



# 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 . .

There are several towering figures in the Bible -- Abraham, Moses, David -- but none more towering than the Apostle Paul. As the interpreter *par excellence* of the Christ event, his voice culminates the entire biblical witness. And as a towering figure in the Bible, the Apostle Paul too towers over history. After Christ, he may be the most influential man history has known. If not, he ranks way up there. He was the seminal figure for Augustine of Hippo, who imprinted Christianity upon western culture, and the seminal figure for Martin Luther, who reintroduced Pauline Christianity to western culture.

But here's the strange thing. It's passing strange. It's downright inexplicable. All we have of the Apostle Paul is six letters, and a few are really short. Check out Philemon if you are looking for a quick read. And his letters don't even provide a systematic overview of his theology. They are, rather, written to address specific situations in the fledging church of which he was made aware. For instance, the Corinthians were getting drunk on the communion wine. Knock it off, was his bottom line, after which he provided a theological rationale for his advice. Six occasional letters with a little theology thrown in for good measure. That's it. So how can his influence be accounted for?

To me there is but one explanation. His words sound the truth, and the truth can be suppressed, supplanted, or subverted, but never extinguished. And what was the Apostle Paul's truth? In his own words, "In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself."

As a church, it is ours to uphold that truth with unassailable confidence, heedless of the chaos and cacophony that attend our times. May it be the guiding star

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for the work that now lays before us.

*Rev. Rebecca Clancy*



Ask me anything....  
about the Bible!

Pastor Rebecca is eager to answer any and all questions you may have about the Bible. Please submit your questions to the church by email, and they will be answered in the newsletter.

## Martin Luther's Quote of the Month

"Peace if possible; truth at all costs."

## HIGHLIGHTS



Kris Antonie and Klover Schaffer thanking our director, Laura Winchip, and accompanists, Tee Parrell and Ingrid Kvam .

## CHOIR PARTY



Some of the choir relaxing around the fire pit afterwards .



Eric Haugen serving himself from the great spread of food.



Laura Winchip getting her gift from the choir.



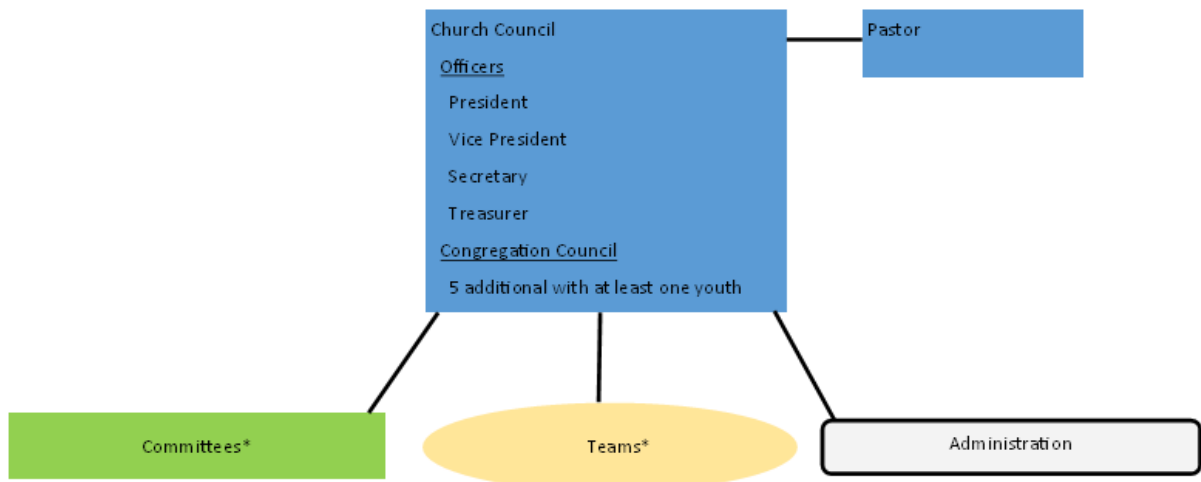
**Class of 2023**



**Memorial Day—remembering those who served**

## NEWS

### VERMONT LUTHERAN CHURCH ORGANIZATION CHART



\* Committee/Team report to the Council with the Pastor supervising. A summary of any meeting(s) and or activity(ies) that took place that month should be submitted to church administration by month end. These reports will be submitted into record at the next council meeting.

Should the Committee/Team need Church Council consideration for a need and/or request:

- Please include any Committee/Team recommendations, requests or needs (for funds) in the report for the church council.
- Contact your council liaison to go over the details prior to the next Council meeting.
- A member of the committee and/or the council liaison will need to attend the Council meeting to present.
- Please have administration add their name to the council agenda.

## COMMITTEES

Executive Committee	Provides general oversight of the council and all other committees and teams—includes Officers and the Pastor
Nominating Committee	activates a month before annual meeting to fill council seats emptying—4 voting members (2 outgoing council members)
Audit Committee—	Provides an audit report of the congregation's funds at the close of the fiscal year—3 voting members not on council
Mutual Ministry Committee	(Pastoral Liason) Committee - meets periodically to review the continuing education, program and other needs of the staff—2 year term - appointed jointly by president and pastor.
Call Committee	Reviews candidates for replacing or adding pastoral staff—6 members elected by council
Cemetery Committee	handle cemetery funds, oversee grounds work and lot requests.—4 members
Endowment Committee	to publish its mission and purpose for possible gifts, receive incoming funds, review current investments and to distribute funds to individuals and missions.
Legacy Committee	to publish its mission & purpose to receive gifts in the establishment of a capital fund to be used for future needs of the church.

## TEAMS

Building & Grounds	organize the maintenance and updates
Education/Faith Formation	organize and facilitate the education; organize youth events and fundraisers, Christmas Program. Pastor chairs.
Care for Creation	educate and promote environmental concerns
Mission	to reach out to and create a process to bring new members into the church; organize visitation of home or facility bound members, perhaps with communion; organize ways to connect with members or friend
Inreach	to develop/continue mission projects
Outreach	to reach out to church visitors in a timely & effective manner; to reach out to and create a process to bring new members into the church and mentor them
Safety & Security	Protect safeguard the lives and well-being of the who use VLC
Stewardship	development of a spirit of gratitude and generosity
Visibility/Marketing	offer information, foster community or generate members
Worship/Music	to plan, with the pastor, the worship service and music for worship, special holiday and other services

## COUNCIL

- *Conduct regular meetings*
- *Secure staff other than the pastor*
- *Review annual salaries*
- *Review proposed budget and submit it at the annual meeting*
- *Exercise discipline*
- *Report activities*
- *Fill council vacancies*
- *Have authority between meetings of the congregation (Annual Meeting) to chose delegates to any group or meeting in which the congregation is entitle to representation.*
  1. *Oversee Committees*
  2. *Oversee Teams*

## PASTOR

- *preach the word*
- *administer the sacraments,*
- *conduct worship*
- *provide pastoral care and speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaims God's love for the world.*
- *Offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed and bury the dead*
- *Supervise all school and organizations of the congregation*
- *Install regularly elected members of the Council*
- *Administer discipline*
- *Strive to extend the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation and abroad*
- *See out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel*
- *Impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its periodicals and other publications*
- *Endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the church wide organization of the ELCA and South-Central Synod of WI*
- *All other duties included in the letter of call*

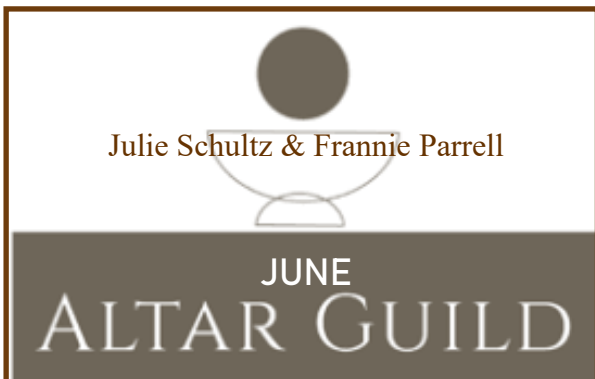


June 4  
 Psalm 121  
 Hebrews 2:1-4  
 Mark 5:21-43  
 Sermon Title and Topic: Bearing Burdens

June 11  
 Genesis 18:1-2  
 Romans 4:16-20  
 Matthew 9:35-10:4  
 Sermon Title: Laughter  
 Sermon Topic: The case for belief over against our times

June 18  
 Psalm 103:8-14  
 I Thessalonians 2:9-12  
 John 14:25-31  
 Sermon Topic and Title: Father's Day

June 25  
 Exodus 14:19-25  
 I Corinthians 9:1-2, 15-23  
 John 10:11-18  
 Sermon Topic and Title: Patience



## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Terrence	Rettenmund	June 01
Nathaniel	Haugen	June 02
Douglas	Hayes	June 08
Jack	Ziemet	June 18
Tony	Danz	June 19
Scott	Herrling	June 20
Alia	Schlimgen	June 20
Stan	Morley	June 21
Ruth	Page	June 23
David	Dybdahl	June 24
Kimberly	Fiala	June 24
William	Meddings	June 24
Terrance	Doyle	June 25
Randy	Kvam	June 25
Barbara	Grenlie	June 27
Shaun	Lynch	June 27
Quinn	Doyle	June 28
Doris	Hayes	June 29
Larry	Ziemer	June 29



# Vermont Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

(Draft)

May 21, 2023

Present: Aaron Tigert, Steve Holzhueter, Deb Krebs, Carol Johnson, Wade Winchip, Jamie Hallick,

Absent: Luke Herrling, Karsten Haugen

Also in attendance: Peter Antoine, Bill Meddings, Jill Dybdahl, Greg Herrling

Called to order 10:47am- Aaron Tigert.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Rebecca reported that during her office hours, people have been stopping by asking for money for food, gas etc. The Council asked her to report back on mechanisms to provide funding that she feels is appropriate.

Secretary's Report: Approved: (Deb Krebs/Aaron Tigert)

Treasurer's Report: Approved (Aaron Tigert/Wade Winchip). Contribution and expenses are ahead of 2022 numbers. There is \$170,000 in reserves. The memorial account, which has supported recent capital improvements, is nearly depleted. This was expected.

- Currently obtaining estimates for new carpet. Once that amount is determined, there will be a better understanding of the funds available for a 'new' (used) organ. There is a strong chance that there will not be adequate funds to fully support the purchase of an organ. Discussions continue around ways to fund/fundraise for the difference.
- The Cushman Farm is on the radar for possible future acquisition due to the recent passing of the owner. Group discussed interest in pursuing purchase. All agreed that this process will run into 2024, given probate etc.

Call Process Update: Carol reported the call committee completed the Ministry Site Profile.

New Business:

Old Business:

Safety Committee Report: Bill Meddings

- The safety committee recommends that there be a minimum of eight medical 1<sup>st</sup> responders: two to be present at each of the 4 monthly church services. In addition, the committee recommends an unlimited number of guardians and docents to serve as ambassadors during events.
  - ⇒ MOTION: The Council amends the previous motion to increase the amount of funds available to purchase 2 AED units, wall mounts, and first aid kits to \$5-6,000. (Steve Holzhueter /Deb Krebs).
  - ⇒ MOTION: The Council approves \$2,500 to support Medical First Responder training/certifications for 8, through the Red Cross. (Steve Holzhueter/Jaimie Hallick).
- Tabled: Recommendation and discussion around guardian role, purpose, and training.
- Signage: A sign display unit has been purchased for the Prairie and Woodland trails. The

Buildings and Grounds committee will be charged with defining the signage needs, types, and locations throughout the trails. They will also draft the ‘acceptable and non -acceptable uses’ wording, based on the Dane County Parks template. They will also be asked to create a defined map that delineates the trail and the single trailhead – at the Gathering Space.

- Docent Training: Docents will serve as ambassadors, much like tour guides, and be responsible for sharing the VLC Prairie and Woodland story and highlights of the landscape and space. Greg Herring will lead this program and training.
- Lighting Plan: Greg Herring: Currently there are two lights on the east side of the Gathering Space, a light on the bell tower, a light on the kitchen, lights on the front façade of the church and on the sign. These lights are on every evening, dusk – dawn. The lights on the steeple are on from dusk to 11:00pm. Aaron will reach out to the Town Hall with the updated lighting plan details, per a complaint about the amount of lighting into the evening,
- Marketing Committee update: Jill Dybdahl: The marketing committee met and discussed the creation of a new logo, one that represents the church, congregation, gathering space, prairie, and woodland as the ‘brand’. The intent is to have the logo and tagline on the website, printed materials, and social media. This logo would be done out front of any possible grant money coming in from the recent application. In addition, the committee will reach out to Jeff and Kathy for both QR codes for the cemetery and possible interest in helping with a new website.
  - ⇒ MOTION: The Council approves the expenditure of \$375 for the design of a new logo. (Steve Holzhueter/Jaimie Hallick).
- The Alcohol Policy has been approved and the Facilities Use Policy is in draft form.
- Facilities Use Fee Structure: All agreed that instead of a strict line-item fee structure, there should be a designated single point of contact to meet with the event representative, discuss the use and needs, and determine fee.
- Turkey and Deer Hunting: tabled until a future meeting.
- The Town of Vermont has requested use of the Gathering Space for their upcoming Town Picnic.
- Rally Day – there will not be an event per se this year, but rather there will be a heightened focus on an exhilarating and exciting church service.
- Church Picnic – August 19, 2023.

ATTENDANCE TODAY	
May	
7th	60
14th	67
21st	72
28th	70

Adjournment 12:33pm

Next meeting: June 18, 2023, at 8:00 am

Submitted

Carol Johnson, Secretary

Monthly Financial Report						
May 2023						
	Contributions			Operating Expenses		
	2023	2022	Change	2023	2022	Change
Monthly	\$ 6,220	\$ 11,425	(\$ 5,205)	\$ 14,843	\$ 9,408	\$ 5,435
YTD	\$ 64,050	\$ 57,569	\$ 6,480	\$ 78,524	\$ 58,883	\$ 19,641



Notes from Meeting to Strategize Caring for New Members 4/20/23 4/24/23 and 5/31/23 noted in red

Present: Pastor Rebecca (PR), Jill Dybdahl (JD)

I. Discussed status of Committees and Teams

- A. Currently the church is operating without all committees active. Some committees are meeting such as Endowment, Legacy, Building and Grounds, and perhaps others. Aaron Tigert will know which committees are currently active.
- B. Council will finalize committees and roles so that the church can activate the committees. JD will ask to be added to the agenda for next council meeting to discuss Committees and Teams. The council is very busy so we are here to help them out.

PR reviewed Teams as presented by Liz. PR says the Committees and Teams should have pastoral oversight:

Building and Grounds

Education

Care for Creation

In-reach, not needed, should be covered by pastor

Out-reach, Jill chair of New Members and Guests. Council has also asked that the pastor be involved at school and community events

Missions

Stewardship, PR has ideas for bringing momentum.

Visibility/Marketing (and Publicity), new logo and new FB page

Worship, define

Safety Team

- C. Should the council be structured with the chair of each committee is also a council member? That way each committee meets every month and the chair reports to the council every month. By-laws may need to be changed, but for now recommend that a council member (or lay person chair) sit on each committee and then report to council each month.
- II. Reviewed 8 new and potential members, plus 2 guests Completed
- A. PR to write an introductory letter and send to all new members and potential members. Completed.\
  - B. Identified which members have formally filled out paperwork and which have not. Necessary paperwork can be completed at individual meetings with each new member, PR, and JD. Completed
  - C. PR has met with some new members and has set meetings for premarital counseling for some new members.

III. Discussed how to engage and interact with Guests and Potential New Members

- A. At service the Assisting Minister announces:
  - i. we invite guests to share their name, address, and email (where?) so that we can share upcoming fun events with you
  - ii. we invite guests to fellowship hall after service for coffee and treats.
  - iii. JD is Outreach/ Guest and New Member Chair, seek her out if you'd like to learn more about the church.
- B. Liz adds guests to database
- C. PR sends letter of "thank you for worshipping with us" to guests
- D. Publish on-going warm "invitation to become a member" on all touch-points:
  - i. Weekly email announcements
  - ii. Monthly Newsletter
  - iii. Emails
  - iv. Bulletin
  - v. Facebook
  - vi. Letterhead
  - vii More?

The invitation tagline needs to be extremely noticeable and consistent on all touch-points. Visibility/Marketing is working on the tagline

NOTE: This task has been

Turned over to Visibility/Marketing Committee

- E. How does one become a member? See By-Laws for complete list.
  - i. Transfer from another church. This needs to be clarified in the By-Laws at a later time.
  - ii. Emphasize the option and importance of Associate Membership (this perhaps should also be published on all touch points?!)
- F. Review and update new member materials:
  - i. New Member Packet that Liz put together Create additional docs for new member packet
    - 1. Cover letter from PR welcoming new member
    - 2. "I'm a new member, now what?"
      - a. Attend New Member Orientation Needs to be scheduled
      - b. Will be assigned a sponsor or sponsors to assist with social integration Need sponsor volunteers
      - c. Will be assigned to a Worship Team which means assisting at services two times per year
      - d. Attend New Member Supper along with other new members at current members' home. On-going monthly? Needs to be scheduled.
      - e. Join a committee that appeals to you if you'd like
      - f. Hold New Member Service during church Needs to be scheduled.  
Create a list of contacts and what to contact them for Liz can create this document, Completed.  
Pastor – everything and anything  
Musical Director – choir and other musical talents  
Sunday School Sup – enroll kids or teach  
Adult Bible Study - participate  
Committee Chairs – if you'd like to join a committee  
More...
  - ii. Review and update brochures and other marketing materials see comment box.

- IV. Discussed New Member Orientation **The details of New Member Orientation still need to be formulated and then the meetings scheduled.**
- A. Possibly held after service (how long? How many Sundays?) **PR JD need to establish date in the near future.**
- B. Everyone is welcome: guests, new and existing members Meeting topics:
- i. What is a Lutheran? **PR to present Martin Luther**
  - ii. How is ELCA different from other Lutheran churches?
  - iii. How is ELCA the same as other Christian denominations?
  - iv. History of Vermont – *presented by elder members?*
  - v. Vermont in the present and in the future – *presented by Aaron T and PR?*
  - vi. How can you plug in as a member? *Presented by JD?*
    1. Education
    2. Committees
    3. Missions
    4. More...
- V. We closed our meeting giving JD the task of writing the above notes so that we can review, update, and then make an action plan.

**Next meeting Tuesday June 6 at 2:30pm at church. Sue Olson, Jane Hanson, and Jill Dybdahl to attend.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Dybdahl [jill.dybdahl1@gmail.com](mailto:jill.dybdahl1@gmail.com)

**Develop the VLC brand.**

**Design new logo. JD to contact graphic artist, get quote.**

**Design new website. JD to contact web designer, get quote.**

**Design new marketing materials and handouts by graphic designer.**

**We need good photography.**

**Most people find a church through their website.**

**Identify our target market. 40 -90 year olds?**

**Need the Visibility/Marketing Committee to then manage the completion of the new logo, website, and marketing materials.**

### **Building Team Report May 2023**

Steps to Church stained.

Gathering Place patio porch stained, along with picnic table, wood box, benches.

Outdoor lighting coordinated and reset By Doyle Electric and Mike Dauck

### **Legacy Prairie and Woodland Report May 2023**

Leonard Schaub cut exposed roots on Woods trail.

Joel Schultz mowed trails for first time.

Purple Martin house installed and Koi fish put in patio pond.

Outlet pipe in retention pond modified and installed.

Planted 18 trees of different species on slope of retention pond, protected by a 4 ft. fence.

Installed landscape edging and granite aggregate around A/C units.

Weeds sprayed around military memorial and around church.

Sod has been watered by Tim Gold.

Cemetery Arch painted by Greg Roessler.

Thank you to our faithful volunteers that helped out this month.

Karsten Haugen, Bob Clason, Wes Childs, Herrling Brothers.

### **Safety Team Report May 2023**

Presented preliminary findings to full Council on May 21st and received approval to purchase two AED's (source and cost forwarded to Secretary). There was also considerable discussion on signage of Legacy "trail-head" and the need to get signage in place by August 19th. Sign has been designed and materials ordered, and construction will begin next week. The forming of Guardian teams has been tabled until some yet to be determined future date. I will participate in an updated Crisis Preparation Response Seminar TB conducted by Dane County Sheriff's Dept. on August 2, 2023 at Blackhawk Church in Middleton. I will continue to develop the formal Safety Program addressing the needs for implementation of both Medical Response Teams and Docent Teams, with the future implementation of Guardian Teams.

Respectfully submitted, *Bill Meddings*, Safety Committee Chair

## Truth & Healing Movement

June opportunities to learn the true history and current realities of Indigenous people. It is these truths, truths that have been ignored by most for hundreds of years, that will bring healing for both Indigenous people and non-Indigenous people.

### **Film Screening: “Native Nations”**

You are invited to join the screening of “Native Nations: Standing Together for Civil Rights,” a one-hour documentary exploring the role of the Lutheran church in the American Indian civil rights movement of the 1970s and 1980s. In the documentary you will learn how Lutherans were first convinced by the American Indian Movement to respond, how Lutherans responded by standing in solidarity with the Movement and Indigenous people in the United States, and about the creation and work of the National Indian Lutheran Board.

**June 7, 2023, 7 - 8 p.m. Central time**

### **Panel Presentation: National Indian Lutheran Board**

There was a time in relatively recent history in our church when Lutherans were committed to leading and being in solidarity with Native people in the United States. One of the ways in which this was accomplished was by the formation of the pan-Lutheran organization known as the National Indian Lutheran Board.

**June 21, 2023, 7 - 8 p.m. Central time**

### **Class: “Introduction to the Truth and Healing Movement”**

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has commenced its Truth and Healing Movement, inspiring us to grow in better and right relationships with Indigenous people and tribal nations on Turtle Island. This workshop will explore the truths we seek to learn and the healing we hope to experience, as well as how the movement began, among Indigenous people and within the ELCA. It will also explain the work the ELCA has done recently and how you can



# SCSW Care for Creation Team Devotional

*"The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good." Gen. 1:12*



## Healing Leaves



**God's good creation and there was no**

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During the pandemic we found the opportunity to study and learn and to join an amazing new non-profit called Climate Land Leaders. **There we learned that one of the best things a farmer can do is plant trees, put roots in the ground.**

So, in 2021 with the help of our family, we planted 300 trees. It was so dry we could scarcely get a shovel in the ground. Last year after six inches of rain we waded into the puddles and planted 200 more. This year we kicked it up a notch and planted 565 trees in two Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) windbreaks.

Tree roots hold soil in place and draw water deep into the earth. Trees slow and soften rain as it falls. Trees provide shade to cool the air. Trees break the force of the wind as it blows across the fields. Blossoming trees support pollinators. And their spreading branches feed and shelter birds, animals and people. **The good trees God created in Genesis sustain and support us. Trees are truly healing.**

But, growing trees takes time. A fruit tree usually will not bear fruit for three to five years. The life of a spruce tree or an oak can be measured in decades. **We likely will not rest in the shade of the trees we have planted. But someone will.** In planting them, we provide a visible act of hope for the future. We join the millions of others who care for the Earth, who are concerned about our warming climate. We hold fast to Paul's promise that "Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." Romans 5:4

Deacon Meg Nielsen

SCSW Care for Creation Team



## APRIL 2023 Mission Support Memo

# STORYTELLING ENGAGEMENT

### ALL Ages Living Their Faith

A story from our ELCA churchwide organization

*As you read this story, what catches your attention?  
How can you use and share these ministry resources?*

Imagine people of ALL ages living their faith, claiming their Christian identity and sharing God’s love in the world in creative and unique ways — that is the hope for ELCA Ministry with Children. The Rev. Janelle Rozek Hooper, manager of the program, knows that children are spiritual beings and that they deserve not merely a place to be told what to believe but creative and careful faith formation that instills a lifetime of experiencing God with and for themselves. Funded through generous Mission Support, the program curates appropriate faith-formation resources for congregations across this church, content that gives children the opportunity to lead, ask important questions and experience loving Christian community.

We all know it’s been a challenging couple of years in children’s ministry; the pandemic showed us that we have taken Sunday school for granted. Yet for over 10 years ELCA children’s ministry has been curating a wide variety of Sunday school, confirmation and youth materials for use in congregations and homes. The ELCA Children’s Faith Formation site at [www.elcafaithformation.org](http://www.elcafaithformation.org) includes resources for education, ministry, faith-at-home and seasonal activities, plus it gathers resources from all our full communion partners for a ton of great content.

Yet the site is just part of our ministry to youth. Pastor Janelle thrives on teaching other pastors and children’s ministry leaders, speaking on the subject of effective children’s messages, sharing Scripture through Godly Play resources, and serving on the board and leading the Diversity and Justice Team of the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association (ELCAschools.org), which assists over 300 ELCA schools and early learning centers. This ministry embodies the purpose of the ELCA: “to activate each of us so more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love.” Please engage in this ministry for yourself, children in your midst and our future church.



# Lutheran Campus Ministry

## Madison, WI

### Stash the Snacks!

Feb 27, 2023 |

Ryan and Bryan Anderson with Bryan's daughter, Lili, at homecoming.

Brothers Ryan and Bryan Anderson found LCM in an unconventional way. Yet, once they got to LCM, the ministry made a major impact on their college experience.

Early on a Sunday morning, Ryan and Bryan Anderson were fast asleep in their dorm room. Then, Ryan heard someone banging on their door. Thinking someone must be messing with them, Ryan dragged himself out of bed.

When he opened the door, Ryan met Pastor Widmark. Before Ryan could get a word in, Pastor Widmark strutted into the Andersons' room, plopped himself down and dug through their stash of snacks.

"My mom sent me an ice cream pail of chocolate-chip cookies," Ryan said. "And he opened it, and he just started eating."

Meanwhile, Bryan was fast asleep. In between bites of cookies, Pastor Widmark told Ryan about Lutheran Campus Ministry and the ways he could get involved. Once Pastor Widmark had left and Bryan had woken up, Ryan told Bryan the story—about the pastor who made himself at home and devoured their mom's cookies.

Pastor Widmark showed up at the Andersons' dorm multiple times after that early, Sunday-morning visit. He continued coming back, inviting himself in, talking about LCM and helping himself to whatever snacks he could get ahold of.

"After one of his visits, I jokingly said to my brother, 'We better check out this campus ministry, or he's going to eat all of our food,'" Bryan said.

So Ryan and Bryan decided to give LCM a try.

The brothers grew up in Eau Claire, Wisc., three hours northwest of Madison. They didn't come from much and would be supporting themselves through school, but UW's culture and the idea of being a Badger drew both brothers to Madison. While they were both raised Lutheran, they hadn't heard about LCM until Pastor Widmark showed up at their dorm.

Becoming a part of LCM's community drastically influenced the Andersons' college experience and altered their views on faith.

"The big change that occurred when I got to college was that it started to become my own faith versus just, you know, things that I did with my parents or in my family," Ryan said.

This idea of finding faith for yourself fascinated Ryan. Growing up, he perceived faith as rules from a God we must always obey. In college, he began seeing faith as a two-way relationship with God filled with joy. Yet a change in perspective alone did not make Ryan's faith life at Wisconsin any easier.

"To be a faithful person, as a college student is not easy sometimes," Ryan said. But, at LCM there was this ability to feel comfortable with your faith."

Ryan and Bryan made LCM their second home. They began investing in LCM's faith and fellowship opportunities by studying in the space, attending services at Luther Memorial and serving with other LCM students.



"I think it was a refuge," Bryan said. "It was a place where you could land on a big campus and make friendships."

Those friendships coupled with a strong support system within LCM got the Andersons through school. At the start of their junior year, the brothers had fallen upon hard times. They didn't have the means to support themselves and no longer had a place to stay.

With the help of LCM staff, the Andersons worked out a deal with Luther Memorial. They could live in apartments above LCM if they cleaned the church.

"Bad things happen, but I think we can be thankful as faithful people when good things happen," Ryan said. "God does give gifts."

Ryan says if he wasn't able to stay at Luther Memorial, he and Bryan would not have graduated from Wisconsin.

Bryan graduated in 1996, and Ryan graduated in 1997. Bryan currently serves as a pastor for a Lutheran Church in Clear Lake, Wisc., while Ryan works as the Senior Director of Instructional Design for the University of Wisconsin's Extended Campuses in Madison. Ryan also serves on LCM's Board of Ministry.

Today, over 20 years since Bryan and Ryan were students at UW, they still feel a connection to LCM.

"Things started out a little rocky, but we found this little oasis, this campus center, thanks to Pastor Widmark," Bryan said. "Then we blossomed and grew there, and that became our home base."

Bryan and Ryan hope LCM continues opening their doors to all people and incorporating the legacy of radical welcome that they experienced from Pastor Widmark 30 years ago. But maybe now, in 2022, students can keep their cookies.

*Emma Conway, UW-Madison student*

Call or email

# PRAYER REQUEST to

Jan Cowan - 767-4616 - jancowan@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.

**July Newsletter**  
**articles are due**  
**June 29th**

to Elizabeth Herrling at  
[vermont\\_church@tds.net](mailto:vermont_church@tds.net)

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