

Vista News—January 2024

Who(se) are we....exploring God's future in this place.



As we enter into our continuing adventure that is Vista, we look to this new year with confidence that we are where we need to be right now. We are aware of the great assurance that God is providing everything we need to share our gifts and love God's world. And, we have a new energy that we're all in this together and ready to roll up our sleeves for Jesus.

Why are we so certain of this? Do you remember why Bridge Builders was initiated at Vista in September 2022? We wanted a partnership that would guide us through the anxiety, tensions and "stuckness" that we were experiencing as we emerged as a new congregation in a post-pandemic world. We've come a long way since those initial conversations, and we have honestly proclaimed "who(se) we are while exploring God's future at Vista".

(continued on page 2)

The Bridge Builders task force wants to share the themes and prayers that came from our worships and conversations this past October. These will be an important tool for our Council, our Interim Pastor, our Transition Team and our Call Committee as we move into 2024. The WordCloud on the front page of this newsletter visually highlights these shared themes. The phrases are in different font sizes. The sizes represent the frequency that the phrase was said in our conversations and prayers. The larger the type size, the more the phrase was repeated. Look at this beautiful visual of faith, trust, and assurance that we are more than enough right now. Each of us is an integral part of Vista and we are exactly where God wants us. Our hearts, eyes, ears and minds are open to the opportunities the Spirit will put in our path to share our faith.

Let's enter this new year holding tight to some of the offering prayers our members wrote at our first "Who(se) are we" Worship:

- Lord, be with us on our journey - through today - and into tomorrow.
- Loving God, be with Vista, reassure us, embolden us to step into your future.
- Let us know that we are enough to go forward together at Vista. Remind us to not try to be too much, but instead live up to our potential, knowing that we are enough for the Holy Spirit to work with.
- Dear Lord, may our joy in knowing who we are overflow into God's world.
- Thanks be to God!

The Bridge Builders task force has completed its "official" role. Now, each of us in the Vista community will continue the bridging and building. We are all essential in exploring and building God's future at Vista.

Gratefully,

The Bridge Builders Task Force

Phyllis Morhlant, Jan Anderson, Jean Olson, Andrew Raether



Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 4, 2024

Welcome to Pastor Ronnevik & Family



Andrew Ronnevik is originally from northwestern Minnesota. He served as a pastor in Bemidji, Minnesota, for about nine years and spent the last five years in Texas, where he completed a PhD program in theology and ethics. In early 2024, he will begin a new call as a seminary professor in Papua New Guinea through ELCA Global Mission. He and his family are living in St. Paul during this time of transition.

Andrew is married to Meredith, a registered nurse originally from the Chicago area. They are the parents of Beatrice (4.5) and Hans (2). Andrew enjoys reading, playing violin, and hiking.

Pastor Andrew Ronnevik will be covering emergencies at Vista Lutheran January 1 through January 28, 2024. Please call this number to reach him: 218-209-6708. This number will also be on the church answering machine.

Worship & Music

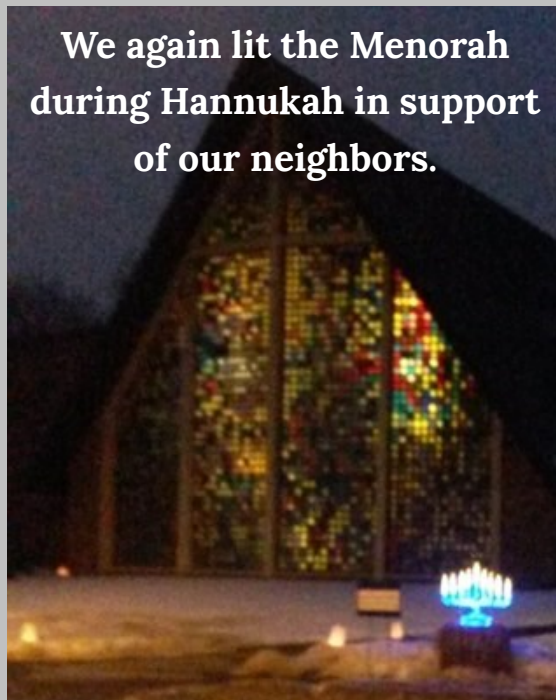


A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO
all musicians, singers and worship
volunteers who made our Advent and
Christmas Season such a blessing!
You are truly a gift!

Christmas At Vista



**We again lit the Menorah
during Hannukah in support
of our neighbors.**



Confirmation Program



February 21st, Wednesday Nights in Lent Confirmation Mentors Needed!

The faith Formation Mission Team is looking for faithful adults to be in conversation with our confirmation students throughout the season of Lent. Meet during community dinner, have a conversation about faith and life, and be connected across the generations as the Church.

Four (4) mentors are needed. Please contact Emma Peterson: emmat0813@gmail.com

Sunday School

#SundaySchool

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



January 2024 - Baptism

"You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Mark 1:11

Read Spark Story Bible pg. 242

Discussion Questions:

Have you ever seen a dove?

How do you feel after you are clean?

Find a photo of your baptism. Who surrounds you?

Take a picture of: 📷

Doing something joyful

Your favorite body of water

Water memories of summer

After-bathtime/bedtime

Etc.

Service Opportunity

Find your favorite book and buy it for Rise on 7



Mission Team Updates

Faith Formation—Dec. 4, Meeting Update

- Emma Todd is the council liaison
- Meets 1st Monday of the month at 7 pm.
- We discussed our 2024 budget and included goals for intergenerational activities as well as continued youth ministry.
- We are wondering what the congregation needs from us in this transition and new stage of life.
- "Once Upon a Star" intergenerational activity on December 10th after worship

Invitation & Welcome—Dec. 10, Meeting Update

- Jason Bruns is the council liaison
- Meets 2nd Sunday of the month at 11:15 am.
- Looking into purchasing 2 banners, with posts to place above the current sign out front, to advertise Christmas services. They will be temporary and reusable.
- Christmas undecorating party to take place after service on Dec. 31.
- Considering a chili cookoff after service one Sunday in January or February.

Worship Dec. 3, Meeting Update

- Kristi Johnson is the council liaison
- Meets 1st Sunday of the month at 11:15 am.
- members will take Kid's Time During Advent using "Friendly Beasts"
- Advent/Christmas Eve bulletins planned
- Christmas Eve Services
 - ◊ Advent 4 10 am
 - ◊ Family Christmas 4 pm
 - ◊ Traditional Christmas 10 pm
- Feb. 11 (Last Sunday before Lent will be RIC Sunday)
- Special choir has been invited
- working with Invitation/Welcome to go deeper

Justice & Community Partnership—Dec. 25, No Meeting

Assets & Building—Dec. 12, Meeting Update

- Jason H. is the council liaison
- Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm.

Property Task Group

- Jason H. is the council liaison & Property Task Group chair
- Continued training for Open/Close Sundays and weekly security, thanks Mark E
- Volunteer shoveling crew is Bill G, Jason H & Mark E, a few more helpers would be great
- At December's meeting, Assets & Building Mission Team will focus on the 2024 budget
- Also, addressing "what impact on the budget do volunteers really have?" If we don't have volunteers, money has to come out of the budget/be taken away from our other ministries
- Jason has a "special engineer" boiler's license, Mark E is training Jason to manage the boiler if/when Mark needs time off.

BURT (building usage and rental team)

- Meets when needed
- Please join us for an Adult Forum on Commercial Realty Listing with Kevin Peck of Suntide:
- Sunday January 14, 11:15am in Lower Fellowship - Kevin has shown the space several times, and WCNS will be going through Kevin as well.

Finance Committee-Dec. 18

- Waldo Johnson is the council liaison
- Meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 11:30 am
- Members are working with BURT and fall “Honesty Living, Generously Giving” Campaign

Pastoral Transition Task Group

- Pam P is council liaison, members are Bob Anderson, Sylvia Pogoff, Nikki Carson, Jan Anderson, Connie Hessevick
- Meets when needed
- This is a short term group working with the congregation to fill out the Ministry Site Profile in 2023. Then a call committee will be formed and may start interviewing in early 2024
- We began congregational input at the ‘Who(se) Are We... God’s Future in this Place’ on Oct. 22/29th
- Additional congregational input will be gathered soon ... watch for updates of date and time

**help with
coffee café**



Taking a sip of coffee and tasting a sweet treat after worship just feels right. To help keep this feeling of fellowship going, please consider signing up at the welcome desk to volunteer

**Lets keep Vista’s sidewalks
safe this winter !!**



**Please volunteer to shovel
when necessary.**

Finance

Vista Lutheran Church

Statement of Activity - Operating Fund

November 2023

	<u>Actual Amounts</u>			<u>Budget Amounts</u>		<u>2022</u>
	<u>Oct 2023</u>	<u>Nov 2023</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>thru Nov 30</u>
Total Receipts	\$31,397	\$20,553	\$441,651	\$350,399	\$397,100	\$420,984
Total Disbursements	\$22,717	\$25,966	\$380,780	\$445,637	\$486,150	\$438,314
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	\$8,680	(\$5,413)	\$60,871	(\$95,238)	(\$89,050)	(\$17,330)

Comments - November

Receipts

November's receipts were \$10,800 lower than October's. The majority of this difference is because we received a \$9,900 "catch-up" payment for one household's pledge in October. The remainder of the difference is small timing differences in members' contributions.

Disbursements

Disbursements in November were \$3,250 higher than in October mostly for property-related expenses: October and November cleaning bills were paid in November (\$1,300), maintenance expenses for the inside fire sprinkler (\$700), boiler repairs (\$400), and higher heating costs (\$700).

Legacy Fund Cash Receipts & Disbursements

	<u>Actual Amounts</u>	
	<u>Nov 2023</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Total Receipts	\$3,125	\$187,198
Total Disbursements	(\$1,643)	(\$132,428)
Excess Receipts	\$1,482	\$54,770
Remaining Cash Available		\$315,166

Comments - November

Receipts:

Interest (\$683), Dividends (\$777), Unrealized Capital Gains (\$1,665).

Disbursements:

Salaries & Benefits (\$1,633), Fees (\$10).

Mission Endowment Fund

Total Assets \$291,976

	<u>Actual Amounts</u>	
	<u>Nov 2023</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Realized Investment Income / (Loss)	\$271	(\$6,048)
Increase / (Decrease) due to market fluctuations	\$22,324	\$31,038
Total Disbursements for Grants	(\$3,950)	(\$15,048)
Fund Increase / (Decrease)	\$18,645	\$9,942

Comments - November

Income: Interest = \$5; Dividends = \$267

Grant Disbursements = Our Saviour's Housing (\$450), STEP (\$3,500)

Community Contingency Fund

November 2023

Total Assets \$10,705

	<u>Nov 2023</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Total Receipts	\$0	\$750
Total Disbursements	\$0	(\$2,801)
Excess Receipts	\$0	(\$2,051)

Comments - November

There was no activity in the fund in November.

COUNCIL UPDATE

December 21, 2023 Council Meeting Summary

- Council approved to hold the annual meeting on Sunday, February 4, 2024.
- The council is looking for people who are interested in serving on the council.
- Mission Teams need to have reports to Cindy by January 7, 2024.

Full meeting minutes are available by clicking on this link:

[Congregational Link to December 21, 2023 Council Meeting Notes](#)

offering
envelopes
are here!



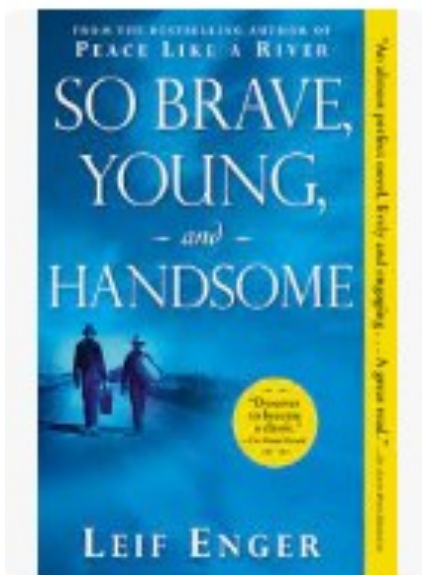
2024 Offering Envelopes are available in the centrum. If you find you were not issued envelopes for 2024 and would like a set, please contact Cindy in the office at 952-926-7603. Thank you!

2023 Year End Statements. If you would like a year end giving statement summarizing your 2023 gifts to Vista, please contact the church office.

"So Brave, Young, and Handsome"

by Leif Enger

January 20, 2024



This Minnesota author writes "a rugged and nimble story about an aging train robber on a quest to reconcile the claims of love and judgment on his life, and the failed writer who goes with him. This is a tale about Truth, not truth, and the author shows us that from the get-go. There is Truth in the world, often to be found shoved behind elaborate scrimms of lies, where the facts that tell the truth are woven into the most fantastical beasts of falsehood it's amazing. " "A voyage of redemption and renewal into the great heart of the American West."

Note: There is no book club in February 2024.

Social Ministry



DINNER at the DOOR

Tuesday
January 23, 2024
11:00 am - 12:15 pm



fare for all
a program of the food group

Wednesday, January 17, 2024
4:00—6:00 pm

HOT BUY  **\$3.00**



Beef & Cheddar Smoked Sausages - 28 oz



Thank you to all who supported “Give to the MAX” STEP’S primary fundraiser of the year. Through Vista \$1,268.00 was donated and doubled for “Give to the MAX”.

The Kaleidoscope Quartet benefit concert for STEP brought in \$1,066.05 and the Holiday Toy Drive received \$500.00 in gift cards and toys.



2023 Sharing & Caring Hands Bread Donations

179 Bags and 304 Boxes

Valued at \$7,530.00



News Of Our Family

Prayers & Sympathy

Prayers & sympathy for the family and friends of Muriel Vieburg on the death of her husband Darvig who passed away December 25th. We hold the family in prayer, may they know God's peace, strength, and consolation.

A memorial service will be held at 11 am on Saturday, January 20, 2024 at Gearty-Delmore Funeral Chapel, St. Louis Park. Visitation is one hour prior to the service followed by additional visitation time and interment at Groveland Cemetery in Minnetonka.

3 - Karen Griffiths

5 - Wanda Guzzi
Forrest Hammel

6 - Carol Ennenga
Janet Rapp

8 - Jeff Hickstein

10 - Larissa Penny

11 - Michael Andersen
Ian Shidla
Jim Watson

12 - Joy Massen-Shidla

13 - Sherry Podein

14 - Karen Gleason
Gloria Niehans

16 - Scott Bresser
Anna Podein

17 - Sherwood Mickelson

18 - Jon Olson

20 - Carol Drake

21 - Danny Lainsbury

22 - Bill Tape

23 - Bjorn Anderson

24 - Brian Hayes

29 - Brenda Kaufman

31 - Bill Glad
Myah Johnson

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



January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<p>New Year's Day</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 - Narcotics</p>	<p>7pm - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7pm - Confirmation</p>	<p>5:30pm - Mixed AA</p> <p>7pm - Executive</p>		<p>STEP Food Collection</p>
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11:15am - Worship</p> <p>5pm - Brass Choir</p> <p>7:30pm - AA - Mixed</p>	<p>10am - Going Deeper</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>7pm - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7pm - District 22 AA Mtg.</p>	<p>11:30am - Around the</p> <p>5:30pm - Mixed AA</p>		<p>STEP Food Collection</p>
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11:15am - Adult Forum -</p> <p>11:15am -</p> <p>5pm - Brass Choir</p> <p>7:30pm - AA - Mixed</p>	<p>10am - Going Deeper</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>7pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5:30pm - Mixed AA</p> <p>7pm - Council Meeting</p>		<p>STEP Food Collection</p> <p>10am - Vista's Book Club</p>
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<p>10am - Worship</p> <p>5pm - Brass Choir</p> <p>7:30pm - AA - Mixed</p>	<p>10am - Going Deeper</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>5:30pm - Mixed AA</p>		<p>STEP Food Collection</p>
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
<p>10am - Worship</p> <p>5pm - Brass Choir</p> <p>7:30pm - AA - Mixed</p>	<p>10am - Going Deeper</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>			

Christiana Howell	Director of Music	music@vistalutheran.org
Andrew Raether	Media Lead	communication@vistalutheran.org
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



2023 Congregational Council

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

At Large

Jason Bruns—Welcome Invitation Mission Team
Kristi Johnson—Worship Mission Team
Phyllis Mohrlant—Bridge Builders Liaison
Pam Pivec—Pastoral Transition Task Force
Emma Todd—Faith Formation Mission Team

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