



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Annual Meeting – February 5, 2023

Vinje Lutheran Church

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2022 Staff

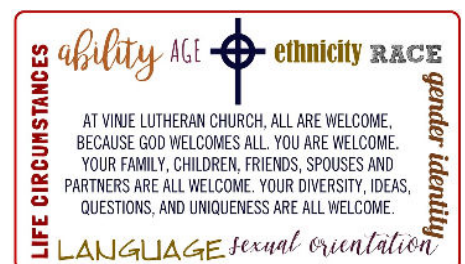
Lead Pastor	Justin Ask
Pastor of Worship Arts & Faith Formation	Erika Buller
Pastor for Discipleship & Community Engagement	Dane Skilbred
Visitation Pastor	Andres Albertson
Intern	Vicar Hope Johnson
Director of Music	Karen Wojahn
Loving Arms Childcare Center Director	Chris Cortez
Office Manager	Tanya Schunk
Ministry Associate	Melissa Hansen
Communications Director	Sara Bos
Custodian	Ron Nordby

Executive Committee

President, Scott Hovland	Vice President, Brad Schmidt
Treasurer, Christina Boike	Secretary, Lynn Stier

Council Terms:

2022-2023	Lynn Stier, Dan Kleven, Ben Saunders, Nicole Mages, Allie Rosendahl
2021-2024	Crystal Lenz, Angie Hoppe, John Hotek, Joe Kuehn
2020-2023	Deb Habbena, Scott Hovland, Kathy Hund, Brad Schmidt (terms expired February 2023)



AGENDA

FEBRUARY 5, 2023

Call to Order	Scott Hovland, President
Opening Prayer	Pastor Justin Ask
Approval of Agenda	Scott Hovland, President
Staff Report	Pastor Justin Ask
Secretary's Report	Lynn Stier, Secretary
Treasurer's Report	Christina Boike, Treasurer
Election of 2023 Nominating Committee	Scott Hovland, President
Election of New Council Members	Scott Hovland, President
Consideration of 2023 Budget	Christina Boike, Treasurer
Adjournment	Scott Hovland, President
Closing Prayer	Pastor Dane Skilbred

VINJE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Congregational Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2022, 11:00 a.m.

The Annual Meeting of Vinje was held via Zoom.

The moderator for the meeting was congregation president, Shelly Bormann.

The meeting was called to order at 11:01 a.m. A quorum of the congregation was determined to be present.

Pastor Justin Ask led the meeting in an opening prayer.

The 2021 Annual Report with the proposed budget and list of Council and nominating committee nominees was available prior to the meeting.

The agenda was presented and a motion to approve the agenda was made by Roger Kingstrom, seconded by Dan Kleven. Motion carried by voice vote.

Pastor Justin Ask provided a staff report. Youth ministry, Loving Arms and St. John's Lutheran were all included in the highlights.

Secretary's report was made by noting that the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting on February 7, 2021, and minutes of the special meeting on November 3, 2021, were included in the Annual Report. A motion to approve the 2-7-21 minutes was made by Carol Maursetter, seconded by Karla Tinklenberg and carried by voice vote. Motion to approve the 11-3-21 minutes was made by Char Kingstrom, seconded by Rick Loeth, and carried by voice vote.

Treasurer's report was presented by Christina Boike. The year was positive despite the pandemic. \$731,568 was total income for the year which was under budget. Total expenses were \$746,671 which was under budget. Net assets for the year increased by \$57,812. Other highlights included the following:

Dedicated/Memorial Accounts - income of \$106,345, expenses of \$111,850 with a decrease of net assets of \$5,505.

Endowment Accounts – endowment income was \$226,498; Cemetery Fund incurred \$3,263 of expenses; Endowment disbursements totaled \$43,210; college Scholarships of \$8,010 were awarded; net Endowment assets at the end of the year totaled \$1,932,299.

Loving Arms – income of \$602,278 and expenses of \$567,216 with a net increase in assets of \$124,163.

A motion to approve the treasurer's report, subject to audit, was made by Roger Kingstrom, seconded by Marv Napgezek. Motion carried by voice vote. The pastors abstained from the vote.

The following nominees for the Nominating Committee were identified: Shelly Bormann, Brad Schmidt, Lynn Gatewood, Scott Hovland and Scott Lundy. Additional nominations were requested, none received. A motion to approve the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot was made by Deb Habbena, second by Kris Gulbransen, and the motion passed by voice vote.

VINJE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Congregational Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2022, 11:00 a.m.

Continued....

The following nominees for Church Council were identified: Dan Kleven, Nicole Mages, Ben Saunders, Lynn Stier and Allie Rosendahl (youth position). Additional nominations were requested, none received. A motion to approve the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot was made by Marion Nordin, second by Rick Loeth, and the motion was passed by voice vote.

The 2022 budget was presented by Christina Boike. A copy of the Budget Worksheet was included in the Annual Report. The budget includes the following highlights:

Total projected income - \$835,756
Total projected expense - \$835,756

A motion to approve the budget was made by Christina Boike, seconded by Dan Kelven. Motion carried by voice vote. The pastors abstained from the vote.

An amendment to the church bylaws was presented as follows: Current

Bylaw

C12.05.01. The Congregation Council may enter into contracts of up to \$5,000 for items not included in the budget or undesignated reserve funds.

Proposed Amended Bylaw

C12.05.01. The Congregation Council may enter into contracts for items not included in the budget or undesignated reserve funds as long as the cost does not exceed 5% of the annual budget for general fund contributions,

A motion to approve the Bylaw change was made by Paul Nordin, seconded by Roger Kingstrom.

Rick Maursetter made a motion to amend by adding the following proposed language at the end of the bylaw change: **“exceeding more than 5% in the calendar year will require a congregational meeting.”** That motion was seconded by Roger Kingstrom. The motion for that amendment did not pass.

The original motion to approve the Bylaw change without the amendment was approved by majority voice vote.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Marilyn Tiede, seconded by Marion Nordin. Motion carried by voice vote.

Pastor Dane Skilbred led the congregation in a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Brad Schmidt, Council secretary

2022 Annual Report – From the Church Records

Baptisms 2022:

James Conrad Saunders - 1/09/2022
Kallyn James Stier - 02/26/2022
Serenity Elizabeth Anne Erbst - 03/13/2022
Jaxson David Krohn - 4/03/2022
Nora Brooke Kleven - 6/24/2022
Nova Rae Ascheman - 8/14/2022
Jack Thomas Lippert - 9/25/2022
Kaysen Lee Gilberts - 10/02/2022
Lincoln Robert Iverson - 10/09/2022
Mia Renee-Leona Martinez - 10/16/2022
Kinsley Kate Carlson - 11/20/2022

Confirmations October 30, 2022:

Gavin Banks
Erin Dressler
Erin Eilers
Lauren Eilers
Braeden Fagerlie
Jackson Gatewood
Isabel Gilberts
Grace Herman
Kaylee Hurley
Evan Ims
Gabe LaRue
Nate Norsten
Blake Reiman
Hannah Schueller
Isaac Skindell
Connor Smith
Vaughn Wogan
Laura Zupke

Marriages 2022:

Charlie Trochil & Sydney Klein - 5/20/2022
Daniel Stadem & Megan Andresen - 5/28/2022
Deion Sachs & Jada Jacobson - 6/11/2022
Andy Tupa & Breanna Ahlers - 6/24/2022
Nicholas Carlson & Lisa Bredeson - 6/25/2022
Mark Richard & Erin Gilbertson - 9/17/2022

Burials 2022:

William Draheim - 2/19/2022
Jerry Johnson - 2/23/2022
Harriet Peterson - 03/19/2022
Ramona Flack - 4/1/2022
Doris Kamstra - 4/9/2022
Joan Hinderaker - 4/13/2022
Wesley Hanson - 4/23/2022
Carol Nelson - 5/04/2022
Darrin Ogdahl - 6/22/2022
Nora Ander - 8/28/2022
Ruth Sanders - 10/16/2022
Phil Anderson - 11/06/2022
Robert Hieronimus - 12/09/2022

First Communion 2022:

Bianca Grace Lenz
Dre Thomas Lenz
Morgan Pallansch
Gavin James DeBoer
Hadley Jo DeBoer
Rowan Ellanora Glein-Erickson
Ashton David Fagerlie
Ethan Kenneth Hoppe
Emmett Lee Michelson
Gavin Michael Schunk
Kolten Randy Schunk
Connor John Spencer
Easton Wayne Tammen

New Members Received 2022:

Le & Larry Lucht - 1/26/2022
Brian, Heidi, Aidan & Cora Paulson - 8/22/2022
Amanda, Anthony & Connor Thompson - 8/30/2022
Ryan, Emily, Lucy & Rhett Quitney - 9/20/2022
Brett & Spencer Carlson - 9/22/2022

Members Transferred Out 2022:

James, Sarah, Sophie & Claudia Oyen - 3/9/2022

Pastor Justin Ask, Lead Pastor

*God said,
"I will point out the road
that you should follow.
I will be your teacher
and watch over you."*

Psalm 32:8

In the past year I've heard numerous church council members say, *"change is the only thing that never changes"* and *"if you aren't growing, you're dying."* I'm pretty sure that is their way of saying,

"THERE IS A LOT GOING ON HERE!"

Our preschool ministry continues to provide faith formation not just to Vinje members, but the entire community. Loving Arms continues to be a premier childcare center within our Vinje walls and in the last year we have seen the number of children we serve at Praise and Play in Spicer grow significantly. The challenge for 2024 will be the opening of our third center, Discovery Hill. Each of these centers provide a daily message of faith for children to take home to their families and simultaneously meets the urgent need our community has for childcare. Current estimates suggest that just under 1,000 families in our county are unable to find an open childcare spot. I'm so proud of the significant ways that Vinje has stepped up to meet this need and share the message of Jesus with the little ones around us.

The past year has also seen a significant transformation in our gathering space as you enter the building. Responding to the council's request for an update to that space, Sara Bos, Laura Negen, and other Vinje members updated an area that welcomes us into Vinje and provides a place for many conversations. While our congregation continues to treasure the sacred Saint John's prints in our hallways the new photos posted in the gathering space and fellowship hall highlight the many ways the Holy Spirit is guiding us in vibrant ministry. The cappuccino is pretty delicious too. We hope this deepens the spirit of welcome and friendship in our congregation, but that is truly up to each and every one of us – no coffee machine will match the hospitality that each of us can offer.

There are of course many other major projects that Vinje has been focused on in the last year and I'd run out of space trying to name them all. I'd also run out of space trying to name everyone who makes our ministry possible. God is doing some truly amazing and innovating things within our congregation and it wouldn't be possible without so many Vinje members who step up and respond to God's call in their lives. Including you! So thank you! Thank you for the way that you allow God to work through you to share the love of Christ with all the world!

Pastor Dane Skilbred, Discipleship and Community Engagement Pastor

As I look back on 2022, the best word I can use to describe how I feel about it is “grateful.” I am so grateful for this congregation and its care, not only for those within our walls, but for the world around us. For this annual report, I’d like to share my gratitude for the many ways our congregation and its members have been a part of what God has been up to during this past year.

I am grateful for the ways that God is at work in our children’s ministry programs at Vinje. We have continued to see a great deal of energy around our Wednesday Live program, serving children from pre-k to 5th grade every week. This year, we have added large group games, a pre-school component, and some creativity to the way we meet the children of our congregation where they are. It is a joy to both teach and learn about God from our youngest members and to hear from their parents, “My kid is excited to come to church every week!”

I am grateful for the ways that we serve the community around us. We continue to partner with St. John’s in Raymond and Green Lake Lutheran Ministries to share good news. We continue to find ways to support Family Promise, host blood drives, and support the work of Kandiyohi County Food Shelf. We are also starting to make partnerships with area organizations like UCAP and Willmar Arrive Ministries to help people not only with immediate needs, but to help people in a way that will make a sustaining impact. I’m also grateful for the energy of some of the new people who have joined our congregation who share their gifts, passions, and ideas for ways to engage young people in these kinds of efforts. It is a joy to be a part of service projects where people of all ages get to serve alongside one another.

I am grateful for the wonderful staff we have at Vinje. Though the pastors are often the public face of our church and get a lot of credit for being out front on Sundays and Wednesdays, we have a staff who does a lot of work behind the scenes all week long that often goes unnoticed. I’m sure you have noticed, as I do, that we have some pretty great things going on around here, and what our staff does is integral to all of it. We make a great team together. And this year I am especially grateful to have welcomed Pastor Erika to be a part of making this team even better.

Finally, I am grateful for your support. For the ways you show up to make worship meaningful on Sundays and Wednesdays. For the ways you share your gifts of time, talents, and money. For the ways you give of yourselves time and again to support the work we do together. And maybe most importantly, for the ways you care for our staff and for me. I was blessed with the gift of a sabbatical this year, a chance to re-charge and re-connect with God and the people I love. It gave me a chance to remind myself all the experiences and people who have made me who I am. It also gave me a chance to reflect on how blessed I am to be at Vinje and the ways I experience God’s love through you.

Thank you for the ways you care for me and so many others. Thank you for the ways you do God’s work in our church and elsewhere and for the ways you inspire me to be a better pastor. I look forward to being blessed again this next year and to seeing what amazing things we get to do together!

Pastor Erika Buller,

Worship Arts & Faith Formation Pastor

When you're new, you get to notice things others might take for granted. It's been an interesting and exciting year to be called your pastor. Thank you for the ways you have welcomed me and my family to this place. Thank you for the ways you are teaching me about the strengths of Vinje. Thank you for the ways you are sharing your hearts of your concerns and dreams for this community as well. Thank you for the ways you have let me be "new"—putting up with silly questions or the occasions when I ask you for a re-introduction. God's Holy Spirit is truly moving in this place, it's exciting to be a part of ministry with you.

Vinje has long been known as a place which values innovation. I have found this to be quite true. As your Pastor for Worship Art, I have appreciated the creative space to curate, design and lead meaningful worship experiences for the whole congregation. What a gift. Thank you for the ways you have come along and participated in our different worship series. Thank you for the ways you have tried new things, new songs, new styles, and the ways you have appreciated old ones as well. I am grateful for my work with Karen Wojahn, she is a gift to this congregation and her faithfulness to worship is notable. I am grateful for the partnership of Pastor Dane, Pastor Justin and Pastor Andres as we work together to craft meaningful messages to speak to people's struggles and engaging your big questions of faith. Worship is a vulnerable place where we expect to meet God, and have God meet us. Thank you for entrusting this work to me, it has been a gift.

Vinje has an incredible sense of play. You have courage enough to try new experiments, knowing success or failure is not the measuring stick, but it is in the learning. My work with you also includes faith formation. We have launched a couple of faithful experiments this year, including staffed nursery time during all worship services and a special Sunday Kid's Time for preschool-grade 2 which allows for Christian Education during our Sunday services.

We continue to offer excellent programming for elementary aged students through Wednesday Live, even adding a component this year for preschool kids to join the fun. Confirmation programming remains strong and is growing each year. We have kids who are excited to come to Vinje to learn about Jesus. What a gift to steward their enthusiasm.

Vinje, you work well with others. I have enjoyed working closely with the staff of Green Lake Lutheran Ministries. We partner with these talented individuals in staffing through their Ministry Associate program, which has brought the incredible Elizabeth Faircloth this year. Vinje partners with GLLM annually in hosting a First Communion Retreat serving area churches. We partner with them for summer day camp along with our Willmar area churches, Bethel and Calvary Lutheran. GLLM offers transformational experiences onsite at Shores of St. Andrew that Vinje kids enjoy through their summer camp offerings. This summer they will also enable incredible ministry to happen for our Senior High and Middle School kids through mission and service trips. GLLM is a gift to this congregation and to the larger church.

Speaking of partnerships, I have learned so much in this year by the partnership with St. John's Lutheran Church in Raymond. I am astounded by the strength, resiliency, generosity, and joy of that place. When I talk to them about these gifts, they credit the partnership with Vinje as a source of new vitality. I am un-learning my assumptions about small churches and re-learning the gifts we share as a larger church and the many lessons we can teach each other.

Pastor Andres Albertsen, Visitation Pastor

In my fourth report of this kind to the congregation, I want to start mentioning the things I do besides visitation. Periodically, I get to preside at worship, and I am glad that the presider, according to our Vinje tradition, also has the assignment of writing and leading the prayers of intercession that come after the creed is spoken. Periodically as well, I get to preach, and in the days before the corresponding Sunday, I enjoy the little additional task of helping our communications director Sara Bos to find the appropriate illustration for the bulletin. I take turns with my colleagues to lead the Men's Bible Study on Tuesdays, and every three months or so, I get to lead the Bible Study of the Naomi/Sarah Circle of women who meet at Vinje on every first Tuesday of the month.

Every first Thursday of the month, I lead a Bible Study at Independence Place Cooperative Housing in Willmar, attended by residents who are members of Vinje, of St. John's Lutheran Church in Raymond, of other churches, and sometimes even residents who don't go to church regularly. I also take turns with my colleagues to share a reflection and a prayer with the Loving Arms kids who meet for chapel on every Monday morning, led by our director of music Karen Wojahn. I edit the History Section of the Vinje Witness, and I am so pleased when one of you will share, in your own words, a memory about a ministry you are or were part of or an event you attended, a description of an important piece of our inventory, or a reflection on why you are a Vinje member. Please let me know what story you would like to share in that section of our monthly newsletter. I participate in the weekly staff meetings, and I am thankful that we can work together in an atmosphere of respect and trust that make it possible for all of us to speak our minds and to laugh at ourselves and with one another.

During the past year, I led the funerals/celebrations of life of five of our members.

All these responsibilities don't distract me from my main ministry, which is visitation. On the contrary, they enrich my visitation ministry, while, in turn, my visitation ministry informs and inspires the other things I do. Of course, visitation is not my sole responsibility. I carry it out with my colleagues, with our ministry associate Melissa Hansen, the members of the Congregational Care Team, the members of the prayer chain, the members of Naomi/Sarah Circle who gave Christmas gifts to members in nursing homes and assisted and independent living facilities and hosted a Christmas party at Bethesda for the residents there who belong to Vinje, the kids and adults who wrote cards or made drawings to residents of the Memory Care Unit at Bethesda during the "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday on September 11th, 2022, and the "Wednesday Live" kids who wrote Thanksgiving cards to Vinje members in nursing homes and other care facilities.

It is also worth highlighting that Congregation Care Team member Kay McLane mailed 30 "get well" cards to members we pray for on Sundays, and 38 birthday cards to members who are over 90, live in care centers, or are homebound. Kay McLane and Karen Rousseau meet once a month at church to write the bereavement cards.

The members of the Congregation Care Team had fun cooking and serving food for one of the Wednesday meals with the help of their spouses. During the first half of 2022, when food for the Loving Arms kids was still cooked in our kitchen, we continued, approximately twice a week, the ministry of delivering meals to members for whom it is difficult to cook healthy meals for themselves. Finally, I want to emphasize that visitation is also carried out by the Vinje members who pay attention to who we pray for on Sundays and take the initiative to make a call or send a card, those who make visits, provide rides, or bring meals to other members in need, and those who don't hesitate to ask other members for help.

I give thanks to God and to you for the opportunity to do ministry at Vinje, for Vinje, and with my colleagues, the other staff members, and all of you, the members of the congregation. Thank you as well for the flexibility and support that helps me fulfill my responsibilities as pastor of Iglesia Luterana Paz y Esperanza.

Karen Wojahn, Organist & Choir Director

Vinje Lutheran Church

Having weathered the uncharted journey of Covid 19 during the past two years, in 2022 we returned to our regular worship service schedule. Wednesday evening worship services during the school year were led by Worth Saving, Nova Voices & Shalom Singers, and a new acoustic group. Holden Evening Prayer was used during the midweek Lenten services. Sunday morning worship evolved during the year from mostly traditional in the first half of the year to a more modern style the second half of the year. Worship services moved from lectionary-based to thematic in focus, with pastoral staff using a variety of media and images to underscore their messages. Live-streaming throughout the year made it possible for an increased number of people to be touched by our worship services.

In addition to the musical groups previously listed, the Vinje Choir and the JuBELLation Handbell Choir practiced regularly and provided anthems for traditional worship. A variety of soloists also shared their talents in worship, especially during the summer months. A joint worship service was held with St. Mary's parish for Thanksgiving Eve and Vinje's traditional Lessons & Carols service was held in mid-December. Three Christmas Eve services were offered, at 3:00, 5:00, and 9:00 PM. Leadership of Vinje's music ministry is a partnership shared by several members of the congregation. Thank you to Ann & Steve Trochlil, Su Michelson, Travis Michelson, Mary Hodapp, and all the participants in our many groups. Your faithfulness has enriched our worship life!

***"When in our music God is glorified,
And adoration leaves no room for pride,
It is as though the whole creation cried:
Alleluia!"***

(By Fred Pratt Green, ELW #850)

Scott Hovland, Council President

A new energy has been in the works for Vinje throughout 2022. As our Council started its tenure last year, we have been moving out of our Covid protocols. We have returned to in-person activities and worked to recapture the energy that has made Vinje so strong for so many years. I thank you as a congregation for being open to the changes. With the dedication of our talented staff, we have not only returned many of our activities but have worked to grow at Vinje and into our community. Thank you to our staff, the council and all of you for your commitment to making our community a better place.

As the Council started this past year, it was an appropriate time to work on a vision process that focused on our worship, our outreach and how we welcome each other and those interested in joining us at Vinje. Many of these steps were ambitious and still have a long way to develop. It was decided that Vinje would work towards a Modern Lutheran Worship style. One way we investigated this was with a partnership with the Calvary Partner Network (Calvary Lutheran – Alexandria). They have gone through a similar modernization and have been a valuable asset with advice and resources. This also included adding a staff person interested in engagement of our worship and music process with the new format. To date, this position has not materialized in the fashion that was hoped for. Thanks to our staff and volunteers for continuing to work on our development of Modern Lutheran Worship. Our Welcome Desk and coffee bar have been a great success in engaging members and visitors that enter our building. If you are interested, please help sign up for a shift at the Welcome Desk and share a smile and a handshake.

Loving Arms has been the subject of much transition and growth this year. As many know, Kandiyohi County is in desperate need of childcare options. In 2022, Loving Arms expanded as Praise and Play at Faith Lutheran in Spicer was acquired and expanded to include infants and toddlers. In 2023, Loving Arms will start another site on the Minn West campus as Decision Hill. We greatly appreciate the incredible work put in by the staff of VLC and LA to make this opportunity possible. Be assured that with these expansions, not only are we expanding our outreach and providing daycare possibilities but also doing so with a financially profitable model. These changes prompted VLC to approve updates to our Articles of Incorporation and creating a Limited Liability Company for Loving Arms Childcare as VLC as the sole owner.

The council has been working on other large projects that have made some headway this year. This spring we will see the installation of a columbarium outside the south entrance of the church. More information will be coming for those interested in exploring this option. An upgrade of the lighting system and fixtures in the sanctuary is also in process. With the many supply chain issues of the last few years installation was delayed, but we are anticipating the arrival and installation of the new equipment in the coming weeks. Thank you to the committees and members that have dedicated their time and talents to bringing these projects to their final stages. Our partnership with St John's Lutheran of Raymond continues to go well. The Pastors and executive committees from both congregations have met quarterly since the beginning of this partnership, making sure the needs of each of our congregations are being met. As we grow further into this partnership, we look for other ways that the gifts of each congregation can be shared. Please take in the future opportunities to worship together and enjoy fellowship with St. John's.

Moving into 2023 I am encouraged by all the great strides that Vinje has made in building a community that is bound together and nourished by our shared faith and the love, forgiveness, and purpose that comes from God. This only becomes a possibility with the incredible staff that share their gifts to bring out the talents of our many members and each of you for sharing your love and talents for each other and our community. We continue to be fiscally strong and celebrate that all we can do together.

Because of you, we are better together.



Mission Statement: *"The Childcare Centers are an integral part of the Ministry of Vinje Lutheran Church. We invite families into our faith community and care for the needs of their youngest children. Our main objective as the Premier Childcare Centers in Willmar is to provide a loving, safe and stimulating environment for children in a Christian setting."*

The Ministry of our Childcare Centers continue to hold their strong reputation for quality Christian Child Care in our community. For over 25 years, we have served children from 6 weeks of age to 5 years old; with the addition of school age children in the summer months.

2022 was a busy year as we took on our second center in Spicer, MN. Praise and Play was originally just a preschool, but has since changed to be a full child care center just like Loving Arms. Children from 6 weeks of age through 5 years old are cared for at the center with the addition of school age children in the summer months.

Center number THREE, Discovery Hill, will be opening on the MinnWest Campus in spring of 2023. Much like the other two centers, Discovery Hill will care for children 6 weeks of age through 5 years old and also school age children in the summer.

COVID continues to pose challenges in the child care world. As rules and regulations are constantly changing, we are continually adapting to best suit the safety of our staff and children.

Current Enrollment (Loving Arms & Praise and Play)

Infants (6 weeks – 16 months)	20	(Wait List until Spring 2024)
Toddlers (16 months – 33 months)	30	
Preschool & Pre K (3-5 years)	58	

Staffing: 19 Full-time, 9 part time, 4 on call

Fundraising: Loving Arms and Praise and Play did a wonderful job with fundraisers this year. Our families sold hundreds of pastry puffs to their friends and families. In a continued tradition, Loving Arms sold Geraniums just before Mother's Day. With 300 flowers pre-ordered, the congregation and community members bought every single one, thus making the fundraiser a huge success.

I feel honored to be part of the team at Vinje Lutheran Church, and am grateful to lead Loving Arms and Praise and Play Childcare Centers. I'm continually excited for the changes in Ministry at Vinje and am looking forward to the growth and expansion of center number THREE in 2023.

Chris Cortez, Multi-Site Director (chrisc@vinjchurch.com)

Outreach

- Continued to provide meals to Family Promise families throughout the year
- Hosted three blood drives in partnership with American Red Cross
- Provided Christmas baskets, emergency shelter kits, Christmas cheer bags, winter clothing, and more to families and individuals in need through our “Light of Christmas” fund
- Encouraged members to apply for Thrivent Action teams to help with various outreach projects
- Built upon and created new partnerships with area organizations including: Willmar Interfaith Network, UCAP, United Way, and Arrive Ministries to address needs in our community
- Participated in God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday by putting together 1,000 meals for Meals on Wheels, 25 homeless kits for the food shelf, and handwritten notes to homebound members

Children’s Ministry

- Continued to build upon our “Wednesday Live” program to include a well-rounded experience of large group games, Bible time, music time, and craft/activity time
- Began offering a new “Wednesday Live” pre-school program led by volunteers
- Started a new Sunday Kids’ Time and nursery during worship for our youngest students
- Continued partnership with Green Lake Lutheran Ministries to offer meaningful programs including a Willmar area VBS/Day Camp, First Communion retreats, and regular summer camp

Stewardship Committee

- Continued focus on stewardship as a spiritual practice that encompasses all of what we have and our call to use our gifts for the good of all
- Continued work with council to identify the needs of the congregation and community and to focus our stewardship efforts around those needs
- Received, with gratitude, gifts that allow us to maintain excellent ministry, to complete facility updates, and to reach out into the community to help our neighbors
- Continued to encourage electronic giving and to look for new and creative ways to allow people to share their gifts
- Created a Fall Campaign for 2023 called “Because Of You” highlighting the ministries that happen because of the gifts that are shared, while also sharing what it costs to facilitate those ministries

Property Committee

It has been a busy year for projects, repairs, and maintenance at Vinje. Here is a brief review of some of the projects we have been working on:

Columbarium – After many years, we have committed to the building of a columbarium on the south side of the building. This will likely be completed in 2024. Special thanks to Tim Ostby, Jan Dahl, and Cheryl Schmidt for their leadership on this project.

Sanctuary Lighting – We have contracted with Aufderworld Corporation from Plymouth to upgrade our sanctuary lighting. The previous system had become obsolete and difficult to find replacement bulbs for.

Loving Arms Classrooms – The four classrooms on the east side of the building saw a significant upgrade with new flooring, countertops, and cupboards in the last year. These were all long overdue and helped to mitigate growing safety concerns for the children who use those rooms.

Exterior Projects – A new fence was installed around the playground on the east side of the building following storm damage to the older fence. A section of sidewalk was replaced on the south side of the building.

Heating System – We were able to repair the boiler after fears that it might need to be replaced. 2023 also saw a significant expense in replacing the glycol used in our heating system following a major leak.

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered on these projects and to Joe Gatewood and Brad Michelson for their leadership on most of these efforts.

Thanks to Vinje members who contribute financially to our building as well!

Vinje Cemetery

There were no burials in the year 2022 at Vinje Cemetery.

Damaged Tree removal after May storms was done by Paul & Mark Bredeson

Late season tree trimming was done by Paul & Mark Bredeson

Cutting Edge, a contract mowing service, again did the lawn mowing.

Mark Bredeson did the edge trimming and sidewalk snow removal.

Thanks to the Spring Cleanup Helpers: Dennis Anfinson, Lynn Peterson, Craig Zempel, Lyle Lange, Tim Ostby, Jerry Swanson, Mike Hanson, Ron Carlson, Rick Smith, Dave Habbenna & Craig Schellberg.

Thanks to all who contributed in the year 2022

Vinje Memorial Cemetery Board: Dennis Anfinson, Craig Schellberg, Mike Hanson, Jerry Swanson & Mark Bredeson

2022 FINANCIAL Report



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Vinje Lutheran Church 2022 Financial Summary

General Fund (Unrestricted)

- Total General Fund Ordinary income for the year was \$827,755 which is under budget by \$8,001
- Envelope giving for the year was \$695,925 which increased by 4.7% from the previous year
- Ordinary Expenses of \$853,616 were over budgeted expenses by \$17,860
- Other Income totaled \$77,039 this includes the ERC credit.
- Other Expenses were \$39,918
- The change in net assets was an increase of \$ 11,260

Dedicated/Memorial Accounts and Building Funds (Temporarily Restricted)

- Annual temporarily restricted receipts was \$205,378 with disbursements totaling \$156,943
- The change in net assets was an increase of \$48,435

Endowment Accounts (Cemetery, Endowment, Scholarship, Vanguard Investments)

- Endowment Fund Income was \$(308,581)
- The Cemetery Fund incurred \$2,921 of expenses
- The Endowment Disbursements totaled \$49,000
- College scholarships totaling \$8,000 awarded
- Net Assets total \$1,563,796

Loving Arms and Praise & Play

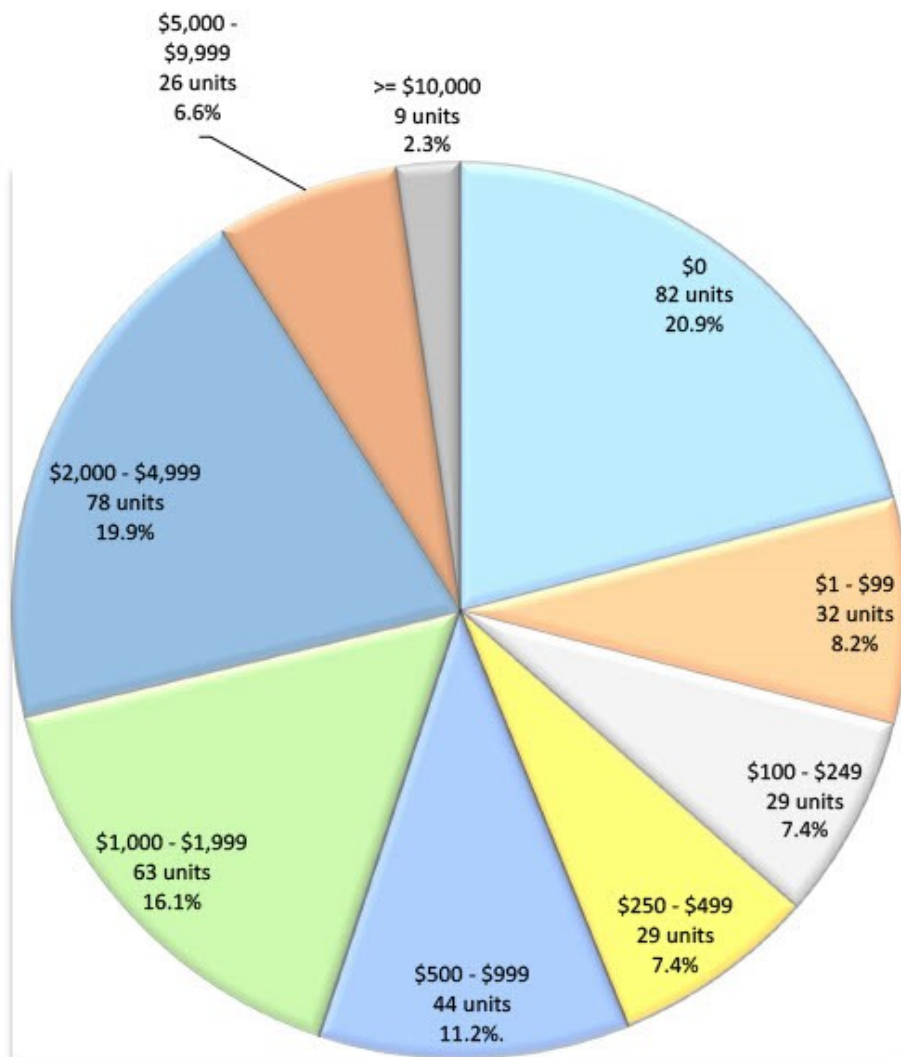
- 2022 Income totaled \$984,339
- 2022 Expenses were \$976,703
- Change in net assets was an increase of \$ 7,636

Vinje Lutheran Church
Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets
Modified Cash Basis
December 31, 2022

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	
General Fund Checking	\$ 281,358
Cemetery Fund Checking	3,598
Des Gifts/Mem Savings	501,886
Endowment Fund Savings	2,154
Scholarship Fund Savings	1,501
L.A. Child Care Center Checking	183,279
L.A.Savings (Scholarship)	1,167
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>974,943</u>
LA Accounts Receivable	78
Undeposited Funds	<u>816</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>975,837</u>
Other Assets	
Vanguard Investments	1,556,554
Vanguard Investments-Loving Arms	27,528
Ameriprise	6,076
Property & Equipment	<u>4,843,161</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>6,433,319</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$ 7,409,156</u></u>
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 12,499
Payroll Liabilities	<u>8,919</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>21,418</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>21,418</u>
Net Assets	
Board Designated-Scholarships	1,167
Unrestricted Net Assets	5,077,750
Donor Restricted Net Assets	2,065,399
Restricted Net Assets	<u>243,422</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>7,387,738</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	<u><u>\$ 7,409,156</u></u>

Substantially all disclosures ordinarily included in modified cash basis financial statements are omitted, and no assurance is provided on these financial statements or supplementary information.

Annual Giving per Giving Unit-General Fund



28% of the giving units provide 80% of the support

Vinje Lutheran Church
Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets - General Fund
Modified Cash Basis
December 31, 2022

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents

General Fund Checking

\$ 281,358

Total Cash and Cash Equivalents

281,358

Undeposited Funds

790

Total Current Assets

282,148

Other Assets

Ameriprise

6,076

Property & Equipment

4,808,455

Total Other Assets

4,814,531

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 5,096,679

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable

\$ 10,010

Payroll Liabilities

8,919

Total Current Liabilities

18,929

Total Liabilities

18,929

Net Assets

Unrestricted Net Assets

5,077,750

Total Net Assets

5,077,750

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

\$ 5,096,679

Substantially all disclosures ordinarily included in modified cash basis financial statements are omitted, and no assurance is provided on these financial statements or supplementary information.

Vinje Lutheran Church
Budget Report - General Fund
Modified Cash Basis
Year Ended December 31, 2022

Ordinary Income/Expense	\$ Over/(Under)		
	Year Ended	Budget	Budget
Income			
GF Regular Envelope Income	\$ 695,925	\$ 718,156	\$ (22,231)
GF Other Budgeted Income	127,274	117,600	9,674
Non-Budgeted Income	4,556	-	4,556
	<u>827,755</u>	<u>835,756</u>	<u>(8,001)</u>
	827,755	835,756	(8,001)
Expense			
Mission Support	48,102	47,000	1,102
Parish Care	3,496	3,900	(404)
Worship	11,000	7,850	3,150
Music	12,787	16,395	(3,608)
Faith Formation	9,368	12,300	(2,932)
Property	141,222	130,200	11,022
Stewardship	400	1,000	(600)
Public Relations	3,537	3,500	37
Administrative	69,858	55,150	14,708
Program Staff	424,394	425,131	(737)
Program Staff Expense	16,442	16,850	(408)
Support Staff	99,775	102,080	(2,305)
Support Staff Expense	9,451	11,400	(1,949)
General Non-Budget	3,783	3,000	783
	<u>853,616</u>	<u>835,756</u>	<u>17,860</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>(25,861.00)</u>	-	<u>(25,861.00)</u>
Other Income/Expense			
Gifts in Kind	4,918	-	4,918
ERC	72,121	-	72,121
	<u>77,039</u>	-	<u>77,039</u>
Other Expense			
In Kind Expense	4,918	-	4,918
Trf to Designated	35,000	-	35,000
Total Other Expense	<u>39,918</u>	-	<u>39,918</u>
Change in Net Assets	<u>\$ 11,260</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 51,178</u>

Substantially all disclosures ordinarily included in modified cash basis financial statements are omitted, and no assurance is provided on these financial statements or supplementary information.

Vinje Lutheran Church
Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets - Dedicated Fund
Modified Cash Basis
December 31, 2022

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	
Des Gifts/Mem Savings	\$ 501,886
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>501,886</u>
Undeposited Funds	<u>26</u>
Total Current Assets	501,912
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 501,912</u>
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 309
Total Current Liabilities	<u>309</u>
	309
Net Assets	
Donor Restricted Net Assets	\$ 501,603
Total Net Assets	<u>501,603</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 501,912</u>

Substantially all disclosures ordinarily included in modified cash basis financial statements are omitted, and no assurance is provided on these financial statements or supplementary information.

Vinje Lutheran Church
Dedicated Fund Balances - Modified Cash Basis
Year Ended
December 31, 2022

Description	12/31/2021 Balance	Year To Date		12/31/2022 Balance
		Receipts	Disbursements	
GENERAL PURPOSE				
Brotherhood Fund	\$ 16,741.59	\$ 11,255.00	\$ 5,983.34	\$ 22,013.25
Moving Fund	138.92	-	138.92	-
Undesignated Funds	9,223.19	6,246.62	3,827.59	11,642.22
Flowers/Decorating/Plantings	2,349.61	1,070.00	2,422.89	996.72
Thrivent Choice Dollars	777.81	458.00	1,235.81	-
Creation Care	176.65	-	122.57	54.08
Special Gift - Miscellaneous	846.79	-	-	846.79
Library	21,084.67	-	1,264.98	19,819.69
InterFaith	2,025.60	-	18.12	2,007.48
Interest/Bank Fees	1,315.77	-	3.11	1,312.66
Total	54,680.60	19,029.62	15,017.33	58,692.89
MISSION FUNDS				
Local Mission				
Community Meals	883.67	-	-	883.67
Family Promise - Vinje Only	4,521.11	25.00	-	4,546.11
Local Missions	1,622.14	25.00	-	1,647.14
Evangelism/Outreach	1,535.00	-	58.75	1,476.25
Local Missions In/Out	-	-	-	-
Safe Avenues	-	101.00	-	101.00
Willmar Area Food Shelf	715.00	5,820.43	3,000.00	3,535.43
Always Being Made New	10.00	-	-	10.00
Misc. In/Out	464.43	-	75.00	389.43
International Mission	-	-	-	-
International Missions	300.00	200.00	-	500.00
Missionary Sponsorship	100.00	-	-	100.00
Lutheran World Relief	680.00	2,282.55	2,000.00	962.55
World Hunger Appeal	585.00	3,400.00	3,250.00	735.00
Disaster Appeals	775.00	1,326.69	1,775.00	326.69
Lutheran World Relief Coffee Project	99.83	-	-	99.83
Young Adults in Global Mission	20.00	-	-	20.00
Total	12,311.18	13,180.67	10,158.75	15,333.10
PROPERTIES				
Building Donations	27,333.89	43,025.47	58,004.11	12,355.25
Maintenance Reserves	34,719.95	20,000.00	26,298.15	28,421.80
Exterior Signage	1,710.00	-	371.43	1,338.57
Kitchen Fund	4,326.31	25.00	-	4,351.31
Special Project	17,000.00	-	-	17,000.00
Sanctuary Technology	129.07	900.00	879.07	150.00
Columbarium	2,659.43	46,000.00	14,053.05	34,606.38
Total	87,878.65	109,950.47	99,605.81	98,223.31

Substantially all disclosures ordinarily included in modified cash basis financial statements are omitted, and no assurance is provided on these financial statements or supplementary information.

Vinje Lutheran Church
Dedicated Fund Balances - Modified Cash Basis
Year Ended
December 31, 2022

Description	12/31/2021 Balance	Year To Date		12/31/2022 Balance
		Receipts	Disbursements	
FAITH FORMATION				
Wednesday Supper	1,009.25	-	-	1,009.25
Camp Scholarships	1,300.56	217.00	100.00	1,417.56
In/Out	-	-	-	-
Event Registration	115.43	154.13	-	269.56
Sunday School Offerings	339.75	-	-	339.75
Grace Notes	50.00	-	-	50.00
Tallakson Interest	288.42	-	-	288.42
Youth Ministry	2,756.46	-	-	2,756.46
Youth Mission Trip	4,770.33	16,973.66	10,076.93	11,667.06
H.S. Youth	2,000.00	2,100.00	-	4,100.00
W.A.C	476.99	-	-	476.99
Youth Scholarships	1,892.15	10,601.40	182.31	12,311.24
Brown - Faith Formation	234,523.90	-	874.18	233,649.72
Brown - Leadership for Faithful Innov.	6,335.00	-	-	6,335.00
Brown - Faith Formation Youth	4,173.69	-	971.69	3,202.00
Brown - Faith Formation Video	6,782.33	-	-	6,782.33
Total	266,814.26	30,046.19	12,205.11	284,655.34
CONGREGATIONAL CARE				
Christmas & College Assistance	2,388.39	4,051.38	162.06	6,277.71
Parish Care Ministries	2,421.23	-	260.98	2,160.25
Pastor's Discretionary Checking	1,554.72	11,426.00	5,122.91	7,857.81
Prayer Shawl Ministries	922.98	-	186.45	736.53
Sabbatical Study-Assoc. Pastor	2,015.82	50.00	2,065.82	-
Sabbatical Study-Lead Pastor	1,604.01	7,000.00	-	8,604.01
Wednesday Evening Ministries	4,093.27	6,423.60	5,792.21	4,724.66
Total	15,000.42	28,950.98	13,590.43	30,360.97
MUSIC/WORSHIP				
Hand Bells	700.50	225.00	-	925.50
Music	3,793.57	1,441.00	1,212.70	4,021.87
Contemporary Music	4,700.00	-	3,000.00	1,700.00
Organ	3,044.50	90.00	-	3,134.50
Piano	756.00	150.00	-	906.00
Worship Resources	14.00	-	-	14.00
Total	13,008.57	1,906.00	4,212.70	10,701.87
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES				
Quilters	85.60	440.00	133.16	392.44
Women of Vinje	2,091.33	350.00	214.95	2,226.38
Elizabeth Circle	1,116.65	1,524.70	1,625.00	1,016.35
Esther Circle	180.00	-	180.00	-
Total	3,473.58	2,314.70	2,153.11	3,635.17
	\$ 453,167.26	\$ 205,378.63	\$ 156,943.24	\$ 501,602.65

Substantially all disclosures ordinarily included in modified cash basis financial statements are omitted, and no assurance is provided on these financial statements or supplementary information.

Vinje Lutheran Church
Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets - Endowment Fund
Modified Cash Basis
December 31, 2022

ASSETS

Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cemetery Fund Checking	\$	3,598
Endowment Fund Savings		2,154
Scholarship Fund Savings		1,501
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents		<u>7,253</u>
Total Current Assets		7,253
Investments		
Cemetery Investment		10,315
Endowment Investment		871,822
Scholarship Investment		674,417
Total Investments		<u>1,556,554</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	<u>1,563,807</u>

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$	11
Total Current Liabilities		<u>11</u>
Net Assets		
Donor Restricted-Cemetery	\$	13,902
Donor Restricted-Endowment		842,237
Donor Restricted-Scholarship		675,918
Donor Restricted-Tallakson		31,739
Total Net Assets		<u>1,563,796</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$	<u>1,563,807</u>

Substantially all disclosures ordinarily included in modified cash basis financial statements are omitted, and no assurance is provided on these financial statements or supplementary information.

Vinje Lutheran Church
Statement of Revenues and Expenses - Endowment Fund
Modified Cash Basis
Year Ended December 2022

INCOME	
Cemetery Fund	\$ 5,524
Endowment Fund	12
Scholarship Fund	1,001
Vanguard-Capital Gains	204
Vanguard - dividends	38,762
Vanguard - Unrealized Gains/(Losses)	(354,084)
	<u>(308,581)</u>
EXPENSES	
ENDOWMENT FUND EXPENSE	
Scholarship Fund	8,000
Endowment Fund	49,000
	<u>57,000</u>
CEMETERY FUND EXPENSE	
Cemetery Utilities	270
Cemetery Lawn Care	2,651
	<u>2,921</u>
	<u>59,921</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	<u><u>\$ (368,503)</u></u>

Substantially all disclosures ordinarily included in modified cash basis financial statements are omitted, and no assurance is provided on these financial statements or supplementary information.

Vinje Lutheran Church
Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets - Loving Arms and Praise & Play
Modified Cash Basis
December 31, 2022

ASSETS

Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
L.A. Child Care Center Checking	\$	183,279
L.A. Savings		-
L.A. Savings (Scholarship)		1,167
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents		184,446
Accounts Receivable		78
Total Current Assets		184,524
Other Assets		
Vanguard Investment		27,528
Fixed Assets		34,706
Total Other Assets		62,234
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	246,758

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$	2,169
Total Current Liabilities		2,169
Total Liabilities		2,169
Net Assets		
Board Designated-Scholarships		1,167
Restricted Net Assets		243,422
Total Net Assets		244,589
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$	246,758

Substantially all disclosures ordinarily included in modified cash basis financial statements are omitted, and no assurance is provided on these financial statements or supplementary information.

Vinje Lutheran Church
Statement of Revenue and Expenses - Loving Arms and Praise & Play
Modified Cash Basis
Year Ended December 31, 2022

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

Tuition	\$ 785,091
Fees	2,000
Food Program	33,398
Contributions	9,925
Grants	124,230
Fundraising	32,879
Interest Earned	195
Endowment Fund Income/(Expense)	(3,380)
	<u>984,339</u>

Expense

Food	52,832
Program Supplies	31,435
Custodial Supplies	338
Grant Expense	17,313
Property Improvement	54,803
User Fee	67,200
Transportation	236
Licensing Fees	4,125
Administration	8,232
Fundraising Expense	20,336
Administrative Salaries	131,638
Teaching Salaries	502,011
Benefit Plan Contributions	20,449
Taxes	56,496
Continuing Education	673
Workers Compensation Ins	2,632
Special Gifts	3,011
Special Events/Field Trips	2,944
	<u>976,703</u>

Change in Net Assets

\$ 7,636

Substantially all disclosures ordinarily included in modified cash basis financial statements are omitted, and no assurance is provided on these financial statements or supplementary information.

**VINJE CHURCH
2023 BUDGET WORKSHEET**

	2023 Budget
<u>Income</u>	
Regular Envelope	\$ 759,520
Loving Arms & Praise and Play	68,700
Broadcasts	3,500
Bulletin Sponsorship	2,300
Sunday Transportation Sponsorship	1,400
St. John's - Raymond	59,225
Sunday Coffee Donations	1,500
Interest Income	500
Miscellaneous Income	6,500
Total Income	903,145
<u>Expense Accounts</u>	
Mission Support	51,000
Program Expense	
Parish Care	7,200
Worship	8,250
Music	13,850
Faith Formation	
Children'S Ministry (Birth-Gr 5)	5,550
Middle School Ministry (Gr 6-8)	2,350
High School Ministry (Gr 9-12)	2,250
Adult Ministry (Post High School +)	1,750
Total Faith Formation	11,900
Total Program Expense	41,200
Property Expense	131,700
Administration Expense	
Stewardship	1,000
Public Relations	3,500
Administration	60,500
Total Administration Expense	65,000
Staff Expense	
Program Staff	473,695
Program Staff Expense	20,150
Support Staff Salaries	108,500
Support Expense	11,900
Total Staff Expense	614,245
Total Expenses	\$ 903,145
Income (Loss) from Operations	-
Endowment Transfer In to Balance Budget	-
Net Income	-