



# THE MESSENGER

Vermont Lutheran Church's Mission Statement:

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

## From the Interim Pastor's Desk . .

All Saint's Day is normally celebrated in the church on the last Sunday of October. It commemorates all the saints of Christendom, known and unknown. In the local church, however, it normally commemorates those members and friends who have died recently. This church does not normally celebrate All Saint's Day, but I'd like to give it a try. In my short time here, I have presided over four services marking the death of members and friends. Two I knew briefly; two I knew not at all. But I got to know them in a way through the remembrances of their family and loved ones. They were all wonderful people who lived good lives and lives of faith. They were all significant contributors to the Christian church, and this is no small thing. I'd like to honor and acknowledge them on All Saint's Day.

But there's a rub. There's always a rub. All Saint's Day is also Reformation Sunday. To celebrate All Saint's Day on Reformation Sunday is risky business. Martin Luther had a few choice words for the saints. He had a few choice words for the Virgin Mary as well. He thought the Roman Catholic Church used them as fund raisers because the Roman Catholic Church sold their superfluous faith in the form of indulgences. Nonetheless, I am (fairly) confident that we can celebrate All Saint's Day in a way that does justice to Reformation Sunday. Be there and see!

Contact Liz if you would like a relative or loved one remembered.

*Rev. Rebecca Clancy*

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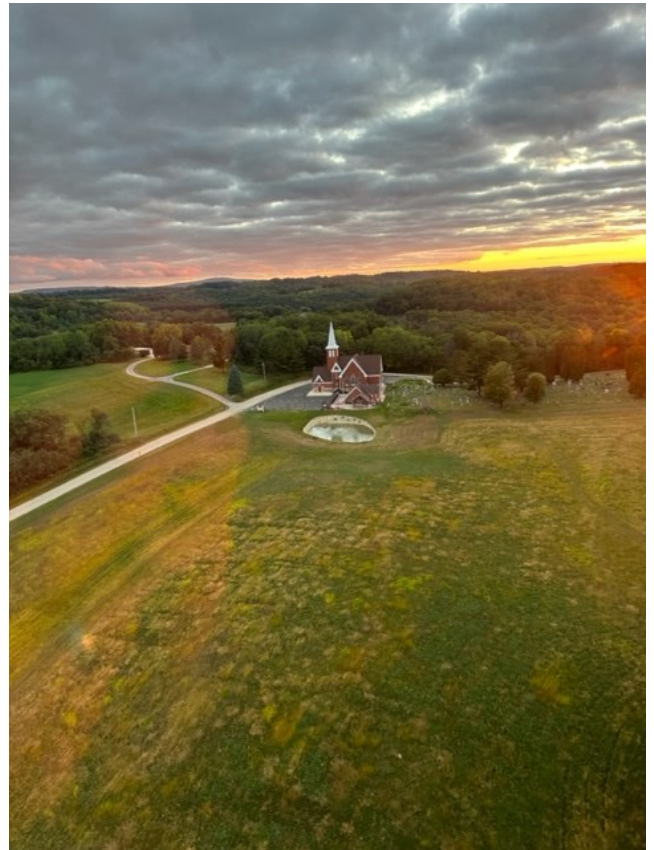


## Martin Luther's

“For inasmuch as the saints are always aware of their sin and seek righteousness from God in accord with His mercy, for this very reason they are always also regarded as righteous by God. Thus in their own sight and in truth they are unrighteous, but before God they are righteous because He reckons them so because of their confession of sin. They are actually sinners, but they are righteous by the imputation of a merciful God. They are *unknowingly righteous* and *knowingly unrighteous*; they are sinners in fact but righteous in hope. And this is what he is saying here: ‘Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.’

(Ps. 32:1)”

## Quote of the Month



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.

# HIGHLIGHTS

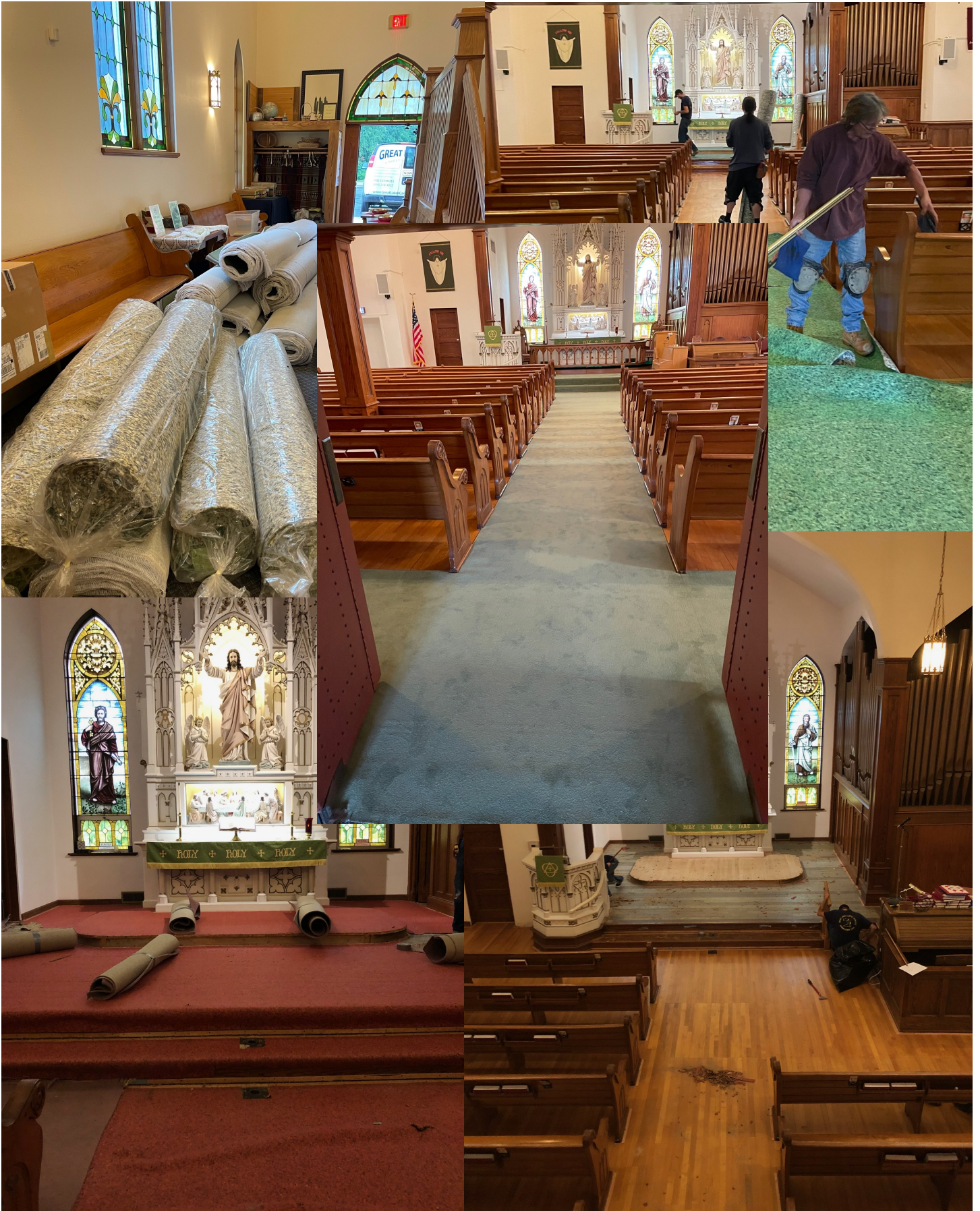


## QUILTS and SCHOOL KIS SHIPPED

We had a phenomenal year! We were able to ship 258 quilts in 47 boxes and 91 School Kits in 8 boxes. Thank you everyone that made these mission projects a success! Your dedication and continued effort uplift people around the world.



# HIGHLIGHTS



NEW CARPET INSTALLATION

# Our Legacy

## Vermont Lutheran Church

### Seeking Veteran's Memorial Updates

With many of the cemetery and grounds projects pretty well completed I think it's time to revive a project started in 2022 but pretty much put on hold since then. I'd like to run a "new" flag up the pole and solicit names to update our Veteran's Memorial.

Previously I received eleven names of veterans for what we will consider post-Viet Nam era. The last memorial stone in our current Veteran's Memorial stops with Viet Nam era veterans. 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. For the moment, the heading for the marker will be "Gulf and War on Terrorism" or something to that effect. Below you'll see the names already collected, including a few additions to our existing Memorial. Please relate new names to me at [jcurness@outlook.com](mailto:jcurness@outlook.com) and we'll make sure they are included in the next update and installation.

OUR LEGACY

## NEWS



### Introduction to Biblical Theology Vermont Lutheran Church

*Suggested Text:*  
*Harper-Collins Study Bible, NRSV*

October 8— Introducing the Old Testament: Three Theological Themes

October 15—The Old Testament:

## NEWS (continued)

### MISSION TAKE-OUT LEFSE & MEATBALLS

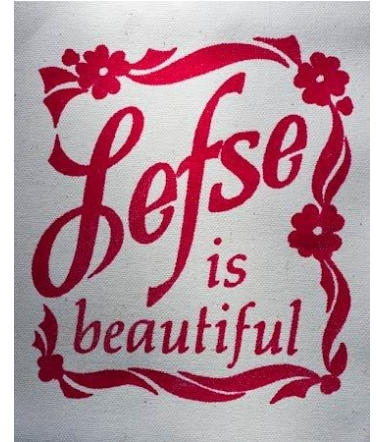
Preparations for the 3rd annual Mission Take-Out (replacing the Lutefisk Dinner) is starting in September:

#### Meatballs:

Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>

#### Gravy:

Saturday, October 14<sup>st</sup>  
Kris and Peter Antonie 767-2641



### EVENT DAY: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21<sup>st</sup>

#### MISSION TAKE-OUT

10:30am-12pm

#### HØST (Norwegian for FALL) FESTIVAL

Questions please call Church Admin 767-3312

11am—2pm

- Meatball Slider supplied by the church.
- Potluck Sides and desserts (bring your Norwegian cookies/rommegrot/lefse)
- Activities: Wagon Rides, Pumpkin Painting, Apple Bobbing, S'mores by the fire pit, Three Legged races and Giant Ball of Twine.



**Thank you! It takes a lot of us to make this day a success.**

**All times are listed on our website calendar.**



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*

## NEWS (continued)

Please join us in viewing this remarkable LEGACY we have!



- When:** Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> 11am-2pm  
(Take-Out Pick-Up 10:30am-12pm)
- Where:** Vermont Lutheran Church, 9886 Vermont Church Road, Black Earth
- What:** Meatball dinner roll sandwich supplied by the church.
- What to Bring:** Potluck Side or dessert to pass  
(bring your Norwegian cookies/rommegrot/lefse)
- Activities:** Wagon Rides, Pumpkin Painting, Apple Bobbing, S'mores by the fire pit, Three Legged races, Giant Ball of Twine and Quilt Raffle.
- What to Do:** RSVP with # attending.
- 

### 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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!"



#### Monthly Financial Report

September 2023

	Contributions			Operating Expenses		
	2023	2022	Change	2023	2022	Change
Monthly	\$ 19,019	\$ 13,653	\$ 5,366	\$ 9,878	\$ 12,105	(\$ 2,227)
YTD	\$ 115,036	\$ 97,057	\$ 17,978	\$125,759	\$106,573	\$ 19,186



**October 1**

Title: Lenses

Topic: The lenses we wear to view life

I Kings 1:11-21, Romans 13:11-14,  
John 9:13-16, 30-33

**October 8**

Title: Belonging

Topic: Belonging

Genesis 25:19-26, I Corinthians 12:12-27,  
Matthew 14:22-33

**October 15**

Title: Incivility

Topic: Incivility

I Samuel 25: 2-13, 32-33, Galatians 5:  
13-15 John 15:15-17

**October 22**

Title: What Scares Us

Topic: Our fear of one another

Ruth 2:8-13, II Corinthians 4:16-5:5,  
Luke 7:1-10

**October 29**

Title: All Saint's Day

Topic: All Saint's Day

Sirach 44:1-5, I Corinthians 15:12-19,  
John 14:1-7

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

Steven	Holzhueter	October 04
Buford	Olson	October 04
Patricia	Ziemer	October 04
Carroll	Lodahl	October 05
Justin	Herrling	October 06
Anna	Herman	October 08
Debra	Barsness	October 09
Cricket	Stapelmann	October 10
Elizabeth	Childs	October 12
Jorgen	Goderstad	October 13
Sara	Herrling	October 14
Steven	Miller	October 16
Hana	King	October 17
James	Herrling	October 18
Katie	Schultz	October 22
Amelia	Burton	October 23
Sophie	Gresens	October 28
Mary	Aeschlimann	October 29
Elijah	Gold	October 30
Joseph	Herrling	October 30
Cynthia	Humphrey	October 30
Elizabeth	Gold	October 31
Timothy	Gold	October 31
Samantha	Herrling	October 31





# Vermont Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes (Draft)

## September 10, 2023

Present: Aaron Tigert, Steve Holzhueter, Deb Krebs, Carol Johnson, Wade Winchip, Lucas Herrling, Pastor Rebecca

Called to order 10:36am- Aaron Tigert.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Rebecca reported on her recent In-reach activities and those of the various teams. There will be a new member orientation meeting in October. She shared that there will be 6 confirmants this year and Sunday school will start soon. She will also begin teaching Bible School the second and fourth Sundays of the month. The visionary team (marketing) is working on promotional materials for the Woodlands and the Gathering Space rental, and they are developing a line of VLC merchandise that will be available for purchase. She reiterated that there should be someone from the event team to serve as point person and liaison to groups and individuals interested in renting the Gathering Space or using the woodland areas.

**Secretary's Report:** Approved: (Steve Holzhueter/Deb Krebs)

**Treasurer's Report:** Approved (Carol Johnson/Wade Winchip). Steve reported that he is looking into consolidating legacy and operating accounts into one savings account to obtain a higher interest rate.

- Gathering Space rental discussion. All agreed that there should be a Security Deposit requirement for all non-member rentals of the Gathering Space. This would be a separate deposit from the rental fee. Deposit would be used towards cleaning expenses or repairs if necessary.
- Security Proposal: A second proposal was received and is currently being reviewed. This second one includes exterior cameras for 24/7 surveillance, lighting, and entry door key codes or FOBs.
- CPR training: The materials are available and dates that Melissa is able to provide training. Need to pick a date and start the registration process.
- Carpet to be installed next week.  
Bruce is still looking for acceptable organ options.

**Call Process Update:** Carol reported the call committee will be meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business:**

There is a request for use of the Gathering Space for a December 30<sup>th</sup> reception.

**Old Business:**

- Church Picnic was August 19, 2023, and came well under budget.

Works is near completion on the Flower Garden. Thanks to all that volunteered.

Adjournment 11:30 am

Next meeting: October 15, 2023, at 10:40 am

Submitted

Carol Johnson, Secretary  
VLC Church Council

# Committee/Team Reports

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## *Vermont Lutheran Church*

### Visibility/Marketing Team

Notes from meeting Sept. 28, 2023

Attending: Bill Meddings, Peter Antonie, Larry Ziemer, Tracy Yaktus, Polly Kawalek and Pastor Rebecca Clancy. Jill Dybdahl, Jane Hanson to be briefed through committee notes.

1. **Review** of August 31 meeting began with **feedback** on a recent wedding event at the Gathering Place from Kris Antonie, leading to productive discussion on how to support events.
  - o Peter and Kris came up to clean ahead of time as Beau was not available (wife having surgery).
  - o Insight: need to have someone responsible for prepping ahead of an event, answering questions and walking people through where things are kept. Also need follow up after the event, ensuring that the trash is taken out and lights are off.
  - o Discussion of how funerals are supported by volunteers.
  - o Conclusion: designation of "event coordinator", supported by a fee paid by the group engaging the space. Amount of fee to be tied to the size of the event, perhaps based on number of attendees. Event coordinator would work with Beau to determine who-does-what, before and after, with the fee shared between them.
  - o Potential to ask church members for those interested in being on a roster of event coordinators.

Other headlines from Aug 31 meeting review included discussion of the Jill worksheet as a useful planning device. Bill used it to plan 11/18 Hunter's dinner.

2. **Frisbee success** at Mazo parade summarized by Liz Herrling. "Parades always distribute candy. People liked something new and different." Discussion of fourth quarter events and opportunity to publicize with email list (1000 names and Facebook).

This led to discussion of the need to fund the upgrading of the church website.

- o Need to generate a proposal for Council review at the Oct meeting.
  - o Jill has identified a potential designer.
  - o Liz, Peter, and Tracy to be the client team, working with the designer to provide direction and insight into how the site is used and has evolved over time.
  - o Polly will call Jill to get her input on the designer, draft a one page proposal, and forward to the full committee for review and suggestions before the Council meeting.
3. **Promotional item status.** 18 shirts ordered. Council color is Forest Green. Call Committee is True Navy Heather. Expected pick up on Oct 13.

## Committee/Team Reports (continued)

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- After shirts arrive, will request recipients to wear to church. Announcements will include highlighting the shirts and directing people to the website to learn how to buy their own.
- Let the record show that we love the VLC logo. There's nothing like it and it arises from our unique building and setting.

### 4. **Weddings and Baptisms**, continued discussion

- Want to avoid discouraging anyone from using our facilities but don't want to book ourselves solid through wedding season.
- Trend in churches is to look for sources of revenue beyond member collections.
- First step: Create a calendar blocking out all our traditional events. (Peter)
- Determine capacity for additional events. Total number and specific days.
- Identify potential sources of creating awareness of those days and link to our site.
- Continued conversation about potential general outreach for traditional holiday elements, like Dec 10 Christmas pageant, and sourcing a Christmas ornament for 2024 and beyond. (Follow up with Jill Meddings.)

### 5. **New TV in Gathering Place** offering opportunity for fellowship.

- Smart TV. TDS service being determined.
- Streaming services can be accessed using logon credentials of church members, ie. Netflix, PBS Passport, etc.

### 6. **Donor Recognition and thanks**

- Currently, Legacy Committee sends handwritten notes recognizing gifts above \$500.
- Would like to have a stated policy for thank you notes and the right resources.
- Desired outcome: a preprinted card with a great picture, a one line statement of principle, room for a handwritten line, and the logo.
- Tracy following up.

### 7. **Feedback on Lecture Series** (Pastor Rebecca)

- Will be in Gathering Place. Rectangular tables to facilitate facing front. Lectern.
- Request that the sessions close with PR asking "Got it?"

**Next Meeting = Oct. 18, 9:30** Tracy volunteered to bring treats. Topics include:

- Input to update form for renting facilities.
- Items identified for 2024 budget. Amounts to follow in Nov.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30.

# ELCA

## Tell us: Critters



They chirp, run, fly, cuddle and jump and come in all shapes, sizes and colors.

What are they? Critters! From our cats, dogs, guinea pigs, parakeets and other beloved pets, to the squirrels, rabbits, birds, toads and even skunks that we encounter in our backyards and parks: Critters bring life to the ordinary.

What have you learned about faith based on your encounter with a critter? We'd love to hear from you for an upcoming story in our January/February 2024 issue.

Send your 50- to 150-word submission to Gather magazine at [gather@elca.org](mailto:gather@elca.org). Please also include your name and your ELCA congregation name, town and state. Thank you!

# ELCA



ELCA  
Foundation

## **Planning Your Legacy** *Presented by the ELCA Foundation and The Stelter Company*

**When:** Tuesday, October 17 | 7 p.m. Central time

**Where:** Zoom webinar

Join supporters like you for a one-hour, complimentary webinar to gain valuable insights into estate planning and charitable giving strategies in today's evolving economic landscape. We will highlight a few key details of the current economic climate, give you an overview of what you need for a solid estate plan, and teach you how you can leave a legacy to support the ministries of ELCA — while also saving on taxes. This can be your first step toward leaving a legacy that endures for generations to come.

Presenters:

Lynn M. Gaumer, J.D.  
Senior Gift Planning Consultant, The Stelter Company

Josh Kerney  
Interim Director of Gift Planning, ELCA Foundation

*The ELCA Foundation is here to help you create your legacy and ensure the continuation of God's work in the world — for years and years to come. We can partner with you, your congregation, your synod or another ELCA-related organization as you explore the variety of possibilities for giving with generosity and foresight. We provide expertise — as well as resources, financial education, and investment and endowment management services — to help you joyfully answer the call to love and serve our neighbor.*

## Wanted: Caring for Creation Action Plans!



This past May, our Synod Assembly passed a resolution asking congregations to submit a Caring for Creation action plan.

Click [here](#) to view an email sent to congregations and rostered leaders, filled with inspiration and ideas to help you prepare for and submit your action plan.

When your congregation is ready, you can submit your plan using the button below. The link to the form is also available on the [Caring for Creation page](#) on the synod website.

[Submit Caring for Creation Action Plan](#)

## Educational Resources

### Resources for Both Rostered and Lay Leaders



Faith+Lead Academy's on-demand course library now includes more than a dozen courses!

These courses were designed for a "flipped learning environment": learning on your own time through a multimedia approach. **However, the constellation of materials and practices can be adapted to guide a live class**, self-guided education paired with gathering monthly for processing in the style of a book club, a retreat or hybrid online/in-person cohorts.

Course titles include:

- **Storied Faith: Listening to God through Story** (learning to tell your faith story)
- **Faith, Lies, and Spies: Bonhoeffer's Life and You** (how your faith calls you to action)

Click the button below to view the full library of on-demand courses and see the other course offerings available!

[Visit Faith+Lead](#)

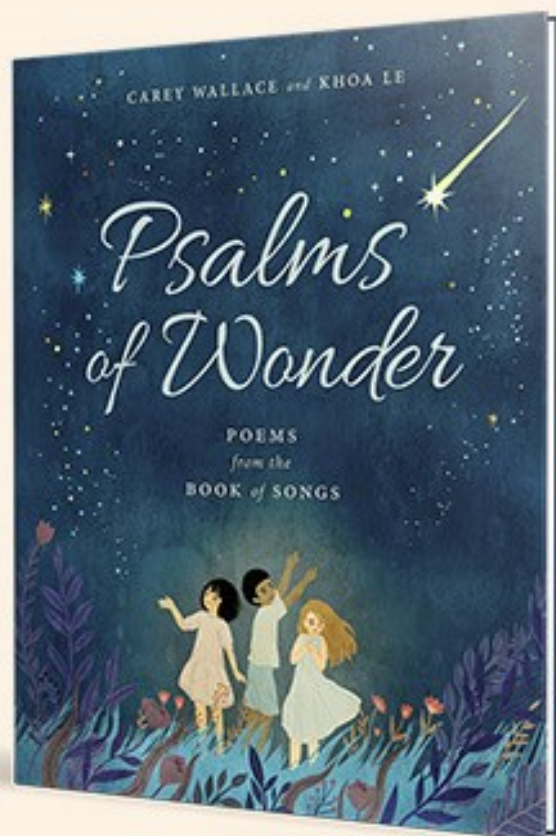
Looking for a Christmas Gift?

# *A Luminous Collection of Psalms for All Ages*

For readers of all ages, the inviting poems and gorgeous illustrations in *Psalms of Wonder* are inspired by the book of Psalms, echoing all its wonder and courage, comfort and joy, protection and love.

For children, *Psalms of Wonder* offers an introduction, bridging to the beloved phrases and images of Scripture. For readers who already know and love the Psalms, the poems reveal a refreshing new perspective while holding true to respected biblical translations.

Perfect for savoring and sharing, this luminous collection will resonate deep in the hearts of God's children.



Available at [Amazon.com: Flyaway Books](https://www.amazon.com/Flyaway-Books) . Proceeds go to help fund *Gather Magazine*.

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.

**November Newsletter**  
**articles are due**  
**October 26th**

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

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Website: [vermontlutheran.org](http://vermontlutheran.org)

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**Password: CARES**

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news and pictures!**

