



VINJE

witness

MAY | 2022

Spring brings all kinds of milestones and experiences of new. Kids graduate and get ready to move on to the next big thing. There's the beautiful sight of a first-time mom celebrating her first Mother's Day. The warmer temps bring all kinds of enthusiasm and new energy from pent-up kids and grown-ups alike. It's like seeing the world for the first time.

There's lots of things in this season which feel new... says the pastor who has only been here for about 4 months. It's true, I have been living in a long season of new. Every day I trip over something new, something I haven't done before, a new person to meet and learn to love, a new service to lead, a new song played in worship. New, new, new. It's tough some days to be new. You have to be bold enough to ask for help, or a reminder, or some small piece of grace from those around you. New can be tender, and difficult. It's enough sometimes to make me wish for old things, familiar ways, or established routines.

Yes, "new" can come with amazing adventures. It also comes with a lot of uncertainty. New needs lots of courage to try again. New needs compassion and care. New needs energy.

I imagine sometimes what Jesus' followers must have felt after Jesus' resurrection. Their whole world had changed! Jesus is alive! Death does not win! And now, everything is different. Everything they once thought they knew, had changed considering Christ's resurrection. They needed to learn a whole new way to be in the world, a whole new way to follow Jesus, a whole new way to live the

commandment to love their neighbor. I imagine this came with lots of false starts, second chances, and stupid mistakes. All this comes with the territory of declaring with boldness, "I'm New Here". God makes all things new. Including us. Including a broken, hurting world. God makes all things new. God meets us in our newness, knowing we might be a bit tender or confused. God meets us with comfort, challenge, and compassion. May God's Holy Spirit encourage you through this season of "new". Join us Sundays May 1- June 5 for our preaching series "I'm New Here"!

Be well,  
Erika



## JOIN US FOR TWO NEW SPRING SERMON SERIES

HELLO

*I'm new here.*

### I'M NEW HERE SUNDAYS MAY 1-JUNE 5

Spring is often a time for lots of new beginnings, milestones, and celebrations. Through Jesus, we believe God is making all things new—even us. Throughout all in life that is new, uncertain, fresh and exciting, God speaks words of comfort, promise, and challenge.

### JESUS AT THE MOVIES WEDNESDAYS APRIL 24 – MAY 15

Lights! Camera! Gospel! Grab your popcorn and join us for our Wednesday series "Jesus at the Movies". Your pastors boldly proclaim to you a vision for our church using both Scripture and movie clips.



# 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.*

## PRAYERS

Cole Woltjer, Merle Berkeland, Mary Meilke, Mary Nelson, Sonja Westre, Andrew Schriener, Nora Ander, Lane Leedah, Jeanette Fauchald, Julene Bredeson, Randy Patton, Darleen Manthey, Dianne Christenson, Kerry Selseth, Lavonne Schow

## NEW BAPTIZED

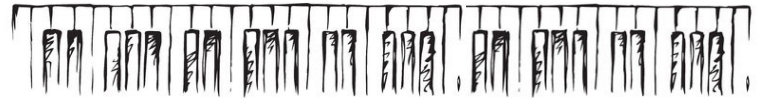
Jaxson David Krohn, son of Nicholas and Mackenzie Krohn was baptized on April 10th. Jaxson's baptismal sponsors are Rachel Meuwissen, Brittany Holtz, Stephanie Thompson and Brent Brezczinski.

## BEREAVED

Family and friends of Mona Flack following her death on April 1.

Family and friends of Doris Kamstra following her death on April 9.

Family and friends of Wes Hanson following his death on



## MUSIC NOTES

Karen Wojahn,  
Director of Music

### SING TO THE LORD!

Listen for the sounds of children's voices, as we conclude the school year with song! At worship on Wednesday, May 4, the Loving Arms children will share some songs they have learned about being children of God. The following Wednesday, May 11, songs will be shared by students in Sunday School and Wednesday Live! that remind us of God's love and how our friendships can be like those of our best friend, Jesus.

On Mother's Day, May 8, the JuBELLation Handbell Choir, together with piano and flute, will share a delightful arrangement of "Jesus Loves Me" that incorporates "Children of the Heavenly Father."

Nova Voices and Shalom Singers will have a busy month as they lead worship on Wednesdays, May 4 and May 18, as well as on Sunday, May 22, when we recognize our high school graduates.

The Vinje Choir's year will conclude with anthems for Sunday worship on May 1, May 15 and Pentecost, June 5. Please feel free to join us!

## SUMMER DAY CAMP (AKA VBS) AND BIBLE CAMP OPPORTUNITIES!

Believe it or not, summer is just around the corner, and that means we have some exciting opportunities for the children and youth of our congregation coming up!

### SUMMER DAY CAMP (VBS) - JULY 18-21 | PRESCHOOL — 8:00AM-11:30 AM, K-5 — 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

Vinje is once again partnering with Bethel and Calvary to offer a week of programming for students Pre-K-5th grade at Vinje and Shores of St. Andrew's. At day camp, kids will participate with their friends in age-appropriate Bible study, worship, activities, crafts, and games, and spend time with trained college-aged young adults who have a passion for working with kids. Students will experience and enjoy all sorts of fun like a traditional vacation bible school, while also getting an introduction to the magic of summer camp! Registration info can be found at [www.vinjechurch.com](http://www.vinjechurch.com). Registration deadline is May 31st.

### GREEN LAKE BIBLE CAMP SUMMER CAMP - WEEKS AVAILABLE JUNE 12-AUGUST 11

Come and experience the joy of camp, hosted at Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp and Green Lake Bible Camp! Weeks are filling up fast, so please register asap if you haven't already done so! When you make the decision to send your child to Bible camp, you are making a choice that will impact your child's life long after the week at camp is over. Spending time in community with joyful worship, loving counselors, caring peers, the beauty of nature, and a focus on the life-changing love of Jesus is something that is hard to duplicate. In a world full of distractions, Bible camp is a place where kids can freely grow in the confidence that they are beloved children of God. Various options are available for Grades 1-12. To register or to learn more, go to [www.gllm.org/summer-camp](http://www.gllm.org/summer-camp).

As always, scholarships are available as we want all kids to have the opportunity to participate! Please contact Pastor Erika ([pastorerika@vinjechurch.com](mailto:pastorerika@vinjechurch.com)) with any questions.



## LOVING ARMS UPDATE

April 4-8th, we will be celebrating the week of the young child! This means lots of fun activities and field trips for our friends! Bowling, movies, The Village and more will keep these kids very busy!





## EXPLORING VINJE'S HISTORY

*This month pastor Andrés asked Pastor Amy Juel to share her memories from her ordination that took place at Vinje in 2012.*

One Sunday morning in 2006, I talked with Dr. Rick Bliese, President of Luther Seminary during fellowship about the call to ministry that I was feeling and the wheels started turning!

I was gifted with a Dorothy Olson Seminary Scholarship that funded my tuition, books, travel, and supplemental needs. Sherri (former Financial Secretary) was an angel when it came to taking care of the paperwork and bills. Pastors Steve, Barbara and Mary were integral parts of my education, mentoring, and support. Vinje members such as Jean & Todd Geselius, Kim Davis, and others helped care for my four young children by providing meals, rides, and childcare. Many more were supportive through prayer and encouragement-and still are! Vinje will always hold a special place in my heart.

I was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on May 29, 2012 at Vinje. It was a beautiful service full of music, prayer, tradition, and celebration..

Surrounded by my family, friends, and colleagues, I was presented for ordination by the Area Churches Together (ACT) Parish to which I had been called. Bishop Jon Anderson led the Rite of Ordination. After answering these questions, Bishop Jon and I walked to the center of Vinje's round sanctuary and the clergy and congregation encircled us and laid hands on me. Bishop Jon then prayed for me, my ministry, and my service in the world.

At the altar, my first stole was presented and placed around my shoulders by my husband. This stole is a reminder that Jesus called me to "take my yoke upon you" Matthew 11:28-30.

Bishop Jon spoke to me, "Care for God's people, bear their burdens, and do it betray their confidence. So discipline yourself in life and teaching that you preserve the truth, giving no occasion for false security or illusory hope. Witness faithfully in word and deed to all people. Give and receive comfort as you serve within the church."



At that point, I was invited to lead the rest of the service, including presiding over Holy Communion. It was a beautiful gift and blessing to speak the words, "Given for you" to all of the people who had loved, supported, and prayed for me on my faith journey. What an amazing way to begin a vocation!

## CREATION CARE CORNER

### UPDATE FROM YOUR CREATION CARE COMMITTEE

A few members of the Vinje Creation Care Team answered the invitation to attend 5 Zoom classes on creation care, presented by the Ecofaith Network of the NE MN synod. The presenters were members of a creation care team from around the state, and shared some of the things they have done and inspired us to consider some of their ideas. In the coming months, our team will be considering and implementing some these ideas. One inspiring idea was a middle-schooler thought his congregation should eliminate the use of paper napkins, so he volunteered to launder cloth napkins until he graduated from high school, then someone else took on the task! Some congregations have gone solar, while others are considering it. Many are trying to lower or eliminate their carbon footprint.

### COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Your Vinje Council has been busy over the last couple of months. Here is what they've been up to.

- 2022 Officers: President Scott Hovland, Vice-President Brad Schmitt, Secretary Lynn Stier, and Treasurer Christina Boike. Angie Hoppe was elected to serve as an at-large member of our Executive Committee.
- In continuing their visioning conversations about the future of Vinje the council has started to focus on worship, outreach ministries, and being a more welcoming and inclusive congregation.
- Work continues on the plan for a columbarium.



### QUILTING DATES FOR MAY

Vinje Quilters will meet on May 12 and 26 at 9am.

### MAY QUILT RAFFLE

Each Sunday in May, the Vinje Quilters will be selling raffle tickets for a handmade quilt created by Shirley Sundlee! All proceeds will go towards camp scholarships for Vinje youth. Your support of this ministry is greatly appreciated!



## 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.*

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Vinje is a church who cares about our neighbors, both near and far! Did you know that because of direct gifts from our members, this last month we were able to give away \$2,775 to support the people of Ukraine through Lutheran Disaster Response? We also gave away \$1,500 to the Kandiyohi County Food Shelf to help feed hungry families in our local community. All of these recent gifts support people in need in addition to the almost \$60,000 we plan on giving away every year. Thank you for your generosity in supporting not only our congregation, but those around us! Together, we make a difference!



	FEBRUARY	YTD
Budgeted Expenses	\$69,646	\$139,292
Actual Expenses	\$71,673	\$134,037
	\$1,988	(\$5,255)
Anticipated Income	\$69,646	\$139,292
Actual Income	\$73,922	\$145,204
	\$4,276	\$5,912

VINJE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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APRIL | 2022

## { bible studies }

### **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

EVERY TUESDAY | 10 AM | VINJE

### **NAOMI/SARAH CIRCLE**

TUESDAY, APRIL 5 | 2 PM | VINJE

### **VINJE ON TAP**

MONDAY, APRIL 11 | 7 PM | RUFF'S

### **ELIZABETH CIRCLE**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13 | 8:30 AM | CAROL PARKER'S HOME

### **WOMEN, WINE & THE WORD**

MONDAY, APRIL 18 | 6:30 PM | CRYSTAL LENZ'S HOME-7008 S. ELKHORN DRIVE, SPICER, MN

**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.