

HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER

PSALM 136

Philippians 3:13-14

Sisters and brothers, I do not think I have yet accomplished this, but I diligently try to forget what lies behind and strain for what lies ahead, I press onward towards the goal, towards the prize of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ.

In this reading Paul uses the analogy of a race to show that we are constantly striving towards our goal, how faith in Christ process us to our callings.

Encanto March: Spreading Love Like Casita!

Greetings, Church Family!

This month, we're channeling the vibrant spirit of the movie Encanto. Encanto is a story that reminds us of the power of family, community, and embracing our unique gifts. Just like the Madrigals family in the movie, we too are a beautiful tapestry woven with diverse talents and strengths. Let's use them to nurture our community and spread love like Casita spreads its magic!



Property Updates:

Cleaning the Casita Cocina is Coming Soon! Inspired by Abuela Alma's iconic kitchen, we're thrilled to announce the upcoming Easter Clean Up of our upper fellowship kitchen. Channel your inner Luisa Madrigal and join our monthly cleaning crew! Stay tuned for exciting updates as we transform this space and donate our classic wares. Details on dates and times will be available soon.



Mirabel's Mural Project:

Calling all budding artists! Join our confirmation class as they paint a block in the Youth Room, reflecting the warmth and unity of our church family. All skill levels are welcome! Details on dates and times will be available soon.

Bruno's Blessing Corner: Seeking a moment of quiet reflection or prayer? We're creating a dedicated space in the small chapel for personal devotion, inspired by Bruno's hidden room. This space will be open for all during regular church hours.

Community Corner:

We Do Want to Talk About Food Drive! Let's stock STEP with the spirit of Julieta's selfless compassion. Donations of non-perishable food items can be dropped off at the designated bins and money can be added to the offering.

Mirabel's Miracle Garden Update:

Our native prairie plant garden is growing, thanks to our efforts during the open house Wednesday February 28. Let's keep our garden growing! Join the transplanting on Sunday, April 6.

As Alma Madrigal reminds us, "No one alone can move a mountain. It takes a whole family." Together, we can build a strong and supportive community at Vista. Remember, our church is like Casita – it thrives because of each of us contributing our unique gifts. Together, let's build a community filled with love, support, and vibrant expressions of faith.

In Christ's love, Jason



Grace In The Park Meal and Worship

2024 GRACE IN THE PARK

midweek lenten journey

5:30pm supper (for the Wednesday services)

6:00pm pop-up choir rehearsal

6:30pm worship

March 13th at Vista

March 20th at Spirit of Christ

Maundy Thursday at Vista

Good Friday at Vista



Spirit of Christ Lutheran Church
5801 Minnetonka Blvd.
St. Louis Park, MN 55416



Vista Lutheran Church
4003 Wooddale Ave S.
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Sunday School

#SundaySchool

March 2024 - Lent

Directions:

1. Read a Bible story from the "Spark Story Bible" each month. See the church office if you need a copy.
2. Discuss the passage with your child of God
3. Do an activity and take a picture
4. Share your pictures with communication@vistalutheran.org
5. Come to church on the 1st Sunday of each month for a special activity related to the story



"My Father will honor the one who serves me."

John 12:26

Read Spark Story Bible pg. 446

Discussion Questions:

How can you serve others?

How does it feel when someone else does something nice for you?

Why does Jesus want us to help other people?

Take a picture of: 📷

Playing follow the leader

Find examples of following in nature

Plant a seed and watch how the tiny seed grows

Etc.

Service Opportunity

You serving someone: bring a non-perishable donation to STEP



BIBLE STUDY

Come Join Us



**Mondays @ 10:00 am
with Pastor Kjell**

Mission Team Updates

Faith Formation—Feb. 5 Meeting Update

- Mike Andersen is the council liaison
- Meets 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 pm
- Lent Confirmation Mentor Guide has been created
- We will continue our successful book drive for Early Rise Learning Center
- Our next #SundaySchool initiative will focus on STEP

Invitation & Welcome—Feb. 11, Meeting Update

- Jason Bruns is the council liaison
- Meets 2nd Sunday of the month at 11:15 am

Worship Feb. 4, Meeting Update

- Larissa Penny is the council liaison
- Meets 1st Sunday of the month at 11:15 am.

Justice & Community Partnership—Feb. 26, Meeting Update

- Judy Tyrer is the council liaison
- Meets 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 pm
- Peter Hobart Elementary was very happy to receive the hats and mittens.
- We are looking for someone to head up the Mitten Tree next season. Please let us know if you are interested.
- Look for STEP forum to be rescheduled.
- We are looking to make connections with a SLP social worker to speak to how the Community Contingency Fund helps SLP families and The Eviction Prevention team has reached out to speak again at Vista.
- Next Meeting is March 25, 2024 at 7:00pm. All are welcome!

Assets & Building—Feb. 13, Meeting Update

- Jason H. is the council liaison
- Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 (sometimes 7:30 pm)
- **Property Task Group**
 - ◊ Managing Vista open/close responsibilities on Sundays.
 - ◊ Maintenance Request form is now available at the Welcome Desk Mission Team Updates
 - ◊ Organizing a group to clean out and donate items from Upper Fellowship Kitchen over Easter Break.
- **BURT (building usage and rental team)**
 - ◊ Has been meeting with our rental broker, Kevin Peck of Suntide, to secure a long term tenant and keep Vista sustainable into the future.

Finance Committee—Feb. 19, Meeting Update

- Waldo Johnson is the council liaison
- Meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 11:30 am

Pastoral Transition Task Group

- Pam P is council liaison, members are Bob Anderson, Sylvia Pogoff, Nikki Carson, Jan Anderson, Connie Hessevick
- Meets when needed
- No less than 5 no more than 9 members are required for the call committee. There currently are 5 candidates.
- Council will be working on clarifying our mission and goals before we go further with the call committee.

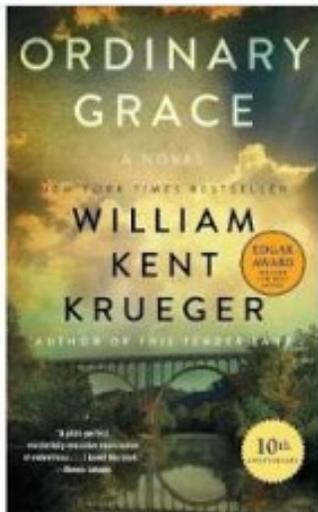
February 22, 2024 Council Meeting Summary

- Welcomed new council members:
Larissa Penny, John Carlotto, Mike Andersen.
- Discussed the need for two people from the congregation to attend the 2024 Synod Assembly - May 2-4, 2024.
If interested, please let Pastor Kjell know.
- Pastor Kjell began a discussion with the council on clarifying Vista's mission/goals.

Full meeting minutes are available by clicking on this link

[Congregational link to February 22, 2024 Council Notes](#)

COUNCIL
UPDATE



"Ordinary Grace"

by William Kent Krueger

March 16, 2024 @ 10:00 am

"Ordinary Grace is a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God."

Finance

Vista Lutheran Church

Statement of Activity - General & Legacy Funds

January 2024

	Actual Amounts			Budget Amounts		2023
	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Year to Date	Year to Date	Total	thru Jan 31
Total Receipts	\$24,224	\$44,513	\$44,513	\$34,113	\$294,700	\$29,571
Total Disbursements	\$19,576	\$14,175	\$14,175	\$21,561	\$380,600	\$38,436
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	\$4,649	\$30,339	\$30,339	\$12,552	(\$85,900)	(\$8,865)

Comments - January

- January's surplus was \$30,000, but this was a one time experience which isn't expected to recur for the rest of the year. Contributions were \$22,000 higher than December, but one-time contributions (where members pay at least one-half of their annual pledge) accounted for \$22,000 of the receipts. Rents were down about \$1,000 because users paid rents from previous months in December.
- On the expense side, most categories were lower in January because of extra, scheduled year-end payments made in December. But the most significant expense savings in January was because we didn't have a full time pastor in place. As a result, we saved over \$10,000. Beginning February 1, we have a full time interim pastor, so we won't see this level of savings going forward.
- The bottom line is, although January was a very positive month financially, we remain on track for a significant deficit by the end of the year.

Mission Endowment Fund

January 2024

Total Assets \$304,093

	Actual Amounts	
	Jan 2024	Year to Date
Realized Investment Income / (Loss)	\$179	\$179
Increase / (Decrease) due to market fluctuations	\$1,755	\$1,755
Total Disbursements	(\$754)	(\$754)
Fund Increase / (Decrease)	\$1,180	\$1,180

Comments - January

Realized Investment Income: Interest & Dividends = \$179

Disbursements = Quarterly Fees = \$754

Community Contingency Fund

January 2024

Total Assets \$10,405

	Jan 2024	Year to Date
Total Receipts	\$0	\$0
Total Disbursements	(\$300)	(\$300)
Excess Disbursements	(\$300)	(\$300)

Comments - January

- In January, the fund disbursed \$300 to assist a person with housing expenses.

News of Our Family



Sunday, March 3, we welcomed **Cal Edward Knippenberg** through the sacrament of baptism. Cal born June 27, 2023, is the son of **Mitchell** and **Abigail Knippenberg**.

Cal's sponsors are **Alexis Hemsath** and **John Colby**.

Birthdays

1 - Nathan Schwietering
2 - Ethan Keller
 Ryan Kuehl
 Kylie Raether
3 - Nikolas Shidla
7 - Irene Carson
8 - Mara Olson
11 - Charleen Crandall
12 - Thomas Pelowitz
13 - Kristin Holt
 Owen Hollinger

16 - Ruth Gustafson
 Ethel Mellgren
21 - Kristine Meller
24 - Barb Anderson
25 - Lou Scott
30 - Kate Schmidt

**If your birthday was
missed or listed
incorrectly, please call the
church office at
952-926-7603.**



Social Ministry



DINNER at YOUR DOOR

Tuesday

March 26, 2024

11:00 am - 12:15 pm



OUR SAVIOUR'S
**COMMUNITY
SERVICES**

Tuesday

March 12, 2024

6:45—8:15 pm

Each year, **STEP** participates in the Minnesota Foodshare March Campaign.

Vista Lutheran Church is an official food donation site for **STEP**.

Tuesdays until 5:00 pm, Saturdays until 3:00 pm, & Sundays during worship.

Help fill the shelves with food by bring a bag of groceries to church or make a financial donation by going on line to MN FoodShare

Let's show our love for neighbors.

STEP

ST. LOUIS PARK EMERGENCY PROGRAM



Fare For All
Wednesday, March 20, 2024
4:00-6:00 pm

HOT BUY



\$5.25



Party Wings (Unflavored)
2.5 lbs

PRODUCE R



\$10



- Red Potatoes - 3 lb
- Yellow Onions - 2 lb
- Carrots - 1 lb
- Gala Apples - 4 ct
- Navel Oranges - 4 ct
- Lemons - 2 ct
- Radishes - 1 lb



March 14, at 11:30 am

Food, fellowship, and faith. Join us for our monthly lunch gathering where we talk about it all and eat well. Bring a favorite dish or desert for potluck.

If you haven't joined us before - come for community, good conversation and of course good food.

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
<p>Installation of Council</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11:15am - Worship</p> <p>5pm - Brass Choir</p> <p>7:30pm - AA - Mixed</p>	<p>10am - Bible Study</p> <p>5:30pm - Women's AA</p> <p>7pm - Faith Formation</p> <p>7pm - Narcotics</p>	<p>Election Pres. Nomination</p> <p>STEP Food Collection</p>	<p>5:30pm - Supper@SOC</p> <p>6pm - Pop-Up</p> <p>6:30pm - Worship@SOC</p> <p>7:15pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5:30pm - Mixed AA</p> <p>6:30pm - Council Meeting</p>	<p>6pm - Kaleidoscope-</p>	<p>STEP Food Collection</p>
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11:15am - Mission</p> <p>5pm - Brass Choir</p> <p>7:30pm - AA - Mixed</p>	<p>10am - Bible Study</p> <p>5:30pm - Women's AA</p> <p>7pm - Narcotics</p>	<p>STEP Food Collection</p> <p>6:30pm - Women's Al-</p> <p>6:45pm - Our Saviour's</p> <p>7pm - Property Task</p>	<p>5:30pm - Supper@Vista</p> <p>6pm - Pop-Up</p> <p>6:30pm - Worship@Vista</p> <p>7pm - District 22 AA Mtg.</p> <p>7:15pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11:30am - Around the</p> <p>5:30pm - Mixed AA</p>	<p>6pm - Kaleidoscope-</p>	<p>STEP Food Collection</p> <p>10am - Vista's Book Club</p>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>10am - Worship</p> <p>7:30pm - AA - Mixed</p>	<p>10am - Bible Study</p> <p>11:30am - Finance</p> <p>5:30pm - Women's AA</p> <p>7pm - Narcotics</p>	<p>STEP Food Collection</p> <p>6:30pm - Women's Al-</p>	<p>4pm - Fare For All</p> <p>5:30pm - Supper@SOC</p> <p>6pm - Pop-Up</p> <p>6:30pm - Worship@SOC</p> <p>7:15pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5:30pm - Mixed AA</p>	<p>6pm - Kaleidoscope-</p>	<p>STEP Food Collection</p>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>10am - Worship</p> <p>7:30pm - AA - Mixed</p>	<p>10am - Bible Study</p> <p>11:30am - Finance</p> <p>5:30pm - Women's AA</p> <p>7pm - Narcotics</p>	<p>STEP Food Collection</p> <p>6:30pm - Women's Al-</p>	<p>7pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5:30pm - Mixed AA</p>	<p>6pm - Kaleidoscope-</p>	<p>STEP Food Collection</p>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p>Palm Sunday</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>5pm - Brass Choir</p> <p>7:30pm - AA - Mixed</p>	<p>10am - Bible Study</p> <p>11:30am - Finance</p> <p>5:30pm - Women's AA</p> <p>7pm - Justice Community</p> <p>7pm - Narcotics</p>	<p>STEP Food Collection</p> <p>11am - Dinner At Your</p> <p>6:30pm - Women's Al-</p>	<p>7pm - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7pm - SLP Housing Team</p>	<p>Maundy Thursday</p> <p>5:30pm - Mixed AA</p> <p>6:30pm - Worship@Vista</p>	<p>Good Friday</p> <p>6:30pm - Worship@Vista</p>	<p>STEP Food Collection</p> <p>2pm - Kaleidoscope-LFH</p>
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>Easter Sunday</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>7:30pm - AA - Mixed</p>						

Christiana Howell	Director of Music	music@vistalutheran.org
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Cindy Ranwick	Administrative Assistant	cindy@vistalutheran.org
Noah Strom	Organist	chiropractor.noah@gmail.com
Emma Todd	Associate Organist	emmat0813@gmail.com

4003 Wooddale Avenue. St. Louis Park, MN 55416 952-926-7603

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

www.vistalutheran.org



2024 Congregational Council

Jason Holt	President—Building & Assets Mission Team
Waldo Johnson	Vice President—Personnel Committee
John Carlotto	Treasurer—Finance Committee
Judy Tyrer	Secretary—Justice & Community Partnership Mission Team

At Large

Jason Bruns—Invitation & Welcome Mission Team
Pam Pivec—Pastoral Transition Task Force
Larissa Penny—Worship Mission Team
Mike Andersen—Faith Formation Mission Team

Congregational council are now liaisons to all active Mission Teams & Committees.