Coordinated	\$5,076.21	\$5,500.00
Century Link Phone	\$682.25	\$675.00
Northfield WIFI	\$455.16	\$455.00
Secretary	\$3,113.45	\$3,500.00
Postage	\$718	\$1,200.00
US Treasury	\$515.80	\$300.00
1517 Media	\$628.38	\$1,200.00
Pastor Paul salary	\$68,680.08	\$70,000.00
Portico Benefits	\$25,622.64	\$26,000.00
SE MN Synod	\$450.00	\$600.00
Organist	\$8,800.00	\$8,000.00
Vanco (offering fees)	\$581.76	\$600.00
Family Ministry/Conf.	\$367.10	\$500.00
Lent/Soup Supper	\$0	\$100.00
Advertising	\$0	\$250.00
Supplies	\$801.82	\$750.00
Misc.	\$96.20	\$500.00
Pulpit Supply	\$4,150.00	\$4500.00
Bank Charges (Checks)	\$0	\$25.00
Pulpit Supply	\$4,150	\$4,500
Continued Education	\$745.00	\$800.00
Total	\$125,633.85	\$129,955.00