




THE MESSENGER

Vermont Lutheran Church's Mission Statement:

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

From the Interim Pastor's Desk . .



Pastor Rebecca will begin to briefly answer the submitted questions "Ask me anything....about the Bible!" Some of the questions may require months of newsletters articles and a 250 page essay to answer , but she will do her best to answer them in two pages or less. If you would like to discuss a question in person, please visit her at during office hours. Please remember some of the topics covered may be sensitive to some individuals and you may have a different perspective on it, but this forum is to get the Pastor's opinion on the question.

The "Ask the Pastor Anything" questions are in -- lots of them, and they're all deep.

Since there are no short answers, I propose to take one question each newsletter. Here's the first one:

"Is there a hell?"

According the Bible, yes. It may not be the naive depiction of hell that readily springs to mind with a devil, red and horned, clutching a pitchfork, but there's definitely a hell. But it's not quite that simple.

Hell comes into being, so to speak, at the very end of the Old Testament period (167 B.C.E.), and it does so as an extrapolation of apocalypticism; so what's apocalypticism?

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At the end of the Old Testament period a Greek Emperor by the name of Antiochus Epiphanes IV ("AE IV") waged a terrible persecution of the Jews. AE IV figured that the reason the Jews were resistant to Greek rule had to do with their religion, so he stamped it out. He outlawed Judaism. Circumcision, Sabbath observance, and even owning sacred scripture became capital offenses. From there, the road to full dress horrors became broad and easy. The persecution of the Jews under AE IV was the worst persecution of the Jews in history until the Holocaust. Many Jews began to question God. If God were all good and all powerful, how could he allow this? His own people bludgeoned and burned for worshipping him? It was the first expression of the so-called "problem of evil."

Apocalypticism arose as a theological response to the Jews' crisis of faith during their persecution under AE IV. It advanced that history has long been in the ever increasing vice grip of evil. Under AE IV, evil was marshalling all of its forces, making its last stand -- and this was the signal that God would, in a cataclysm, intervene, destroy evil, end history, and usher in his reign. Enter hell. In that cataclysm, God would raise the dead and render a final judgment. The good would go to heaven. The evil would go to hell.

Here's the rub. Jesus affirmed apocalypticism. He changed it up quite a bit so that it incorporated himself. He moved the cataclysm into the future and associated it with his Second Coming, but he affirmed it in its basic contours. If you doubt that open Matthew's gospel and start reading at chapter 24. Hell is the biblical assertion that Jesus will come again in glory and judge the living and the dead, and that his kingdom shall have no end. If Jesus affirmed apocalypticism, he affirmed hell. Further, he spoke frequently of the place that there would be weeping and gnashing of teeth. That's hell. But like the Bible overall, there is not a complete meeting of the minds on the issue. The apostle Paul in his letter to the church at Rome hints at universal salvation. The Apostle's Creed suggests that Jesus descended into hell precisely to loose its gates. But these are issues for another day.

The second question dovetails with this one. In other words, apocalypticism must be understood to understand the second question, which is, "*When Jesus drew his last breath on the cross there was darkness, the temple curtain ripped, graves were opened, and people emerged. This is fascinating, but it only gets one line in the Bible. Can you explain anything else about this phenomenon?*" The short answer is, "I sure can!" I have delved very deeply into the matter. Stay tuned for December's newsletter.

As I said, your questions are deep. The third question will be a bit less strenuous. It has to do with the Bible's preaching on homosexuality. There is a year's worth of questions to be answered. In the meantime, feel free to ask me anything, anytime.

HIGHLIGHTS



**God's Work, Our Hands
Mission Project:
Splitting Wood**



HIGHLIGHTS

Town of Vermont 2023 Picnic debrief

The picnic was held at the prairie restoration area of Vermont Lutheran Church. We came in under budget, with a total spend of \$1491. We used 103 plates, so the clerk estimates total attendance to have been about 90. Everyone agreed that the location was so beautiful and had so many features such as a play area for kids that it would be worth continuing to have the picnic there in the future.



BLUEBIRD HOUSES

When you walk the Legacy Prairie trails next spring, don't be surprised if you find a "Bluebird on your shoulder".

Thanks to the generosity of the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin (BRAW), through its Carol McDaniel Legacy Fund, eighteen (18) new, state-of-the-art bluebird houses have been installed along the Legacy Prairie creating an excellent 'bluebird trail' which, hopefully, will bring many breeding pairs to the Vermont Church prairie in the coming years.

Some bluebirds are still around and have been seen checking out the new houses. . . .perhaps staking out a claim for next spring.

Our thanks to Dave Lucey of Cross Plains and a director of BRAW, who arranged for the siting and installation of the posts and houses with the assistance of John Urness and Dennis and Klover Schafer. Joanie Haugen, currently treasurer of BRAW, will direct the ongoing care and maintenance of the bluebird trail with guidance from Dave and assistance from Vermont Church Bluebird Volunteers.

HIGHLIGHTS (continued) - HØst Festival



HØST FESTIVAL

What a great turnout. It was a little windy, but a beautiful fall day. We had about 100 people attend with almost all going for a hay ride. We had \$73 in free will donations.

LEFSE AND MEATBALL TAKE-OUT

We sold all of the Lefse and Meatballs for a total of \$3,865 in sales! After expenses, we should have a nice donation to our mission projects. Thank you everyone for volunteering your time and talent. Especially a big thanks to Janet Castle for organizing the Lefse making and the Antonie Family for preparing the meatballs.

QUILT RAFFLE

The winner of the quilt is Donna Baehr. The quilters raised \$225 to help fund purchasing batting for the quilts.



HIGHLIGHTS

(continued)



Pat Sonnenberg of Mazomanie was tickled to learn she had been Saturday's closest guess in the twine ball contest, being off by only about 65'. Check with Larry for the actual number, but I believe it was around 6625'. That is a lot of donkey twine!! No wonder it took 2 years to complete!

NEWS

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS!

We are making a Christmas List for Vermont Lutheran Church. What do you want see at Vermont? We need your vision! Is there a project, an idea or plan that you're a passionate about? Let's come up with some ideas that we can work on in 2024. Let's breathe life into your idea and help it through every stage to completion. Let's get some successful projects on the list and in the budget to do next year. Send ideas to the church e-mail.



Ephesians 4: 9-16

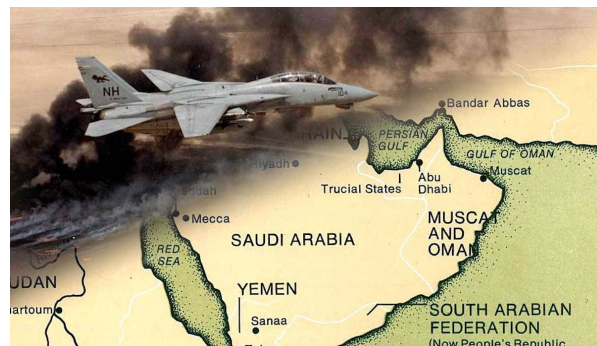
⁹ (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended^[c] into the lower parts of the earth?^[d] ¹⁰ He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity,^[e] to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴ We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:11 lists 5 gifts which are Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher. These 5 are unique – they are governing ministry gifts given to people who are called to ministry leadership within the global and local church.

NEWS

GULF AND WAR ON TERRORISM MEMORIAL

We know there have been quite a number of Vermont Lutheran Church members and those associated with Vermont that should be honored for their service. In addition, we have quite a few new members that should also be included if they served their country. The plan is to add an additional marker just to the east of those in place already. Please relate new names to me at jcurness@outlook.com and we'll make sure they are included in the next update and installation.



1/4 ZIP PULLOVERS ON SALE

Our council and call committee members have been seen wearing their new pullovers. They have a NEW logo and they look great. What a wonderful idea for a Christmas present! Pictures, sizes and colors of the shirts can be found in the narthex to place an order. Cost is \$45 each with a check written to Vermont Lutheran Church with the memo "Pullover".

SIGN-UP FOR AED/CPR TRAINING on November 15th 5:30-7:30pm. We have 10 spots available. First come, first trained. Sign up in the church narthex.

Strings to Roam Madison Bluegrass Band

If you love good music, especially Blue Grass, and enjoy an uplifting worship service, you'll want to join us for a Bluegrass worship service at Vermont Lutheran Church on Sunday, November 12th at 9:30 with music provided by Strings to Roam who are a local group "excited to play a gospel selection of bluegrass roots and share this morning with you!"





JIGSAW PUZZLE PARTICIPATION RULES



Sharing your Puzzles:

- Bring Puzzles that are in good condition One or two missing pieces allowed, but please put a note in the box describing which one(s) are missing. (ie. From bottom left edge, go up 3 pieces, in 2 or a description i.e. Middle of the sun). . Please put your name on a piece of paper on outside or inside of puzzle box.
- Drop them In the puzzle container. Do not put directly on shelves.
- Fill out Form when checking out a puzzle. All puzzles are to be returned! Again, write in date returned on Form and drop off in the puzzle container.

JIGSAW PUZZLE SHARE LIBRARY

COMING THIS MONTH to the FELLOWSHIP HALL!

WHY ARE We Doing this? Because so many Vermonters spend our winter evenings putting jigsaw puzzles together. They are sitting in our closets not being used while we shop for more. Instead, we can share our puzzles with others who see them as a new challenge!

Here's how it Works:

- You bring one or more jigsaw puzzles in good shape of all levels (Children's to Very Hard and everything in between) and drop in Puzzle Container.
- You can choose to check out a puzzle from those posted on the Puzzle Shelves in the Family Room.
- Write your name and number or name of puzzle on Check out List.
- Put the puzzle together in your favorite spot in the house with your favorite people!
- When finished, put it back in the bag in the box and return it to the drop in puzzle Container and check the Check in section of the List.

*Please put your name on puzzles you bring in especially if you want them returned to you after the season is over!

Kind of like a Book Library!



WELCOME ALL HUNTERS
67th Annual Deer Hunters Meeting
A Vermont Lutheran Church Tradition
Saturday – November 11, 2023
9886 Vermont Church Road, Black Earth
Doors Open at 5:30 PM with Potluck Following



ADMISSION IS FREE

We will have a DNR Warden present to address rule changes and to answer your questions. There will be door prizes and a RAFFLE with a gun and lots of “hunter friendly items” to choose from, including knives, wildlife prints, and some surprises. Everyone in attendance will be provided a door prize and tickets will be available for everyone to purchase for the Raffle items. All proceeds from the ticket sales will support youth activities at the Church and our newly acquired prairies and woodlands. There is no limit to the number of tickets you may purchase, or the number of raffle prizes you have a chance to WIN! (Attending is winning, so mark your calendar accordingly)

Everyone is encouraged to bring your trophy mounts or antlers for display and bragging rights, and everyone is invited to share a favorite “Deer Camp” story! Everyone will also be provided with a complimentary copy of the most recent issue of “Wisconsin Outdoor News”, compliments of the Publisher. The favorite POTLUCK and FELLOWSHIP will follow the program and you are welcome to bring your favorite hot dish, venison sausage, cheese, or snack to pass. We will provide coffee and beverages to compliment the potluck! This is always an enjoyable way to get excited about the annual deer gun season!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO INSURE YOUR PLACE AT THE EVENT:
CONTACT: BILL MEDDINGS AT 608-630-1066 or wtm2@chorus.net**

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 10th at 9:30am

Sunday school will be performing their Christmas pageant during service.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES—December 17th-January 6th

- In addition, we are beginning to plan for our Christmas season services and looking for individual and ensembles to perform during our Advent and Christmas services. All ages and levels of competence are accepted. A six year old playing a little piano piece, a vocal solo or ensemble, a ukulele group, or a song on a band instrument would greatly appreciated. Perform a skit, read a poem or read a book. Feel free to participate.

Anyone who would like to contribute, please contact the church office and tell us:

- Music—the type of the piece you have selected to perform and the name, if you need the music or the music in another key and what date you would like to perform.
- Performance—type, title and length of time to complete.

Christmas is coming

Christmas 2023 Poinsettia Order

Name _____

Telephone _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

To celebrate Christ's Birth _____

Message on tag: _____

I would like to order:

Color	Size: Small \$16.95; Large \$26.95	Quantity
Red		
White		
Pink		
Burgundy		
Variegated Pink		
Variegated Red		

For Food Pantry \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

MISSIONS



HOMELESS VETS

Delivered just in time for winter: gloves, hats, socks, air mattresses and pumps, blankets, and toilet tissue.

MITTENS & HATS & GLOVES & WINTER CAPS & MITTENS

Mission Project for our Neighbors

At

Wisconsin Heights School, Luke House, and Heights Unlimited

Where Warm Winter Hats & Mittens & Glove
are Always Welcomed



Please bring children's mittens or gloves (water resistant—they do like to play in the snow) of all sizes plus Children's Hats.

And don't forget that there is also a need for Adult gloves and hats!

Bring them to the Collection Display in the Narthex.

If you prefer to donate money, we will shop for you!

We will be receiving items through December 10 our Christmas Program date.

Thank you so very much!



***Food
Pantry
Needs***

It is Vermont Lutheran's volunteer Saturday at Mazomanie's Christians in Action Food Pantry on November 11th. This is the last of our three dates for 2023. Once again we request help to set up the Pantry beginning at 9:15 AM at the Community Center Auditorium. The work includes setting up the tables and then lifting and carrying the food items to the tables. It takes approximately 45 minutes. If anyone is available at 11:30 to help clear the space once again, they are also welcome but our goal is to supply enough help for the setup! Our thanks to all those who have helped in the past and look forward to seeing those who are able once again on November 11th.

Larry Ziemer and Paul Olhrogge

Our Legacy

Vermont Lutheran Church

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Visit with Max Rosenbaum

Visualizing the Day He was Wounded (December 2, 1944)

Jon Urness



During my visits with Max we talk on many different subjects from his well being, his family, my family, Vermont Township, and even the latest news. But eventually and without prompting he relates more of his World War II experiences. I believe he enjoys telling the stories and understands fully that the time he has left to tell these stories is short. On this day, he talked once again of the day, December 2, 1944, that we was badly wounded and felt himself going in to shock....which would have meant the end without treatment.

When I close my eyes I can see what happened that day just as if it's happening right now. We became detached from our armored vehicles and were ordered to fight as infantry, which we had no business doing because we had no training in fighting that way. We were told to move in to a wooded area that was occupied by a bunch of green recruits from the 106th Infantry Division. They'd only been in Europe a few weeks when they came under fire. When we got up there it was nothing but chaos. These young guys were abandoning their positions and fleeing to the rear. I was with Bill Hoyt and I spotted an empty machine gun nest so I said we might as well get in to it for some protection. The 30-caliber machine gun and ammo were still there. Bill got on the machine gun and I took a position so I could feed ammunition. Bill must have seen something in the distance, approaching German infantry or something. He started firing, which maybe was a big mistake because now we revealed our position to the Germans. Almost immediately 88mm artillery rounds started coming in on our position. It's likely the Germans had our position zeroed in as they had occupied the area for quite some time.

I felt a blow to my shoulder and was knocked to the ground. Laying there I could feel myself going in to shock and figured that must be it. I'm finished. But Bill came over, threw me over his shoulder and took me back to a headquarters position where we both got chewed out for abandoning our post. Get back up their, the Captain screamed. I guess he assumed we were just another couple of deserters. It took him a moment to realize I was wounded but he sent Bill back to the machine gun nest. I never saw Bill again and I have no idea whether he made it or not. I tried many times to look him up to thank him for saving my life but was never able to locate him after the war.

Max spent many weeks in hospitals, required multiple surgeries, was in a body cast for several months but eventually returned to the US. One fear that he and other wounded had while in hospital at Metz, France, was that they would be over run by the Germans as they launched attacks on December 16, which was the start of the German counter attack known as the Battle of the Bulge. That never happened but it added stress to physical injury.

Max is the last WWII veteran that I know well enough to call a friend. I offered to take Max and Betty on a tour of his old battlefields in 2016 but they reluctantly declined due to physical challenges related to their advancing age. Each time I visit with Max he comments how he wished we could have made that trip. About all I can do now is to keep telling his story.



November 5

Psalm 67

Ephesians 2:13-14

Luke 10:38-42

Title: Martha and Mary

November 12

Wisdom 6:12-16

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

Title: Sing to the Lord a New Song

November 19

Hosea 10:11-12

Philippians 1:1-11

Mark 4:30-34

Title: Mustard Seeds

Topic: Thanksgiving

November 26

Job 1:13-22

II Corinthians 11:23-31

John 16:25-33

Title: Anfechtung

Topic: The dreadful aspects of existence

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Minda	Engel	November 03
Lukas	Lemke	November 04
Melissa	Hanson	November 05
Daniel	Parrell	November 10
Charles	Erickson	November 11
Dylan	Rickey	November 12
Emma	King	November 14
Alex	Orth	November 14
Douglas	Meier	November 15
Brian	Parrell	November 16
Donald	Parrell	November 17
Jeffrey	Herrling	November 18
Jon	Urness	November 19
Marguerite	Parrell	November 21
Joyce	Howery	November 24
Charlotte	Herman	November 25
Lewis	Kennedy	November 25
Denise	Boehnen	November 26
James	Roethler	November 28
Elizabeth	Herrling	November 29
Joseph	Schultz	November 30



Vermont Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes (Draft)

October 15, 2023

Present: Aaron Tigert, Steve Holzhueter, Deb Krebs, Karsten Haugen, Jaimie Hallick, Wade Winchip, Pastor Rebecca, Carol Johnson, Larry Ziemer, Tracy Yaktus, Bill Meddings

Called to order 10:46am- Aaron Tigert.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Rebecca reported on her recent In-reach activities. Confirmation classes start this week with 6 confirmands. Teams update: Working on scheduling a new member mixer. Working with Klover on scheduling a Mission meeting and exploring how denomination support fits together with Mission.

Visibility Team update: Larry, Tracy, Bill. The group presented a proposal to hire a website design firm to update and enhance VLC website: drive new membership, share the VLC story, and express a compelling, exciting, professional profile. The new website would be interactive, easy to update internally, and would incorporate targeting marketing tools to engage potential new members.

MOTION: The VLC Council approves the expenditure of up-to \$10,000 as needed by the Visibility and Marketing Team to make enhancement to the website. Aaron Tigert/Jaimie Hallick.

Secretary's Report: Approved: (Wade Winchip/Deb Krebs)

Treasurer's Report: Approved (Karsten Haugen/ Deb Krebs/). Steve reported on the current financials sharing that spending is up from last year and budget by \$18,000 but the work being done has a big impact: Pastors office updates, 2 AED's, new door installation, folding chairs, painting, insurance, etc. He went on to share that attendance continues to be up from last year as are contributions by \$19,000. The goal for 2024 will be to build-up property, legacy, and memorial funds. The council will ask the Visibility team to prepare a list of future expenses related to these funds.

Call Process Update: Carol shared that the Council will need to approve funds to cover potential moving costs when the time comes to welcome a new pastor. The council asked her to come up with a list of all pending expenses related to the Call Process and submit one budget request.

Administration update: (Deb Krebs/Wade Winchip)

Host Fall Festival is next Saturday from 11:00 – 2:00 pm.

13 bible verses have been approved for installation along the trail. There are 13 to accommodate an addition verse at the playground area.

Council member recruitment: Carol and Steve will work on recruiting a new treasure as Steve's term is expiring.

Adjournment 10:30 am

Next meeting: November 19, 2023, at 10:40 am

Submitted

Carol Johnson, Secretary VLC Church Council


Mary Nelson & Pat Ziemer

NOVEMBER
ALTAR GUILD

Monthly Financial Report

October 2023

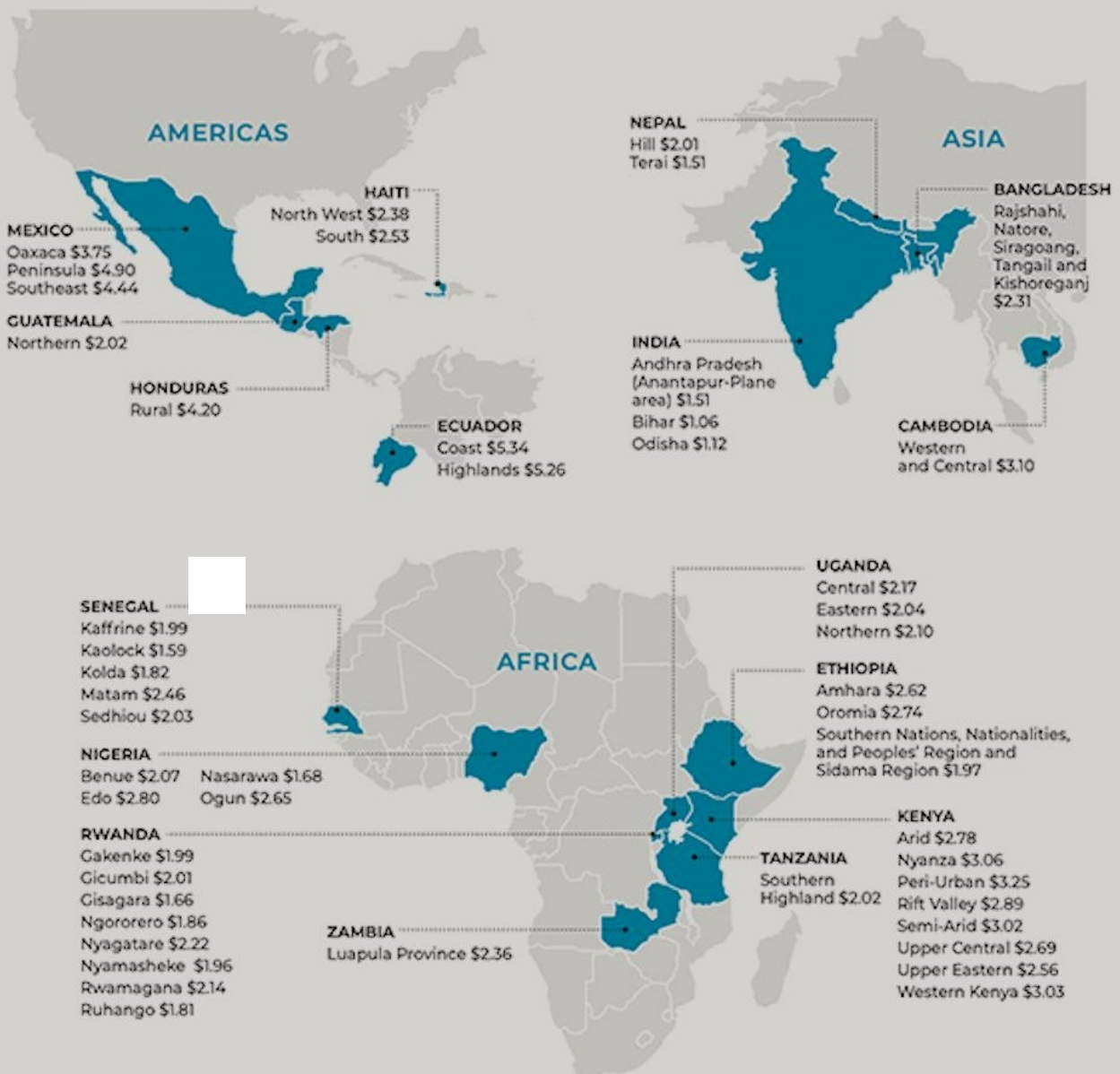
	Contributions			Operating Expenses		
	2023	2022	Change	2023	2022	Change
Monthly	\$ 8,683	\$ 12,849	\$ (4,166)	\$ 13,765	\$ 15,141	\$ (1,376)
YTD	\$ 123,719	\$ 109,906	\$ 13,812	\$ 140,750	\$ 121,713	\$ 19,037

Regional Living Income Benchmarks Per Person in Each Household

Heifer International calculates living income benchmarks in the 18 countries in which it works. Some country have more than one benchmark, representing regional variations.

Heifer International focuses on transformational change at the household level. These living income benchmarks are for individuals in rural households.

Heifer International must be referenced as the source when using these living income benchmarks.



November Reflection

by the Rev. Peter Beeson, Associate to the Bishop for Generosity

Dear Siblings in Christ,

For God says, “Behold, I am doing a new thing, now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.” (Isaiah 43:19)

The Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of Indianapolis, wrote an article for *Faith & Leadership* titled, “Why we need to view our buildings as assets, not albatrosses.” **In it, she argues our buildings, the things of breaking boilers and leaking roofs, are actually assets – tools to be used to share the Gospel and encourage (build up) community thriving in our midst.**^[1]

This is a marked shift from the way we are used to talking about our buildings at most congregational and clergy gatherings. However, it reflects the truest understanding of stewardship, which is that **we as Christians are to use all that we are and all that we have to honor and glorify God.** It reflects the challenge of the prophet Jeremiah to the Jewish exiles that they were to “work for the good of the city in which you live.” (Jeremiah 29:7)



Viewing our buildings as assets, not burdens, can change the dynamics of cash-flow around managing building expenses and create relationships with the surrounding community. While it is often thought that only congregations in cities can do this work, the reality is more diverse. Below are a few examples of congregations in our region doing this work. These are intended to inspire you to consider how you and your leadership can shift the view of your buildings away from being a burden

to being a resource that can be used to honor God.

- **New Heights in Mazomanie** (pictured above), a congregation created out of the merger of two previously existing ELCA congregations, sold both of their buildings, and relocated to a school to create a community resource. (Click [here](#) to view their interview with the Wisconsin Council of Churches.)
- **St. John’s in Evansville** was sharing part of their building with a local preschool. When that organization needed more space and moved out, the congregation formed their own preschool for three-year-olds, as a ministry of the church.

SYNOD (continued)

Wisconsin Council of Churches.)

- **St. John's in Evansville** was sharing part of their building with a local preschool. When that organization needed more space and moved out, the congregation formed their own preschool for three-year-olds, as a ministry of the church.
- A colleague in **rural upstate Wisconsin** led her congregation through transforming their hillside, which was adjacent to a local river, from a fenced off inhospitable space into a community resource and park with natural walking paths and places for reflection.
- **St. John's in Madison**, is an urban congregation that is tearing down their building to build 110 units of affordable housing plus worship and community space. (Disclaimer: this is where I serve.)

These are only a smattering of congregations in our synod who are viewing their physical assets in a new way, and in doing so are upbuilding the kingdom of God in our midst. If you know of another congregation using their real estate as an extension of their ministry, email Peter at peterb@scsw-elca.org.

Viewing our buildings as an asset not a burden, also can diversify our congregations' funding streams and make our congregations more resilient and sustainable than those that rely on offering income (and legacy gifts) alone.

If you have questions about how to make this pivot in a thoughtful, intentional manner, the synod office has access to a handful of resources from RootedGood, an organization that advises congregations on social entrepreneurship and stewarding their building well. Click [here](#) to visit the RootedGood website.

Thank you for your partnership in witnessing to God's grace and mercy.

The Rev. Peter Beeson
Associate to the Bishop for Generosity

[1] <https://faithandleadership.com/jennifer-baskerville-burrows-congregations-should-see-their-buildings-assets-not-albatrosses>

STEWARDING MONEY WISELY

October 14, 21, 28 & November 4 @ 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm (CDT)

Beginning October 7 and continuing for five weeks, Women of the ELCA offers a free, online educational series entitled God's Gift of Money:

Stewarding Money Wisely as a component of the 2122: Growing Katie's Fund for the next 100 years campaign. In the 75-minute sessions, participants will explore basic financial concepts, methods of charitable giving, biblical foundations for giving, retirement strategies and much more. A team of experts guide the explorations and invite participants into discussion. Advance registration is required. **All sessions will be recorded and made available for subsequent viewing.**



Register -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApceiprj4sGNbq5a1aG1RxDNnNxPSK9TC6#/registration>

Churchwide News

Israel-Hamas War: Resources for Lament, Prayer, & Engagement

The news out of the Holy Land continues to be heartbreaking and deeply concerning. On October 10, we sent an email to rostered leaders and congregations which included a prayer written by the Rev. Meghan Aelabouni, and ELCA missionary who lives and serves in the Middle East. Click [here](#) to view that email.



We would also like to share with you Pastor Aelabouni's October newsletter, which contains updates and insight from her perspective as one who lives in this region. **Click the button below to access the newsletter, "Notes from Jerusalem."**

In addition, **the ELCA has released resources to assist congregational leaders** as you seek to navigate conversations with your members and the surrounding community. Click [here](#) to view the latest resources from the ELCA.

[Read the "Notes from Jerusalem" Newsletter](#)

Go-to places for sacred spaces

09/14/2023 | [Community](#), [Life](#)



By Kathryn Haueisen—

I'm embarrassed about how many times I've changed my address. Sometimes I've moved within the same zip code or to a nearby one. **Many times, I have moved far enough that I've had to change pretty much every detail of daily life. Whenever that happens, I search for two places I can use for sacred space—one indoors, one outdoors.**

Mostly I look for places where I won't be expected to engage in conversation with others, places where it is quiet enough to read, journal and meditate without too many distractions. My favorite places are parks where I can be surrounded by nature. Walking trails are wonderful, but if a park doesn't offer one, a picnic table in the sun or shade, depending on the air temperature, will do nicely. If that isn't an option, I will park my car where I can observe nature. For a few minutes, my car is converted into a sanctuary.

For several years, my Monday, Wednesday, Friday routine consisted of leaving the house an hour before my water aerobics class at the local YMCA. I parked nearby, in the lot of a small hotel. Two sides of this parking lot faced undeveloped land, where I often found cattle resting or grazing. I would position my car under trees planted along the fence that separated the animals from the parking lot, get out my devotional materials and journal. On several occasions, a bright red cardinal visited me, perching on the passenger side-view mirror. This feathered companion would sit for several minutes, peering inside my car. Those visits always felt like a sacred welcome mat. I had been doing this for several years when one day the hotel security guard approached to ask what I was doing. He looked confused, perhaps unsure why an older woman would sit there in a parked car so early in the morning. I explained that I was waiting until it was time to go to my class at the Y. After a long pause, he told me I couldn't park there unless I was going into the hotel. Previously, I had tried sitting in my car at the Y parking lot, but there were too many distractions. So, I gave up that routine and eventually changed pools.

The Rev. Kathryn Haueisen is a retired pastor who spends her time traveling, reading, writing and volunteering.

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.

December Newsletter
articles are due
November 28th

to Elizabeth Herrling at
vermont_church@tds.net

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