



HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER

PSALM 136

Vista News—February 2024

Dear Vista Lutheran Family,

With immense gratitude and eager anticipation, I step into the role of your interim pastor here at Vista Lutheran. It is a privilege to become a part of this faith community with such a rich history, guided by a profound mission and vision that resonates deeply with the Christian calling.

The picturesque nature trails that wind through St. Louis Park are a beautiful reminder of the paths we'll explore together during this time of transition. I am excited to embark on this adventure, navigating the trails of faith, learning from one another, and growing together in the love of Christ. I am eager to explore the

ways in which we can contribute to the well-being of the community and strengthen the bonds that make Vista Lutheran such a special place.

I look forward to getting to know each of you, hearing your stories, and discovering the unique ways in which our faith intertwines with the needs of the world. Together, let us embrace this new trail on Vista's path.

May the grace of God guide us on this journey, and may our time together be filled with blessings and joy.

In Christ's love,

Kjell Ferris

Interim Pastor, Vista Lutheran Church



Worship & Music



Worship together to begin Lent
Wednesday, February 14th
6:30 pm
Vista Lutheran



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

Confirmation Classes -
7-8pm on Wednesdays

Mark your calendars!

02-14-24	Ash Wednesday
02-21-24	Lent, Supper/Mentor
02-28-24	Lent, Supper/Mentor



Grace In The Park Meal and Worship

midweek lenten journey

5:30pm supper (for the Wednesday services)

6:00pm pop-up choir rehearsal

6:30pm worship

February 21st at Spirit of Christ

February 28th at Vista

March 6th at Spirit of Christ

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

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



February 2024 - Love

**"Love is patient, love is kind."
1 Corinthians 13:4**

Read Spark Story Bible pg. 546

Discussion Questions:

Who do you love?

Who loves you?

Why do you love? How do you know you are loved?

Take a picture of: 📷

Something or someone you love

A place you see love

A drawing of a heart or other symbol of love

Etc.

Service Opportunity

An act of love: Bring a donation to STEP or for RIP Medical Debt



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.

Welcome to Pastor Kjell Ferris



Meet Pastor Kjell (pronounced “Chell”, like church) Ferris, Vista Lutheran’s new interim pastor.

Pastor Ferris is coming to Vista from Calvary Lutheran, near George Floyd Square, where he has been their interim pastor for the past 2 years. Previously, he was lead Pastor at Peace Lutheran Church in Plymouth for 8 years, and an associate pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in Blaine for 6 years.

Originally, hailing from western North Dakota, Pastor Ferris has deep roots in the Lutheran faith and he is drawn to focusing on being an interim pastor. We have a blessed opportunity to work with him as we focus on calling our next permanent pastor.

Pastor Ferris started at Vista on Monday, January 29th. Please welcome him to Vista!

Ronnevik Papua New Guinea Newsletter

Pastor Andrew Ronnevik will soon begin a new call as a seminary professor in Papua New Guinea (PNG) through ELCA Global Mission. You can follow Pastor Andrew and his family through their monthly newsletter by clicking on the link below :

[Ronnevik PNG newsletter](#)



Mission Team Updates

Faith Formation—Jan. 5 Meeting Update

- Emma Peterson is the council liaison
- Meets 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 pm
- We are continuing to collect books for the Early Rise center. Order using the Amazon link or a vendor of your choice. Books ordered on Amazon are shipped to the church office and collected in the box in the gathering area.
- Our confirmation students are excited to welcome Pastor Kjell and start with their mentors during Lent.
- We continue with #SundaySchool for families with Elementary age children.
- Our next meeting is March 4th at 7pm.

Invitation & Welcome—Jan. 14, Meeting Update

- Jason Bruns is the council liaison
- Meets 2nd Sunday of the month at 11:15 am
- Members Present: Joy Shidla, Nikki Carson, Michael Bachman, Jason Bruns
- **Review notes from last meeting:**
- **Additional Agenda Items**
 - ◊ Music in sanctuary before worship service.
 - ◊ February 18 - Chili cookoff after worship at Vista
 - ◊ Looking to purchase cake from LGBTQ+ bakery for the Reconciling in Christ server on February 11.
- **Future Topics**
 - ◊ Music in centrum after worship service. Purchase of bluetooth speaker, and possible Vista music subscription.
 - ◊ Advertise lent and Easter services
 - ◊ Facebook
 - ◊ Signage similar to Christmas signage in front of church
 - ◊ Signs on church entrance doors
 - ◊ Discussed live feed of worship service on Facebook - There might be issues with copyrights of music, if the music is broadcasted (think choir music is main issue)
 - ◊ Team is discussing visiting other churches to gain knowledge on their I&W practices.
- **Questions for the church council:**
 - ◊ OK to play music before worship in sanctuary, and centrum after worship?
 - ◊ Any concerns with broadcasting worship live on Facebook?

Worship Jan. 7, Meeting Update

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

Justice & Community Partnership—Jan. 22 Meeting Update

- Judy Tyrer is the council liaison
- Meets 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 pm
- Mark Ennenga heads up Fare For All at Vista. He presented a summary of how the organization operates and the benefits of having Fare For All in our community.
- There will be a food insecurity forum presented by Derek from STEP on February 25, 2024 after the service.
- We are exploring land acknowledgement statements.

Assets & Building—Jan. 9, Meeting Update

- Jason H. is the council liaison
- Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm
- **Property Task Group**
 - ◇ Managing Vista open/close responsibilities
 - ◇ Maintenance Request form is now available at the Welcome Desk Mission Team Updates
 - ◇ Addressing “what impact on the budget do volunteers really have?” If we don’t have volunteers, money has to come out of the budget.
 - ◇ God is up to amazing things at Vista ... join one of these important mission teams or volunteer as we build for the future!
- **BURT (building usage and rental team)**
 - ◇ Has been meeting to secure a rental broker to supplement member giving and keep Vista sustainable in the future.
 - ◇ 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—Jan. 15th and 22nd Meeting Update

- Waldo Johnson is the council liaison
- Meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 11:30 am
- 2024 budget was discussed.

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

January 18, 2024 Council Meeting Summary

- The 2024 budget was presented to the council.
- The 2023 Annual report was presented for approval for the 2024 Annual Meeting.
- The forming of a call committee was discussed.

Full meeting minutes are available by clicking on this link

[Congregation Link to January 18, 2024 Council Meeting](#)

COUNCIL
UPDATE

Finance

Vista Lutheran Church

Statement of Activity - Operating Fund December 2023

	Actual Amounts			2022	
	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Year to Date	Budget	thru Dec 31
Total Receipts	\$20,553	\$24,224	\$465,875	\$397,100	\$474,073
Total Disbursements	(\$25,966)	(\$19,576)	(\$400,356)	(\$486,150)	(\$485,631)
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$5,413)	\$4,649	\$65,519	(\$89,050)	(\$11,559)

Comments - December

December's receipts were \$3,700 higher than November's because of two annual pledges received.

December's expenses were down about \$6,400 from November due to reduced salary expense with Pastor Heidi's retirement November 30. We also benefited from an extremely mild December which kept our heating costs very low.

Legacy Fund Cash Receipts & Disbursements

	Actual Amounts	
	Dec 2023	Year to Date
Total Receipts	\$4,380	\$191,578
Total Disbursements	(\$1,633)	(\$134,061)
Excess Disbursements	\$2,747	\$57,517
Remaining Cash Available		<u>\$317,913</u>

Comments - December

December income: Interest & Dividends = \$751; Market fluctuations = \$3,623.

December disbursements: Salaries for positions approved in 2020.

Mission Endowment Fund December 2023

Total Assets \$302,912

	Actual Amounts	
	Dec 2023	Year to Date
Realized Investment Income / (Loss)	\$6,521	\$473
Increase / (Decrease) due to market fluctuations	\$5,819	\$36,858
Total Disbursements	(\$1,404)	(\$16,452)
Fund Increase / (Decrease)	\$10,936	\$20,879

Comments - December

Realized Investment Income: Interest & Dividends = \$1,084; Capital Gain Dividends = \$5,439

Disbursements = Grant #2022-04 (Our Saviour's Homeless Shelter) \$1,204; Grant #2023-04

Dinner At Your Door = \$1,200

Community Contingency Fund December 2023

Total Assets \$10,705

	Dec 2023	Year to Date
	Total Receipts	\$0
Total Disbursements	\$0	(\$3,051)
Excess Disbursements	\$0	(\$2,101)

Comments - December

There was no December activity in the Community Contingency Fund.

Birthdays

1 - Christa Engquist

2 - Eleanor Ferris

3 - Maren Nelson

4 - Jill Olson

7 - Kari Schwietering

11 - Sheldon Gustafson
Owen Andersen

12 - Andrew Raether

18 - Jean Olson

19 - Kathy Schmitz

20 - Avery Pittman

22 - Carol Schwalbe
Jim Zimdars
William Morgan

26 - Lonnie Cooper
Camryn Bruns

27 - Greyson Keller

28 - Charlene Guddal
Lorraine Edberg
Holden Hammel

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



CHILI COOK OFF RESCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 25

CHILI COOK OFF FEBRUARY 18 11:15AM

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED FOR:



BEST OVERALL

CHILI A LA MINNESOTA

CHILI A LA TEXAS

MOST UPLIFTING (HA HA)

MOST CREATIVE

EMAIL

CINDY@VISTALUTHERAN.ORG

"NAME" YOUR CHILI WHEN YOU EMAIL CINDY & PRIZE SHOULD READ: MOST CREATIVE (NAME)



Social Ministry



DINNER at your DOOR

Tuesday

February 27, 2024

11:00 am - 12:15 pm



OUR SAVIOUR'S
**COMMUNITY
SERVICES**

Tuesday

February 13, 2024

6:45—8:15 pm



fare for all
a program of the food group

Wednesday, February 14, 2024
4:00—6:00 pm

Hot Buy

\$7.00



**LOCAL Thousand Hills Top
Sirloin Beef Steak - 11 oz**

Low-Cost Food Sale



Open to ALL! No pre-registration needed

Location

Vista Lutheran Church

4003 Wooddale Ave S, St. Louis Park, MN 55416

2024 Dates | Wednesdays 4 - 6 pm

Jan 17, Feb 14, Mar 20, Apr 17, May 15, Jun 12,
Jul 24, Aug 21, Sep 18, Oct 16, Nov 13, Dec 11

Affordable frozen meats & fresh produce



Cash, Credit/Debit and SNAP accepted



For locations & info:

Visit: fareforall.org

or call: 763-450-3880

33 monthly sales throughout Minnesota!



February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
<p>Annual Meeting</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11:15am - Worship</p> <p>5pm - Brass Choir</p> <p>7:30pm - AA - Mixed</p>	<p>5:30pm - Women's AA</p> <p>7pm - Faith Formation</p> <p>7pm - Narcotics</p>	<p>STEP Food Collection</p> <p>6:30pm - Women's Al-</p>	<p>7pm - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7pm - Confirmation</p>	<p>5:30pm - Mixed AA</p> <p>7pm - Executive</p>	<p>6pm - kaleidoscope-</p>	<p>STEP Food Collection</p>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p>Annual Meeting</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11:15am - Worship</p> <p>5pm - Brass Choir</p> <p>7:30pm - AA - Mixed</p>	<p>5:30pm - Women's AA</p> <p>7pm - Faith Formation</p> <p>7pm - Narcotics</p>	<p>STEP Food Collection</p> <p>6:30pm - Women's Al-</p>	<p>7pm - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7pm - Confirmation</p>	<p>11:30am - Around the</p> <p>5:30pm - Mixed AA</p>	<p>STEP Food Collection</p>	<p>STEP Food Collection</p>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<p>RIC Sunday</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11:15am -</p> <p>2pm - Kaleidoscope-LFH</p> <p>4pm - Brass Choir</p> <p>7:30pm - AA - Mixed</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>4pm - Fare For All</p> <p>6:30pm - Worship@Vista</p> <p>7pm - District 22 AA Mtg.</p> <p>7:15pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5:30pm - Mixed AA</p>	<p>STEP Food Collection</p>	<p>STEP Food Collection</p>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<p>Installation of Pastor</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>5pm - Brass Choir</p> <p>7:30pm - AA - Mixed</p>	<p>11:30am - Finance</p> <p>5:30pm - Women's AA</p> <p>6pm - Kaleidoscope-</p> <p>7pm - Narcotics</p>	<p>STEP Food Collection</p> <p>6:30pm - Women's Al-</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>7pm - Council Meeting</p>	<p>STEP Food Collection</p>	<p>STEP Food Collection</p>
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
<p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11:15am - Chili Cook Off</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>5:30pm - Supper@Vista</p> <p>6pm - Pop-Up</p> <p>6:30pm - Worship@Vista</p> <p>7pm - SLP Housing Team</p> <p>7:15pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5:30pm - Mixed AA</p>	<p>STEP Food Collection</p>	<p>STEP Food Collection</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



2024 Congregational Council

Jason Holt	President—Building & Assets Mission Team
	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
Pam Pivec—Pastoral Transition Task Force
John Carlotto
Larissa Penny
Mike Andersen

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