



VINJE

witness

MARCH | 2022

WHERE DO WE BELONG?

Over a year ago, someone asked me the question, "What is one new thing you've been doing that you wouldn't have done if COVID-19 never existed?" The answer for me was that I have been re-connecting with some wonderful college friends of mine that I had lost touch with. At the beginning of the pandemic, when we were all locked down with nowhere to go, one of my friends reached out and asked if our group would like to get together for a Zoom gathering on a Friday night. We would talk and maybe play some games and have a beer as we chatted together over the internet.

When we had this gathering, it made me realize how much I had missed my friends. Getting together with them, even in this virtual way, made me feel a sense of belonging I hadn't felt in a while. It was like I was "at home" with some of my favorite people again. And though not everyone can always make it, almost two years after that initial Zoom meeting, this same group has an opportunity to check in with each other every Friday night.

This is a group where I know I belong. And I wonder if this experience with my friends isn't a perfect example of the ways that God is always there offering moments of love, connection, and belonging every day.

In this last couple of years, many of us have lost a lot. We have been separated from one another in more ways than one. We have experienced disagreements with family members and friends. We have been overburdened with everyday decisions, and anxiety about what's next, and I think many of us are tired. Many of us are longing for connection, and a sense of belonging, and a space where we can re-connect with each other and with God.

This Lent, we are going to be focusing on that very thing: *where do we belong?* We will explore together the surprising places where God meets us in our everyday lives. We know that we belong to God. We know that we belong to each other. But in the hustle and bustle of the everyday demands and worries, we can forget that God is showing up in our lives in ordinary places and people. So, let's remind each other about the tender connections God is offering us, and the places where God is offering new life even when we don't notice it.

To get you started thinking along with us, a few questions: Where is God already meeting you in the normal spaces of your life? Have you seen God show up at church, or with your friends, or in your family? Or have you experienced God meeting you out in nature, or at your son or daughter's sporting events, or maybe even in your workplace? Join us as we remind each other of the God who is reaching out to us every day in love. Join us as we remind each other that we belong to each other, and that we all belong to God.

Pastor Dane



JOIN US FOR OUR NEW LENTEN SERMON SERIES BEGINNING MARCH 9TH

We belong to God. We belong to each other. In days where we are longing to feel connected, hear this invitation to be found in the places where God meets us. In the busy-ness and fatigue and the autopilot, hear this Lent that through tender connections, God is bringing new life. In our weariness, we do not need another way to hustle after God. We do need a love to remind us of whose we are, the greatness of the God we belong to. Each week we explore these sacred places of connection, belonging, and love. Join us at both Wednesday night and Sunday morning services.

lent @ vinje

ASH WEDNESDAY—MARCH 2

5:00 PM	BBQ SUPPER (MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER)
6:00 PM	ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP
6:45 PM	LENTEN MENTORING

WEDNESDAY MARCH 9—WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

5:00 PM	SUPPER
6:00 PM	LENTEN WORSHIP: HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER
6:45 PM	LENTEN MENTORING

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, Nora Ander, Anne Anderson, Bob Hieronimus, Jayme Sorenson, Julene Bredeson, Lavonne Schow, Darleen Manthey, Kerry Selseth

BEREAVED

Family and friends of Myra Brenden following her death on February 2nd.

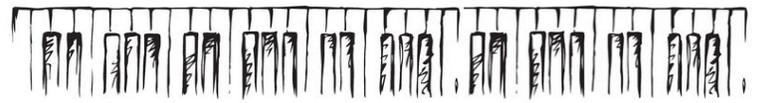
Susan Draheim and family following the death of William Draheim on February 11th.

NEWLY BAPTIZED

Kallyn James Stier, daughter of Pat and Allie Stier was baptized on February 26th. Kallyn's sponsors are Jen Wadsworth and Julie Paluch.

KITCHEN HELP NEEDED

Loving Arms is looking for someone to help cook for some of the cutest kids in town. This kitchen position is VERY flexible...and perfect for someone that enjoys cooking. If you'd like, you could work full time and manage the ordering process, all of the cooking and clean up and even spend some time working directly with the kids! If you're looking for something more part time, you could work mornings and be done by noon! Need days off or can only work a few days per week, we could potentially make that work for you too. If you'd like to learn a little more or if you'd like to come in and observe for a day or two, call or email Melissa Hansen (melissah@vinjchurch.com). And...if this isn't the job for you, please consider sharing this information with anyone that you think might be interesting in this fun and flexible opportunity!



MUSIC NOTES *Karen Wojahn, Director of Music*

Boomwhackers

Have you heard of Boomwhackers? Boomwhackers are colorful plastic tubes of various lengths that produce musical pitches when struck. The fifth grade students at Wednesday Live! have been learning to play Boomwhackers, thanks to generous donations to the Dedicated Music Fund. This addition to Vinje's music resources is bound to be enjoyed by many in the coming months. We hope to share a song on the Boomwhackers later this spring. Thank you for your contributions to that fund. Watch for your opportunity to try them out!

Name That Tune

During Lent, listen for the postlude at our midweek worship services. Can you name that tune? If you don't know, ask a friend! When you figure it out, come up to the piano and get a prize from Karen.

Do you Play a Recorder or a Brass Instrument?

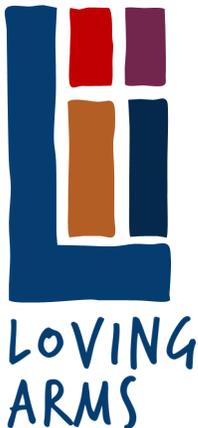
If you can play a recorder, please let Karen know! Many years ago, there was a recorder group at Vinje and we would like to restart it. Karen is also looking for brass players for Easter. If you can play, contact Karen.



LENTEN SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITY: CREATING AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

TUESDAYS MARCH 8—APRIL 12 | 3 PM | FELLOWSHIP HALL

Join Vicar Hope and Vinje friends for a time of renewal and fellowship during this Lenten season. We'll be collaging (making art out of image pieces) as a way to reflect on where we see God in Scripture and our lives. Our group will meet Tuesdays at 3pm during Lent, March 8 - April 12 in the Fellowship Hall. Each week we'll cover a new topic while growing in our collage practice. No art experience necessary—just a fun way to be creative together.



LOVING ARMS UPDATE

Home maintenance, cell phone calls and vacuuming...these kids sure seem to be working on some great life skills during their playtime!



EXPLORING VINJE'S HISTORY

This month pastor Andrés wanted to know more about the so called "dome" we used to have over the pulpit. He is grateful to several members of the congregation who shared information and has special thanks to pastor Engholm for the details and photos he provided.



There used to be a "dome" over the pulpit in our sanctuary. People has described it in different ways. Someone told me that they always thought that it looked like a contact lens. It was hung when the sanctuary was built.

The dome was made of white plastic, and originally it served more than just a decorative purpose. Apparently, it was supposed to enhance the voice of the preacher. It could also be lit. There was a button on the floor of the pulpit that the pastor could step on when they entered and exited the pulpit to turn the light on and off.

When Maxine Anfinson worked in the church office back in the 90's, she sometimes helped the janitor, Marg Leraas clean the dome. They had to use a big ladder and long handled dust mops sprayed with Windex...and they always remembered to say a prayer first as they feared falling or breaking the dome.

The dome stayed in its place until it was taken down in December of 2012 during pastor Jeff Engholm's tenure as pastor at Vinje. He recalls that the chains that held it up were disintegrating, and that it also blocked the view of the newly installed screens. Therefore, the decision was made to take it down. Vinje members helped take it down and put it in storage in the quilting room.

I suspect that there was another reason for taking the dome down. I have been told that some teens would sit in the balcony during worship and attempt to throw paper airplanes into the dome during the sermon. I have heard that choir members would do the same if the sermon was too boring. In fact, I have also been told that pastor Glenn Taibl used to go over to the sanctuary with his daughter outside worship time to throw paper airplanes from the balcony towards the dome, and the paper airplanes would really fly some neat ways when the air or the heat were on.



CREATION CARE CORNER

We will be celebrating Earth Day at Vinje April 24 by giving out free bare root trees to plant in your own yards. Let's all help reduce the carbon footprint!

A reminder—these items cannot be recycled: Styrofoam, batteries, plastic wrap and bags, food waste, shredded paper, and medical/hazardous waste.

Don't have a recycling bin or forgot the schedule? You can get help by calling 800.246.7630 or head to www.wcsanitation.com Remember that every day is Earth Day.



 **QUILTING RETURNS THIS MONTH**
Vinje Quilters will meet on March 10th and 24th at 9am.

PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE!

Vinje youth will be hosting a bake sale before and after worship on Palm Sunday! Bring goodies to donate (wrapped and ready for sale) or buy goodies to enjoy! Your free will donations support youth mission trips! Donated cookies, bars, breads, cupcakes or pies would be greatly appreciated and can be dropped off before the service on Sunday.



LENTEN MEAL FUNDRAISERS

MARCH 2 @ 5PM: BBQS

APRIL 6 @ 5PM: TACO IN A BAG

Youth attending summer 2022 mission trips will be making you two delicious meals! Join us for a BBQ meal complete with chips, salad and treats before Ash Wednesday worship on March 2nd and then Taco in a bag and treats on April 6th! We look forward to seeing you there!

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.

CAN YOU HELP?

As we are moving back towards "normal" worship practices, we are finding that we are in dire need of your help! We need to once again build up our roster of communion servers, ushers and camera operators. Whether you can help one per month, once per quarter, one month each year...whatever it might be, we can work with you! Please reach out to Melissa Hansen (melissah@vinjchurch.com) if you can help!



	JANUARY	YTD
Budgeted Expenses	\$69,646	\$69,646
Actual Expenses	\$62,364	\$62,364
	(\$7,282)	(\$7,282)
Anticipated Income	\$69,646	\$69,646
Actual Income	\$71,282	\$71,282
	\$1,636	\$1,636

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{ bible studies }

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

EVERY TUESDAY | 10 AM | VINJE

NAOMI/SARAH CIRCLE

TUESDAY, MARCH 1 | 2 PM | VINJE

ELIZABETH CIRCLE

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

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

MONDAY, MARCH 14 | 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 chriscc@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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