Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Westby, WI 54667
Permit #22

USPS 677260

500 S Main St
Westby WI 54667

Westby Witness & Vang Voice

Volume 162 April 2021 Number 4
Newsletter of the Westby Coon Prairie Lutheran Church
Published monthly.

The Westby Witness *and* *The Vang Voice*

wcplutheran.org

April 2021

GRADUATION MILESTONE
We will be recognizing the Class of 2021
on Sunday, May 9th @ 9:30am

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS & FAMILIES
Pastor Deb will be welcoming new members and their families on Sunday, May9th @ 9:30am

Over a Second Cup of Coffee

Dear WCP and Vang Members,

HE IS RISEN!! HE IS RISEN INDEED! With those joyous words of greeting we begin this Easter Season! The "news" is great and is to be shared. A church I served in Illinois had a delightful tradition. At the center front of the sanctuary was a rough wooden cross about 6 feet tall. It was filled with holes. At that first service during the Gathering Song, people came forward with flowers they inserted in the holes. Then at the second service, the process was repeated. At first the cross looked a bit sparse, but the colors and shapes of the spring flowers caught your eye. But by the end of the second service it was so full of flowers the wood was no long visible. At the close of that service, the bedazzled cross was taken outside so that all who drove down the busy street saw the wonderful symbol of new life.

There is something about the Easter season, along with the resurgence of the natural world that is energizing and renewing for us. As people of faith the reminder of the *Good News* is a welcome way to warm our hearts even as the stronger sunshine warms our winter weary bodies!

It is in that spirit that I invite each of you to renew your commitment to your church! Borrowing from President Kennedy's inaugural address of many years ago: *Ask not what your Church can do for you.*

WCP Financial Information
through
February 2021

Total Budget Receipts	$ 35,249.69
Total Budget Expenditures	$ 19,111.94
Mission Support Given	$ 3,408.00
Line of Credit Balance	$ 0.00
Boiler Loan Balance	$ 0.00

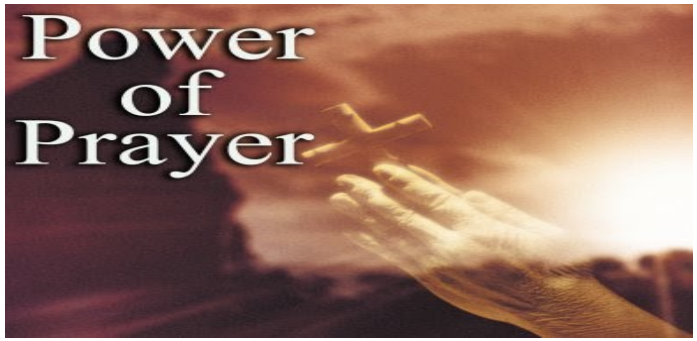
WESTBY
COON PRAIRIE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
TO Serve God
Sharing THE Love
OF JESUS CHRIST

Vang Financial Information

No Updates at this time!

Building Fund Balance	$
General Fund Balance	$
Total Income	$
Total Expenditures	$
Line of Credit Balance	$
Mission Support Given	$
Certificate of Deposit	$

PARISH PRAYERS



Tracy Fortun, Jesse Fortun, Jan Sherpe, Lynn Fortun, Lynette Johnson, Morgan Leis, Mora Mikshowsky, Amy Gabrielson, David Veum, Shari Goss, Janice Jacobson, Mitchell Moore, Janice Thompson, Elaine DeWitt, John & Lenore Lams, Danielle Sorenson (*granddaughter of Carol Sorenson),* Bobby Johnson *(son-in-law to Vicki Christianson),* Birger Eklov, Krin Stendalen, Kari Nelson, Steve Leis *(brother of Shirley Engh),* Gene Danielson, Orin Larson, Floyd Storey

Norseland: Gladys Christianson, Lilah Hagen, Marvin & Helen Lee, Lucille Theige, Clarence & Anna Nordin, Elizabeth Veum, Norman & Shirley Sidie, Joanne Thompson, Cleo Yttre, Miriam Lewison

Bethany St Joe: Robert & Sandy Flugstad
Creamery Creek: Siv Ann Meyer
Hillview Terrace: Lyle Lund
Vernon Manor: Erma Graupe, Dorothy Lunde, Jean Hage
Ravenwood Care Center(West Salem): Gerda Aarness
Mulder Care Center(West Salem): Linda Haakenson

Serving our Country: SPC Lane Montgomery, First Sgt. Dale Gabrielson, PFC Brandon Gabrielson-WI Nat'l Guard

Over A Second Cup of Coffee continued

Ask what you can do for your Church! Sometimes we get caught in thinking that "Our Church" is a building that is run by a staff! In truth that is much less the case than that **the church is a group of people committed to serving God, spreading the Good News and caring for God's world and people**!

Two things that are happening toward that end are: 1) Formation of a Calling and Caring Committee, co-chaired by Donna Harris and Donna Nelson. The folks serving on this committee will make phone calls and visits, sharing communion, with our shut-ins and health care facility residents. In addition they will stay in touch with those on the prayer list, those recovering from serious illness or surgery. 2) Re-energizing of the Education Committee, chaired by Meagan Torkelson. Currently this committee is busy planning Christian Education events for summer Sundays AND a good old-fashion Bible School event for the whole family! These committees need more people!! I am inviting **YOU** to consider stepping up to help! If these aren't a good fit for you, what is? Helping with building and grounds? – if so contact Chair Monte Dunnum; or helping with mailings or general office chores – if so contact Roxie Von Ruden. Are you interested in reading scripture or sharing your musical talent during worship – let Roxie know!

You get the picture! In this Easter season I challenge you to step up and step out and **BE** the Church!

Yours in the Risen Christ's Service,

Pr. Deb

SENIOR CLASS 2021 RECOGNITION SUNDAY & WELCOME NEW MEMBERS SUNDAY

On Mother's Day, Sunday May 9th, Pastor Deb will be blessing the following members of the Class of 2021 at our virtual 9:30am service. She will read each seniors name and Kelsey will have a photo of them on the screen. Each senior will be receiving a gift from WCP . We will set up a time to drop these gifts off with them.

Baylee Buros
Lauren Campbell
Abby Harris
Hunter Melby
Lars Gretebeck
Emma Harris
Erin Simonson
Allison Weninger

Congratulations and best wishes with your future endeavors!!

Welcome New Members and Families

Also on this Sunday, Pastor Deb will be welcoming New Members. The following families will be received during the virtual 9:30am service. A coffee reception will be held at a later date.

Mark and LouAnn Jelinek
Travis and Shelley Cade and Heath & Brekk
Kyle and Megan Swiggum and Josie & Lena

Memorials and Gifts

World Hunger
Anonymous

Missions
Anonymous

Disaster Relief
Anonymous

Back Pack

Youth Ministry
Arlie Dunnum, Aluminum Can Money

Building Repairs
IMO Heath Gilkes:
By Family & Friends

Pine Ridge
IMO Heath Gilkes
By Family & Friends

Music/Band Fund
IMO David Mills
By Pat Stafslien

General Fund
IMO Ida Sue Bjerke
By Carol Sorenson

Shepherd Fund
Deb Moore

Country Coon Prairie Cemetery
Family and Friends
IMO William Drotning
By Loved Ones

CP Preservation
Christine Bakken
IMO Heath Gilkes
By Family & Friends
IMO Adam Hemmersbach
By Craig & Roxy Wedwick
IMO Roland Fremstad
By Mike & Merna Fremstad

Vang Cemetery

VANG GENERAL FUND

Confirmation Information

Confirmation 2021

Just a reminder that confirmation is scheduled for Sunday, May 23rd at 9:30am, for our 9th grade confirmands. As we draw closer to this date, Pastor Deb will get additional information to you. Because of our limitation in taking a group photo, we will be putting together a photo collage for each of you. **We are asking that you submit a "head shot" of your confirmand prior to April 27th.** This needs to be sent to the following email address:

norwegn9@gmail.com.

Please be sure to include your child's name with the photo. Also if you have not done so already, we ask that you give the church office a call 634-3612 or email wcpchurch@mwt.net, with your child's correct spelling of their name as you wish to have it printed on their confirmation certificate.

WCP & VANG

Dear WCP and Vang family,
Thank you for your prayers and support throughout my journey and discernment into ordained ministry. It was truly at WCP where Pastor Dennis Hallemeir, Pastor Julie, and Dan Wollman as well of many of you provided the questions and encouragement that foster this call. Thank you!!

I am writing to invite you to my ordination.
Called by God and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Michele Elizabeth Engh will be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament.
Saturday, April 17th, 2021 at 1 PM in the garden sanctuary at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Viroqua, WI.*
*In case of inclement weather, ordination will take place in the parking lot via an FM receiver.

Cookies and beverages will be shared after the ordination.
Live streaming will be available on Immanuel's website.
Your Prayers and Presence are appreciated.
Masks required. Please bring your lawn chair.

Blessings!
Michele Engh

Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth. It is the very purpose of life, and not something you do in your spare time.

Shirley Chisholm

WCP SPECIAL COUNCIL MTG. MINUTES

Westby Coon Prairie Church Council Minutes
March 7, 2021
~ Special Meeting Called ~

WCP Mission Statement: Serving God, we share the love of Jesus Christ.

Present: Pete Engh, Amy Jankowski, Dave Tubbin, Pastor Deb Jarvis, David Kraabel, Monte Dunnum, Martha Olson, Tim Iverson, Megan Torkelson, Ruth Armstrong, Maureen Amundson, Mary Connelly, Kala Berg.
Excused: Tami Kjos, Chris Helseth, Bonny Fish, Jhett Sherry.
Call to Order: Martha Olson, President.
Staff Report:

Pastor Deb: has decided to retire from Interim Pastor. Her last day will be May 23, 2021. She will help continue Confirmation virtually until this date.

New Business:

Reopening the church: Do we want to open? What will that look like? We will want to create a committee asap. Monte Dunnum E-mailed example protocols from another church for us to review.

Absentee votes for those not attending this meeting tonight, 3/7/2021.

A motion was made for council members that attended this meeting tonight can vote on motions during this meeting. *m/s/c Pete Engh, Tim Iverson*

Pete has considered the pulpit supply possibilities. There is someone we are interested in having from Wartburg College, and we can also look at La Crosse Campus Ministry. Both places will want to review our protocols and discuss with Pastor Deb first.

For regular pulpit supply a person would be paid $130.00, plus mileage. This would be for two services. Possible that La Crosse Synod would have interims to help later this year?

Discussed minimal about the 2nd candidate and how we can appeal to the next one. We talked about bringing on a Youth Director and having lay persons step up to help.

Continued page 7

WCP COUNCIL MINUTES (CONT)

Protocol Committee: includes Monte Dunnum, Pete Engh, David Kraabel, Megan Torkelson, Ruth Armstrong, and Amy Jankowski. We will be setting up a meeting soon.

WCP Safe: Curt Anderson to come look at church safe, no updates yet.

Adjournment and Prayers:
Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm. *m/s/s Amy Jankowski, Bonny Fish*

Next Meeting: April 20, 2021 @ 6:30pm

American Red Cross Blood Drive
Westby Community Center
Monday April 19, 2021
Noon — 5:30 pm

American Red Cross
Together, we can save a life

WCP COUNCIL MINUTES (CONT)

Property Committee March updates: Monte shared the following after completing walk throughs with Pete Engh and Duane Berg.

- Leaking roof in entry area of church due to melting snow. Met with a Ledegar Roofing representative to talk options about repair. We asked to get on their schedule for repair.
- Peeling wallpaper in entry area of church. Talked with several experts about what to do with the wallpaper.. It was suggested that we remove all the wallpaper, address any cosmetic issues and paint the walls.
- Bathrooms in entry area have small gaps between tile on the wall and floor. This can be easy to fix.
- Heating and Cooling System. Met with Flock's Heating & Air to review and address any issue in their servicing of the systems.
- Flock's contract cost is estimated at $1,263.00 per year. Emergency calls are reduced 15%, if we have a contract. If we do not sign yo the cost would be listed at $2,049.00. A motion was made to sign a service contract with Flock's Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. *m/s/c Tim Iverson, Mary Connelly*
- Preparing for the future, the A/C unit for the main sanctuary is nearing the end of its life (25+ years old) and its R-22 refrigerant is no longer being produced. Looking at estimates and other options.
- Additional concerns/issues: Sanctuary wood floor has several soft spots and resurfacing the floor may not be an option again. Will keep looking for other options.
- Landscaping the North side of the church will be taken care of.
- Invoices and paperwork-Monte is willing to purchase what is needed and we discussed about him using the WCP office credit card or writing a check to be reimbursed.

WCP SPECIAL COUNCIL MTG. MINUTES

Protocols: We reviewed the example protocols Monte forward to us, and discussed the following items:

Mask required

In-service church requires to sit in "family pods", "couples", and "singles".

What is our capacity? We have the balcony and basement included. We could fit about 200 persons in the church portion. To follow the CDC guidelines and watch county numbers, we would think about only allowing 75 persons within the building.

Music: possibly have organ, piano, or soloist. Humming only?

Entry/Exit Doors? Elevator usage?

Have prepared/prepackaged eucharist.

Once we have reviewed the protocols and make it fit for our church, we plan to bring it to the Council and print in the Westby Witness newsletter.

Additional Thoughts:

Since we have Pastor Deb until May 23, 2012, we should use this time to create a crisis committee and create our protocol. By then, we may start outdoor services again.

There is pressure to reopen as businesses and other surrounding churches are opening again. We all agreed that if we reopen it will not be normal in-church service. No singing, no mingling, very cut and dry.

We also need to think and prepare ahead of time what date we plan to reopen.

Our current message we want to let the congregation know is we are taking all factors into consideration. We want to keep the congregation safe and healthy.

A motion was made to ask attendees at this meeting on whether WCP should reopen or not.

Dave Tubbin: No	David Kraabel: No
Tim Iverson: No	Amy Jankowski: No
Megan Torkelson: No	Ruth Armstrong: No
Mary Connelly: No	Kala Berg: No
Pete Engh: Yes	Maureen Amundson: No
Martha Olson: No	

We will table this topic until the next meeting, 3/16/2021.

Adjournment and Prayer:

Meeting was adjourned with prayer at 7:00 pm.

WCP COUNCIL MINUTES

Westby Coon Prairie Church Council Minutes
March 16, 2021
WCP Mission Statement: Serving God, we share the love of Jesus Christ.

Present: Pete Engh, Amy Jankowski, Martha Olson, Chris Helseth, Pastor Deb Jarvis, Bonny Fish, Monte Dunnum, Mary Connelly, David Kraabel, Megan Torkelson, Tami Kjos, Tim Iverson, Ruth Armstrong.
Excused: Maureen Amundson, Dave Tubbin, Kala Berg, Jhett Sherry.

Call to Order: Martha Olson, President.
Opening prayer was led by Pastor Deb Jarvis.

Secretary's Report: Council meeting minutes from February 16, 2021, were read and approved.
A motion was made to accept the secretary's report as written. *m/s/c Pete Engh, Tim Iverson*
Financial Report: Tim shared the financial summary report from February 2021.
A motion was made to accept the financial report as written. *m/s/c Monte Dunnum, David Kraabel*

Attendance: Pete reviewed Facebook attendance was about 165 persons watching for 30 minutes, and 500 persons watching for 15 minutes. We did not have numbers for broadcasting on television.

Committee Reports:

Education Committee: Megan and Pastor Deb will be meeting April 5th to discuss summertime opportunities, vacation bible camp, and once a week activity for the WCP youth.

Calling Committee: until we have a new pastor in place, Donna Harris is taking on this group and seeking new persons to join this committee. This includes calling/visiting those in need of church ministries.

Staff Reports:

Pastor Deb: update about posting a position for Youth/CE Director. Pastor Libby said there are no Synod guidelines as such. However, she let us know that it should be the Pastor's prerogative to seek and hire the individual they would want to work with. The new Pastor should be the one that shapes this job description.

Continued page 9

WCP COUNCIL MINUTES

Even though there is a concern that we may lose the opportunity to interview a person we had in mind, we will put this topic on hold until we have a new pastor. Pastor Libby shared that the Synod would do everything they can to help us find more candidates for the Call Committee.

Housing Allowance: Resolved, that Pastor Deb Jarvis' income (not to exceed $19,500.00) should be designated as Housing Allowance for the year 2021.

A motion was made to accept this housing allowance for Pastor Deb Jarvis.
m/s/c Ruth Armstrong, Megan Torkelson

Old Business:

Re-keying WCP: Pete Engh shared some bids from locksmiths, and we discussed details on the types and volume of keys.

Coulee Lock is estimated $600.00. This includes hourly service, the number of locks and keys.

Bob's Lock and Safe is estimated $500.00. This was only for rekeying, and extra costs added for anything that needs replacement.

A motion was made to use Coulee Locks as the lock smith.
m/s/c Tim Iverson, David Kraabel

A message will go out in the Westby Witness that we are rekeying the WCP building.

Staff and others who will need keys can contact the WCP office to request and sign up for a key. Monte and Pete will create a list of how many keys are available. The sign-up list will help keep track who has keys.

The Call Committee: Bonny let us know there are no updates.

Workman's Comp: No updates yet. Tim will keep us updated on more information.

New Business:

Blood Drive – Monday, April 19th: We will proceed with this next Blood Drive, and we expect to follow the same safety guidelines as last time.

Confirmation photos: Monte has not heard back from the photographer yet and will follow up.

Senior Recognition: bibles and quilts have been prepared for Senior Recognition.

Continued page 10