



VINJE

witness

FEBRUARY | 2022

everyday

# SAINTS

## FINDING FAITH BEHIND THE STORIES

Have you ever played the small talk game: If you could have dinner with one person, alive or dead, who would it be? An icebreaker meant to stimulate conversation and connection, it's a way to know someone through others—those they admire or find interesting. Folks' answers to this question

often says more about them than their imagined dinner guest. What questions might you ask this person?

It's a way to play the "who do you know" network game a bit in reverse. Who do you wish you knew, and why? What kind of traits do you admire in their life? What lessons might you learn over the conversation with one another? The pastor in me wonders, how did they find God in their lives?

As a newbie to Vinje, I am struck by your incredible worship space. The Holy Spirit moving through the stained glass enclosing the space is a powerful reminder of God's peace and presence. Meanwhile we are circled and held by such a great cloud of witnesses; saints who have modeled and lived the faith in a diversity of ways in their lifetime. It is a beautiful visual reminder about the strength of this legacy of faith which we share and which we participate in every day.

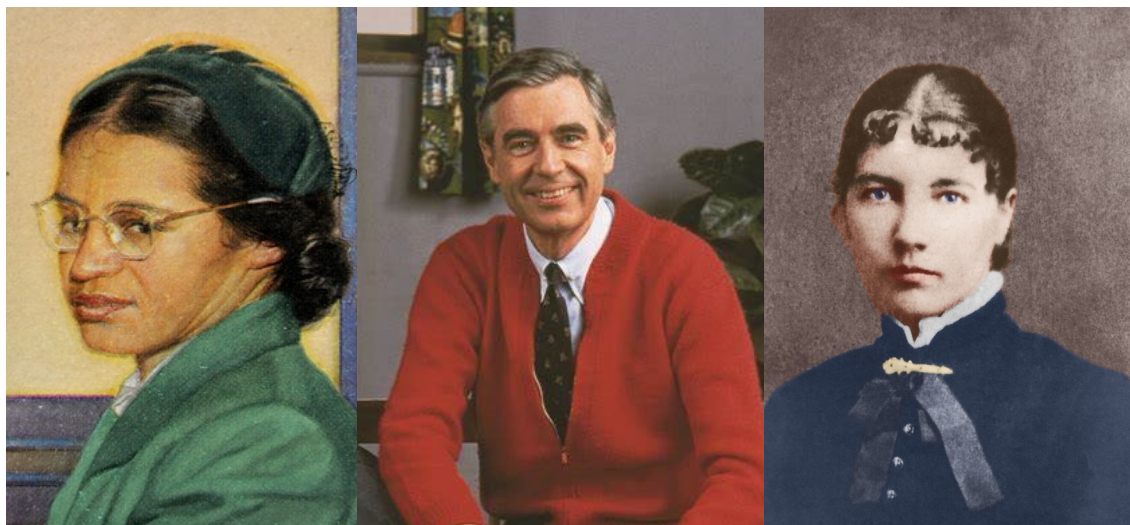
What I find myself wondering about: what about the folks who are not listed? While I would love to have dinner someday with modern theologians like Dietrich Bonhoeffer, historic saints like Francis of Assisi, or even a few biblical heroes like Ruth or Esther; would they be the first saint I would want to ask about their faith? What about the saints we don't think about as readily, or ones who have lived more recently? I find myself most curious about those whose faith was motivating force of their lives, but it is not necessarily the primary part of their historical legacy. What about their stories?

These folks are saints. The named ones circling the sanctuary have lived lives of faith worth emulating and learning about. But you're a saint too. Every day you live your faith in real ways by the how you serve others, through your kindness, through your compassion and expressions of grace. Your life tells about the goodness of God. Some saints live their faith louder than others -- in obvious ways, in famous and glorious ways. But most saints I know live their faith in quiet, faithful, impactful, grace-filled ways. And both of those stories would make interesting dinner conversation.

Our brave, intrepid preachers answered this brief: who would you like to ask about how they lived a life of faith? We invite you to hear stories of "Everyday Saints" in our Wednesday night worship through them month of February. Hear our preachers tell tales about the faith fueling the public lives of Rosa Parks, Mr. Fred Rogers, and Laura Ingalls Wilder. We hope to inspire you, as an Everyday Saint, to ask questions about how your faith authors, guides, and testifies in your daily life.

Stay warm, friends, the February prairie winds are strong. May you live your faith these days with boldness and in grace.

Be well,  
Pastor Erika



*We would like to check in on you or your loved ones when ill or hospitalized. If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please let one of the pastors or the church office know.*

Mary Nelson, Sonja Westre, Andrew Schriener,  
Kathy Reishus, Nora Ander, Anne Anderson, Jeanette  
Fauchald, Tom Nelson, Lane Leedahl, Kerry Selseth,  
Bob Hieronimus, Ken Sietsema

Scott and Kim Rosendahl and family following the death of Scott's grandfather, George Hoffman on December 28.

James Conrad Saunders, son of Ben and Kendra Saunders was baptized on January 9. James's sponsors are Nicholas Richards, Lauren Richards and Allison Richards.

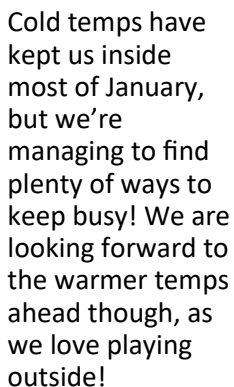


Summer bible camp registration is open and there is \$50 "early bird" discount for all registrations received before February 15th! Find the registration link at [gllm.org](http://gllm.org)!

In December, Naomi Sarah Circle collected many items, baked goods, and candy, which were shared with Vinje residents of Bethesda. Fourteen large bags were assembled and delivered!



Please join us online after worship for our Vinje's annual meeting as we plan for another year of togetherness. We'll elect new council members and vote on a proposed amendment to Vinje's bylaws. See the insert for more information. The Zoom meeting link will be on our website and will also be sent via email. To register, call 312.626.6799.  
D: 811 8662 4196 Passcode: 013471



This past month, we've crafted, bible studied, welcomed a new pastor, played dress up, worshipped, made music and so much more. It may have been cold outside....but it's warm inside these walls and in our hearts too! We are so grateful for our wonderful congregation and the great ministry happening here!



## EXPLORING VINJE'S HISTORY

*This month, pastor Andrés asked Mary Rinke to share her memories of Rose Mary Ulland, Director of Educational Ministries.*

Many people have had a person in their lives that has touched their hearts and minds and helped them grow in their faith in some times, the most unexpected ways. Rose Mary was that person for many of us the "older crowd" of the Vinje family.

She was a living example of what faith looked like in thoughts, words and deeds. Her artwork, cards and banners graced many of our lives. The gentle, powerful and deep words of her prayers/devotions/messages were inclusive, accepting and non judgmental as was her way of treating everyone she met.

Rose Mary's influence was an integral part of Vinje's Library development, organization and expansion to better serve every age group while learning and exploring the wonder of God's promise. Many members of Vinje were encouraged to work diligently to provide an array of books, puppets and things that would further our congregations' faith.

Some phrases you'd hear from Rose Mary: "Have you thought of this in a different way?" Say "Tug of Peace" not "Tug of War"; There was always an underlying theme of: "There's beauty in everything." Her quiet, gentle way of encouraging our hidden/known talents helped us grow into the people we are today and we'll remain forever grateful for her guidance and support.

Teaching and taking classes at Holden Village in Chelan, WA was dear to Rose Mary's heart. Whatever she was teaching/learning she brought it back to us in a blessed fashion. She had her knowing smile and musical laugh when she talked about the "Founding Mothers" of Holden Village. Her sense of humor and the joy of her conversations are genuinely missed.

The reach of Rose Mary's light was far and wide. Her funeral was filled with extended family and friends from across the nation speaking of her presence and influence in their lives. It was said by those that attended, that her internment had an electric feeling.

As a memory keeper, I wanted to celebrate and honor Rose Mary's life and legacy. One of the sayings on her art studio's door was written in German and translated to "Where your heart is, there is your God. Rose Mary's heart was that of a good and faithful servant. A true blessing to all that had the privilege of knowing her. She will always be fondly remembered as part of Vinje's family history.



## CREATION CARE CORNER

Many strands of Christmas lights were collected and recycled. Thanks to all of you that brought yours in and a big thanks to Rick Loseth for tracking down a location at which they could be recycled and then delivering them!



## COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At the November 22 meeting the Vinje Council:

- Engaged in the first round of strategic planning for Vinje's future.
- Entered into a new three-year agreement with Saint John's in Raymond. The agreement is amended to reflect that no pastor will live in the St John's parsonage.
- Discussed building projects including the possibility of a columbarium.



## NO QUILTING THIS MONTH

Vinje Quilters will not meet in February. We will meet on March 10th and 24th.

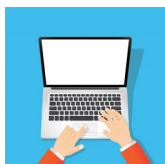
## CONGRATULATIONS TO PASTOR KATE

We are excited to announce that our former intern, Kate Gerike, has received a call to serve both Salem Lutheran Church in Hitterdal, MN and Lysne Lutheran Church in Hawley, MN! She has already been serving these two congregations, but she will officially be ordained and installed as their pastor as part of a special worship service held at Salem on February 5, at 3pm. We wish Pastor Kate well as she begins her ordained ministry! If you'd like to send a card or note to Kate, you could address them to:

Kate Gerike  
Salem Lutheran Church  
201 Hwy 32 S.  
Hitterdal, MN 56552

## TIME, TALENT & GIVING UPDATE

*We are grateful for your time, talents and giving. Your generosity helps Vinje to grow and maintain all of its important ministries as we continue to work together to share God's word.*



### PLEDGE UPDATE REMINDER

If you have changed your pledge for 2022 and you give electronically, we ask that you update your scheduled giving at [www.vinjechurch.com](http://www.vinjechurch.com). We have updated our online giving page, however your login information should be the same. Click on the "Give" button at the top of the page and log in to our secure platform and access your scheduled giving for the current year. Again, if you have any questions, please contact the church office, and we'd be happy to walk you through this!



	DECEMBER	YTD
Budgeted Expenses	\$62,615	\$751,378
Actual Expenses	\$68,461	\$746,670
	(\$5,846)	\$4,708
Anticipated Income	\$62,615	\$751,378
Actual Income	\$87,897	\$731,567
	\$25,252	(\$19,811)

VINJE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1101 WILLMAR AVENUE SW  
WILLMAR MN 56201

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{ bible studies }

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

EVERY TUESDAY | 10 AM | VINJE

**NAOMI/SARAH CIRCLE**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1 | 2 PM | VINJE

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9 | 8:30 AM | CAROL PARKER'S HOME

**VINJE ON TAP & WOMEN, WINE & THE WORD COMBINED BIBLE STUDY**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21 | 6:30 PM | TRAVIS & KARI MICHELSON'S HOME—5550 1ST AVE W, WILLMAR

**Pastor Justin Ask** pastorjustin@vinjchurch.com

**Pastor Dane Skilbred** pastordane@vinjchurch.com

**Pastor Erika Buller** pastorerika@vinjchurch.com

**Visitation Pastor Andres Albertsen** andresa@vinjchurch.com

**Vicar Hope Johnson** hopej@vinjchurch.com

**Director of Music Karen Wojahn** karenw@vinjchurch.com

**Office Manager Tanya Schunk** tanyas@vinjchurch.com

**Ministry Associate Melissa Hansen** melissah@vinjchurch.com

**Communications Director Sara Bos** sarab@vinjchurch.com

**Custodian Ron Nordby**


**Loving Arms Child Care Center Director Chris Cortez** chrisc@vinjchurch.com

**CHURCH ON THE GO!**

**RADIO** Listen on Sundays at 9:30 am on KWLM, 1340 AM.

**INTERNET** Watch anytime! (go to youtube.com and search Vinje Willmar).

**TV** Watch local access channel, WRAC 8/180, Sundays at 2:30 pm and 8:30 pm, Tuesdays at 8 am and 5 pm or Saturdays at 6 pm.

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