



VINJE

witness

JANUARY | 2022



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ERIKA

Dear Vinje,
I get it. Sometimes it's really hard to get to know new people. So here, I'll start. My name is Erika, I am your new Pastor of Worship Art. (What a dazzling title, by the way! I'm a big fan.) Delighted to meet you too. I am looking forward to getting to

know all of you and hear your stories. I want to hear about why you love your church and how you see yourself as a vital part of this congregation. Maybe you'll have to work on that answer, I understand. Expect to be asked.

In the meantime, before I get to meet you face-to-face, here are a few things you can know about me, or things you can ask about—think of this as a softball pitch of conversational starters:

- I drink coffee. Black, no sugar or cream. Several cups a day.
- My favorite color is mustard yellow.
- I have many stories about the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Some of them are quite epic. It is one of my very favorite places in the world and part of my soul is the very happiest in the back of a canoe.
- I have my favorite Minnesota State parks. My family and I love camping, hiking, and exploring.
- I don't have an opinion about football. Best steer clear of that one.
- I have a family! My husband, Michael, is a pastor too. We have three kids: Henry (5), Benjamin (3, but very nearly 4), and Eliza (1 ½). They are fun and they are looking forward to meeting you too.
- My stupid human trick is that I can whistle through the gap between my front teeth like a teapot.

In all seriousness, I would like to express to you my great gratitude. Thank you for calling me to be your pastor. Thank you for trusting me with such an incredible responsibility. Thanks, in advance, for the ways you will show up and be known—your name, your stories, your lives and your concerns. I am excited for the work we will do together for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Be well,
Pastor Erika Buller

WELCOME PASTOR ERIKA!

We are very excited to be welcoming Pastor Erika Buller to our team this month! In addition to serving as the primary preacher at St. John's in Raymond, she will also be working with children's ministry and collaborating with our team to plan meaningful worship experiences.

Pastor Erika's first day in the Vinje office will be on January 4th. We invite you to stop by and introduce yourself sometime if you'd like...or catch her in the fellowship hall before or after worship this month (we know how she likes coffee!). She will be preaching on Wednesday, January 12th as well as Sunday January 16th.



JOIN US FOR A NEW WEDNESDAY SERMON SERIES: PICTURE "PERFECT" FAMILY

There is no such thing as a perfect family, but too often we pretend that our family is exactly that. Join us for worship Wednesdays at 6pm in January as we explore how we navigate the real joys and challenges of family and discover the abundant life that God desires for our real, messy, and imperfect families.

Remember in Prayer

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.

RECENTLY ILL OR HOSPITALIZED

Mary Nelson, Sonja Westre, Andrew Schriener, Kathy Reishus, Nora Ander, Anne Anderson, Jeanette Fauchald, Tom Nelson, Mark Steffens, Lane Leedahl, Kerry Selseth

BEREAVED

Michael and Kathy Reishus following the death of Kathy's sister, Janet Boegeman, on December 1.

NEWLY BAPTIZED

Piper Rose DeBoer, daughter of Andrew & Amber DeBoer was baptized on December 8th. Piper's baptismal sponsors are Thomas & Terrin DeBoer and William & Sarah Pattison.

Henry James Hagemeyer, son of Ryan Hagemeyer and Sara Hund-Hagemeyer was baptized on December 12th. Henry's baptismal sponsors are Amanda Hund and Ryan Terrien.

NEW ARRIVAL

Serenity Erbst, daughter of Mary Slinden and Ryan Erbst, was born on December 4.

LOVING ARMS AND PRAISE AND PLAY

On January 1, Vinje's childcare center, Loving Arms, takes over management of Praise and Play in Spicer. For years, Praise and Play has been a successful preschool ministry of Faith Lutheran and has offered the community excellent preschool education. Now under the management of Loving Arms, we will not only continue that level of excellence with preschool education but expand the center to offer infant and toddler care. Construction to allow for these new classrooms is underway and we look forward to filling those rooms with God's children as soon as possible. As part of this expansion, we are excited to welcome the entire Praise and Play staff to our team of dedicated teachers who are passionate about offering faith based, education, and affordable care to all.



LOVING ARMS UPDATE

Vinje staff offices were treated to the sweetest surprise visit last week as the Loving Arms preschoolers went Christmas caroling through the halls!



MUSIC NOTES

Karen Wojahn,
Director of Music

Thanks to all the people who shared their musical talents during the holiday season! Over 70 musicians of all ages participated in the Lessons & Carols program on December 12; if you weren't able to attend, check it out on Vinje's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/c/VinjeLutheran).

Midweek worship on December 15 included the Loving Arms Christmas Program and the enthusiastic voices of children. Besides the Vinje Choir and Worth Saving, a number of soloists shared songs during the Christmas Eve services. Thanks to everyone!

P.S. Vinje Choir will resume on Sunday, January 9 and JuBELLation Handbells will resume on Monday, January 10. Join us for some good fellowship and music!



EXPLORING VINJE'S HISTORY

This month pastor Andrés asked Gretta Kray to share a bit about the history of Parish Care here at Vinje..

Based on my memories, a parish care committee began in the mid -1980s with three parish nurses and the current pastor at that time. Another parish nurse joined us as well as other disciplines in order to provide more resources.

As parish nurses we completed a training program at Concordia College in Moorhead. We began by making home visits and/or phone calls to parishioners who had been in the hospital. A general wellness program was added to encourage positive health habits, knowing that each individual needs to be healthy in body and mind, as well as spirit.

Included in the program were wellness classes and blood pressure screening between services. To encourage exercise, we met once a week at church to walk. During winter months, the walk took place inside, with 11 rounds of the church building equaling one mile!

Later other programs were added under the umbrella of patient care. These included home communion directly following worship, prayer chain, hospital visitation, and prayer shawl's. For home communion, baskets containing the bread and wine for each person were placed on the altar and were consecrated with the bread and wine that the congregation would receive during worship. After worship, the baskets were picked up by members and brought to a home bound member.

At one time the committee members picked up homebound people for the Maundy Thursday afternoon worship and served them coffee and treats after services. As circumstances changed, the committee began bringing Christmas treats to a different care facility each year for Vinje members.

There continue to be cards sent to members on their birthday after 90 years of age, those who have been hospitalized, and during bereavement.

During the 1990s, there was an increased need for home visitation with communion for shut-ins. After attending the recommended classes from Luther Seminary and interviews with a Synod pastor, I was given permission to bring communion to homes independently. This has been one of my most rewarding endeavors at Vinje as part of the parish care team.

The committee has continued to function at various levels over the years and we look forward to reactivating in January of 2022.

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.

BUILT ON A FIRM FOUNDATION

Thank you to all who made a pledge to support Vinje's ministries in 2022. We have already received pledge from 166 families totaling over \$500,000! In addition, we are pleased to report we have also received pledges of over \$50,000 to help care for our facilities. Because of you and your generosity, we believe that we are in good position to start 2022 on a firm foundation and continue the important ministries we do at Vinje and around our community. Thank you for all your support!



CREATION CARE CORNER

Christmas lights will be collected in the entry way through the end of January.

Energy saving tips for your home:

- Scrape, don't rinse. There is no need to pre-rinse plates before putting them in the dishwasher. Just scrape off any extra food.
- Install low-flow shower heads. They use one third less water than regular shower heads. Look for the Water Sense label on the products.
- Install a water dam on your toilets. It displaces water in the tank, saving on water use.

Be Energy Wise. Happy New Year!



THANK YOU FOR BEING THE LIGHT THIS CHRISTMAS

This Christmas season, Light of Christmas Fund dollars have provided gifts, gift cards, food, clothing and more to 39 adults and more than 50 children. Your generosity provided things like a movie night out for a family and multiple Christmas dinners. You helped to purchase dress clothes for church for a family as well as boots, hats and gloves for many local elementary students. Light of Christmas funds were also used to provide kitchen basics and bedding for a family that was recently forced to relocate due to domestic abuse. We can assure you that these gifts have brought joy to the faces of many as well as providing hope in the hearts of those that needed it most! Thank you again for your generosity.



NO QUILTING THIS MONTH

Vinje Quilters will not meet in January or February. We will meet again in March on the 10th and 24th.



	NOVEMBER	YTD
Budgeted Expenses	\$62,615	\$688,765
Actual Expenses	\$61,911	\$678,297
	\$704	\$10,468
Anticipated Income	\$62,615	\$688,765
Actual Income	\$71,437	\$643,668
	\$8,822	(\$45,097)

VINJE LUTHERAN CHURCH
1101 WILLMAR AVENUE SW
WILLMAR MN 56201

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{ bible studies }

NAOMI/SARAH CIRCLE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4 | 2 PM | VINJE

ELIZABETH CIRCLE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12 | 8:30 AM | CAROL PARKER'S HOME

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 17 | 6:30 PM

TRAVIS & KARI MICHELSON'S HOME—5550 1ST AVE W, WILLMAR


Pastor Justin Ask pastorjustin@vinjechurch.com
Pastor Dane Skilbred pastordane@vinjechurch.com
Pastor Erika Buller pastorerika@vinjechurch.com
Visitation Pastor Andres Albertsen andresa@vinjechurch.com
Vicar Hope Johnson hopej@vinjechurch.com
Director of Music Karen Wojahn karenw@vinjechurch.com
Office Manager Tanya Schunk tanyas@vinjechurch.com
Ministry Associate Melissa Hansen melissah@vinjechurch.com
Communications Director Sara Bos sarab@vinjechurch.com
Custodian Ron Nordby
Loving Arms Child Care Center Director Chris Cortez chrisc@vinjechurch.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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