

THE MESSENGER

Vermont Lutheran Church's Mission Statement:

Christians **A**ctively **R**eaching Out **E**xperiencing Christ and **S**preading His Word

From the Interim Pastor's Desk . .

A joyous Eastertide to you all!

Thank you for welcoming me into your vital and faithful church. I look forward to working with you and getting to know you as you await the placement of your settled pastor.

I was going to entitle my first newsletter article, "Why I Love Martin Luther." On second thought, however, I decided it would be best to tell a bit about myself. I will save Martin Luther for next month.

I moved to Richland County with my four youngest children roughly a year ago from Elmhurst, Illinois. My motivations were various: to escape urban life, to establish a permaculture farm, to plant two of my children at University of Wisconsin – Madison, and to take an unofficial sabbatical after long and rewarding careers.

If you'd like more information about what we've been up to this last year, I actually kept a record! I developed a website/blog on the establishment of our permaculture farm for a farm tour we were on last September -- <https://www.whispering-oaks-farm.com/>

Back in Elmhurst, career-wise I basically followed in the footsteps of my father who was a colossal influence in my life and from whom I inherited the theology gene.

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ronald_Goetz <https://www.ronaldgoetz.com/>) Like my father, I served on the faculty of Elmhurst University. When I first started out, I was assigned to teach a course entitled, *The Development of the Dogmas of the Trinity, the Two Natures of Christ, and Original Sin...* to business majors. In the course of my career there, I taught *Emergence Christian Thought* (including a couple weeks devoted to Martin Luther) and *Biblical Theology*. I even taught a course on theological responses to the Holocaust.

A few years into teaching, I became the Pastor of First Congregational Church of Geneva, United Church of Christ. I

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From the Interim Pastor's Desk . .

served a wonderful congregation. The highlights of our ministry together include national and international mission trips, *lots* of Christian education, the mentoring of college and graduate school students, and assorted community partnerships, including one with the local farmer's market.

I received my undergraduate education at Smith College where I majored, not surprisingly, in Religion. I received my graduate school education at Chicago Theological Seminary, where my focus was on the Old Testament.

With my two girls now off to college, my "hobbies" are hanging out with my sons, pets, and livestock, and working on our farm (which I have discovered is a black hole). I used to be big into cross country cycling -- back where the land was flat, and there was little chance of getting hit on a blind curve by a milk truck. I hope to get back to it in time.

That's probably more than you want/need to know about me. I would love to hear your stories, so please reach out! God bless and reward you!

With you in faithful service.

Rebecca Clancy

News

GRADUATES? Do you know someone who is graduating for 8th grade, senior high school, college or tech school?

On Sunday, May 28th at 9:30am, we will be holding a blessing service for the class of 2023 with special recognition at the Hospitality Hour following worship.

We would like to run the graduates' pictures in the Bulletin/Messenger. Please submit their name, a note about where they may be headed after this milestone has passed, what their accomplishment is (including awards, scholarship, etc.) and where they will go from here. Also, any pictures you might have of your graduate would also be appreciated. Please e-mail the church at vermont_church@tds.net.

The Cal Tollefson Scholarship committee is excited to announce that scholarship season is upon us. We greatly appreciate the support that the congregation has shown Cal's Scholarship. We prayerfully hope you will continue to consider supporting this joyful mission! On Sunday, June 10th at 9:00 we will be holding a blessing service for the Class of 2018. We will once again collect a special offering for the "Cal Tollefson Scholarship" at that service. Please look for the envelopes with a graduation cap at the end of each pew; offerings placed in them will be designated to the scholarship. Thank you!



EARTH DAY

Look for signs of spring and reminders of resurrection at a SCSW Care for Creation **Church of the Wild** outdoor worship on Earth Day – Saturday, April 22, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Vermont Lutheran Church, 9886 Vermont Church Road, just south of Black Earth. Pr. Kathi Matthews-Risley of St. John’s Lutheran will lead worship, which includes wandering through Vermont Lutheran’s Legacy Prairie & Woodland and historic cemetery while listening to sermons from blue jays and oak trees.

Join us in the Gathering Place, next to the church, at 2 p.m. for the opening. Return later to reconnect, share experiences and receive communion. Light refreshments will follow. Complete your Earth Day observance at Bethel Lutheran, 317 Wisconsin Ave., Madison with dinner at 6 p.m. and the viewing of *The Letter*, a documentary on Pope Francis’ encyclical, Laudato Si. If you plan to attend the dinner at Bethel Lutheran, please RSVP to Todd Fansler at: kris_and_todd@sbcglobal.net.

Highlights—Endowment Fund

Vermont Lutheran Church Members & Friends...

~Vermont Lutheran Church is richly blessed with members, their services, and gifts of financial resources.

~In January 1994, we established an Endowment Fund to expand our Mission Outreach.

~Each Year, at least 6% of the Endowment Fund balance is disbursed to organizations, groups, or individuals who are in need of assistance in our local or world communities.

Supporting a Strong and Growing Ministry

The Purpose of the Fund is to:

- *Receive gifts, grants, or bequests to strengthen and expand the ministries of our congregation, community, and the church at large*
- *Create a source of future income assuring continued ministry where additional financial resources are needed*
- *Administer the income from these investments.*

Your Participation

~In addition to your weekly offering, the Endowment Fund provides special ways to participate by making a gift to the Vermont Lutheran Church Endowment Fund.

Living Memorials

- *Gifts made in your name*
- *Gifts and memorials made in the name of a friend or relative*

~The Endowment Fund also allows you to continue your giving beyond our lifetime.

Deferred Giving

- *Gift Annuity*
- *Charitable Trust*
- *Pooled Income Fund*
- *Life Insurance*

Bequests

- *Your Will*
- *Direct Monetary Contribution*

Application Requests

Applications for funding grants are available at the Church Office. They should be submitted to:

Vermont Church Mission Endowment Fund
P.O. Box 503
Black Earth, WI 53515

Share in Our Ministry

Remember, the Endowment Fund belongs to the congregation and can serve as a major avenue and force to strengthen and express or heritage of caring, commitment, and collective faith and trust in God and one another. Join us in enhancing our faith in God, in service to one another and our community brothers and sisters by making or committing a donation to Vermont Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund today!

~If you have any questions, please contact the Endowment Fund at the parish office at (608) 795-2370

Highlights—Endowment Fund (continued)

Endowment Fund Mission Outreach over the last five years Top 10 Missions

Black Earth Flood Relief—Members	\$7,700
New Heights Unlimited Food Pantry	\$4,650
CIA (Mazo) Food Pantry	\$4,050
Salvation Army	\$3,400
Black Earth Flood Relief - Non Members	\$3,000
American Red Cross	\$2,500
Carbone Cancer Center	\$1,800
American Family Children’s Hospital	\$1,600
Porchlight	\$1,500
Lutheran World Relief	\$1,250

Other Missions

Luke House
Make a Wish
Second Harvest
Special Olympics
Black Earth Historical Society
Sugar Creek Bible Camp
Good Samaritan Fund (pastor)
Family in need (Medical bills)
Family in need (house fire)
Ind. In need (Oxygen concentrator)
Mission Journey (Biker breakfast - Dream bikes)
Mt. Horeb B-Ball (Olivia Bensen)
Vermont Youth Group (Deer hunters meeting)

Over the last 24 years,
the Endowment fund
has donated
over \$102,000
to our missions!



April 2—Palm Sunday
 Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Matthew 26:14—27:66

April 6—Maundy Thursday
 Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14
 John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 7—Good Friday
 Isaiah 52:13—53:12
 John 18:1—19:42

April 9—Easter
 Acts 10:34-43
 Matthew 28:1-10

April 16
 Acts 2:14a, 22-32
 John 20:19-31

April 23
 Acts 2:14a, 36-41
 Luke 24:13-35

April 30
 Acts 2:42-47
 John 10:1-10

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Margaret	Humphrey	April 03
Karsten	Haugen	April 05
Elliot	Lentz	April 06
Mary	Nelson	April 10
Raegan	Tigert	April 10
Janelle	Dyreson	April 12
Thomas	Watkins	April 14
Brenda	Barsness	April 19
Marlene	Ludolph	April 19
Jerry	Howery	April 20
Noah	King	April 26
Jack	Haugen	April 28

Happy
 Birthday

Denise Boehnen and Patty Herrling



April

ALTAR GUILD

Vermont Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes (Draft)

March 19, 2023

Present: Aaron T, Carol J, Wade W, Deb K, Jamie H, Steve H, Karsten, Rebecca, Peter (guest)

Absent:

Called to order 10:45 Aaron T.

Pastor's Report: None

Secretary's Report: Clarification to minutes. Carol Johnson was appointed Secretary, but due to Call Committee duties, Karsten will step in to take minutes if need be. Approved (Steve H/Aaron T)

Treasurer's Report: (Steve) Contributions are up \$8,000 in February, up from 2022. Expenses are on track. Paying insurance bill quarterly.

Call Process Update: Carol reported the call committee completed the Ministry Site Profile and she asked the Council to review and approve via email next week. Liz will submit upon her return from vacation. The committee will start delving into the interview process next.

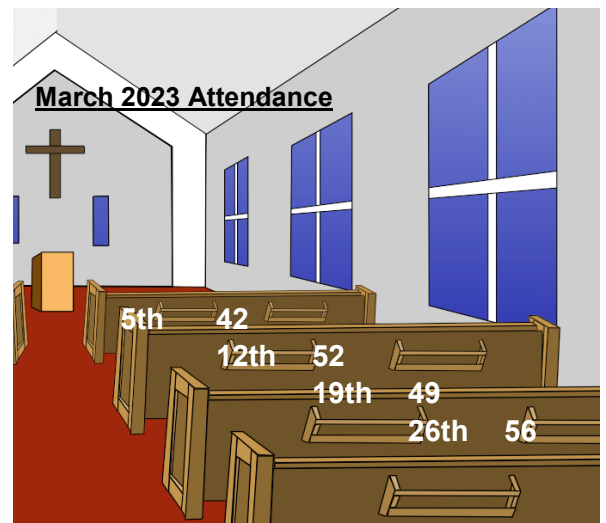
Pulpit Supply: Liz has secured pastors through the month of March. Pastor Rebecca Chancy will be the new Interim Pastor and will take on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services.

Lenten services: Ash Wednesday services will remain as in years past. For the remaining Wednesdays during Lent, we will focus on fellowship and offer a soup supper combined with short devotional.

The Alcohol policy was slightly modified to include timing of application and approval. It is now complete.

Capital Expenditure Update:

- Speakers. Work completed. Authorized \$1,000 for additional work at pulpit and stand. Final payment will be held back until speakers are tested and there is assurance everything is in good working order.
- Pastors Office: Painting is complete. Carpet is ordered.
- Vestry: To be addressed next – painting, door, shifting shelves, carpet.
- Organ – Recommendation is to replace the organ with a similar used unit. This organ has run its course and deferred maintenance will out-cost a replacement.
- Funds available for painting, carpet and pew repairs but the timing has to be determined.
- The purchase of 100 white event chairs for the Gathering Place is being considered.



NEWS (continued)

Fundraising: No update.

New Business:

Forestry Grant – Aaron reported that there may be an opportunity through NRCS to obtain funding to create a Forestry Plan for the newly acquired land.

DNR Easement or purchase opportunity. Aaron reported that he and others are in discussion with the DNR about possible easement agreement of the 'wetlands' or outright purchase of the land around the creek near HWY 78.

Old Business:

Lutheran Brotherhood Grant application. Peter Antoine attended as a guest and the author of the Lutheran Brotherhood Grant Application. He shared if successful, the grant will provide funding and mentoring resources for a use and marketing plan for the Gathering Space and newly acquired land, prairie, and trails. The application is due on March 31, 2023.

Committees: Aaron recommended that the council address committee at a future meeting. Carol will distribute the 2019 Draft Committee Restructuring proposal. Karsten updated the group on the Endowment Committee: Laura W is the new Chair and Eric Haugen will replace Carol Parrell, who is resigning as of today.

Adjournment 12:00pm

Next meeting: April 16, 2023 at 10:45 am

Submitted

Carol Johnson, Secretary
VLC Church Council



Endowment Committee

3/12/23

Attendance:

Present: Karsten, Bob, Beth, Laura

Absent: Carol, Erika

Opened meeting with a review of committee and endowment fund purpose.

Reviewed previously used tri-fold info sheet. Discussed if some more should be produced to have available at church. No decision was made. Discuss at future meeting.

Slightly reviewed charter documents.

Discussed that all fund are invested in a Vanguard fund. May want to review this and consider alternatives in the future.

Reviewed spreadsheet of giving activity since 1999 inspection. We crossed the \$100,000 of lifetime distributions this year. Spreadsheet is attached.

No one in attendance was comfortable enough with excel to update spread sheet in the future. May request that Liz continue to update (after checking with Eric and Erika on their comfort level).

Reviewed committee membership

Departing committee chair Karsten, new chair needs to be approved.

New members Beth and Erika.

Bob and Carol are on their last year of last term.

Carol sent an email request to resign from the committee.

Will need to start thinking of candidates for Bob's spot by year end.

Eric Haugen accepted a nomination to complete Carol's term (and hopefully consider continuing for his own term) (technically this needs to be approved by the church council. I'll bring it up at next Sunday's meeting, but can't see there will be any resistance).

Nomination for Laura to be committee chair was approved.

Current folder of documents that I had was turned over to Laura.

SAVE THE DATES

Friday, May 5, 2023—

Flower Moon Dinner

Saturday, August 19, 2023—
Church Picnic

Monthly Financial Report

April 2023

	Contributions			Operating Expenses		
	20 23	2022	Change	2023	2022	Change
Monthly	\$ 13,047	\$ 12,483	\$ 565	\$ 18,348	\$ 14,649	\$ 3,699
YTD	\$ 40,223	\$ 31,074	\$ 9,149	\$ 44,360	\$ 37,734	\$ 6,626

ELCA



Women ^{of the} ELCA 

*gather
together*

Spring Update

Wed, April 26, 2023

6:30 – 8:30 pm



Grace Lutheran Church

1105 N Bequette St., Dodgeville

All are Welcome!

**Desserts and beverages will be served
Bring your supper – arrive as early as 6:15**

*Program – Dementia Care by Aging & Disability
Resource Center of Southwest Wisconsin*

In-kind gifts for ADRC –

Please bring a Shelf Stable Food, Personal hygiene products,
Incontinence supplies (like depends or pads), Stamps, and/or Gas cards

Also Attend via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83257811740?pwd=djNaMDVGV0q5c3FoTHFIUHRMUlg3UT09>

For more information – email sheahan1@sbcglobal.net or call 608-692-7553



FEBRUARY 2023 Mission Support Memo

STORYTELLING ENGAGEMENT

Cookies Abound

A story from our La Crosse Area Synod

As you read this story, what is inspiring? Where have you seen manna in the wilderness in your experience?

Wednesday may be a slump day for some, but at the La Crosse LuMin Lutheran Campus it's all about grace through *free cookie Wednesday*. Want a cookie? Take a cookie! They just give out cookies to make folks' day better — no strings attached.

As he's giving out the cookies, it's not unusual for Pastor Ben Morris to be asked, "Where do the cookies come from?" The answer is Lutheran grandmas up in the bluffs and hills made them with real butter and real love. Each week congregations throughout the La Crosse Area Synod drop off 500 cookies to be given away. Pastor Ben says, "It's like manna in the wilderness; there always seems to be enough," and these cookies taste better.



LuMin La Crosse is a place to gather in worship, connect to study, grab a cup of coffee, share a family style meal, sit in prayer, make bread for the women's shelter, take walks together and explore places afar in service to others. They advocate for others, share space with multicultural student groups, proudly display the pride flag and mostly reconnect with humanity and each other. Oh, and give out cookies!

Like all ELCA LuMin campus ministry sites across our synods, this ministry happens because congregations share food — yes, cookies — and also through Mission Support that is shared with our synods and churchwide organization to support these vital, transformative, grace-filled ministries with students. Mission Support is just one way campus ministry is funded, so learn more, pray for them, donate or connect with your local campus ministry by checking out luminelca.org/.

ENGAGE WITH US

Join us Tuesday, April 18, for a **MISSION SUPPORT STORYTELLING** gathering, with sessions on Zoom at 12:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. Central time.

We are offering the session twice, so choose the time that works best for you and come ready to engage in our Mission Support stories as well as share your own Mission Support stories!

Join Zoom meeting:

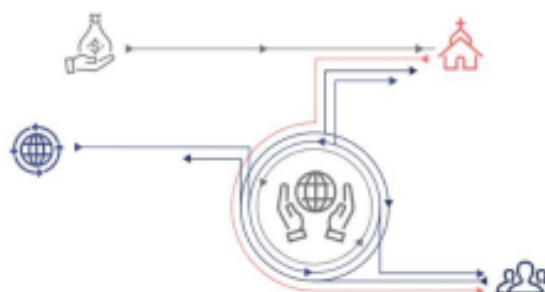
elcafoundation.zoom.us/j/9949451297

Meeting ID: 994 945 1297

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,9949451297# US

+13092053325,,9949451297# US



GRATEFUL

Being thankful for one another and for our relationships as church together is so vital and important. The power of these relationships within the three expressions and across the many partners of the ELCA allow us to engage in one another's ministry through stories, collaborations, gatherings and of course through our collective Mission Support.

We are excited that we will be, again, creating a Mission Support Memo monthly to connect you across our wider church. We hope that you will find each story engaging, that you will consider engaging with us in gatherings and conversations, and of course that we will continue our relationships that make us all stronger together.

We plan to share more Mission Support details from 2022 with you in our March and April memos, so please keep an eye out for that.

Blessings from your Churchwide Mission Support Team,

Victoria Flood, Senior Director for Mission Support

Nick Kiger, Director for Mission Support

Karen Kretschmann, Coordinator for Storytelling Engagement



Call or email

PRAYER

REQUEST to

Jan Cowan - 767-4616 - jancowan@tds.net
Kay Rettenmund - 767-2328 - rett@tds.net.

It is our time to build a legacy

Become a member of the Legacy Fund. Members of the Legacy Fund come from all walks of life and are united by a desire to preserve our beautiful Church, Cemetery and adjoining land. Vermont Lutheran Church owns and maintains a cemetery, historic church building, Gathering Place and 115 acres of adjacent land with a hilltop viewscape. Christian stewardship involves the faithful management of all the gifts God has given us, including accumulated, inherited and appreciated resources. Therefore, we created the Legacy Fund to encourage, receive and administer these gifts.

Our goal is to generate and maintain a Legacy Fund of \$1 Million dollars, or more. Through receipt of bequests, grants and/or gifts, contributions to the Legacy Fund and investment growth will serve three very important purposes now and into the future:

1. Expand the cemetery and develop and maintain the adjacent land in a manner that maximizes its natural beauty and preserves its ecological importance; and,
2. Provide funds to pay property taxes on the portion of the adjacent land subject to taxes; and,
3. Provide funds for future maintenance of the cemetery and building and grounds needs of the Church.

Any legacy member whose contribution totals \$1,000 or more will be recognized with a brass plate on a prominently displayed plaque. Annual meeting reports will include all the names of those individuals who made a contribution of any amount that year.

May Newsletter
articles are due
April 27th

to Elizabeth Herrling at
vermont_church@tds.net

Vermont **L**UTHERAN **C**hurch
9886 Vermont Church Road
Black Earth, WI 53515
Telephone (608) 767-3312

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Website: vermontlutheran.org

Visit Vermont's Website:

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