


# 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 . .



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 reflection on the question.

*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?"*

Warning: This was the hardest question in the box, so questions can only get easier after this one.

This question treats Mark 15:38-39 and Matthew 27:51-54.

The previous question addressed apocalypticism. To review, apocalypticism arose amidst a virulent persecution of the Jews. It sought to answer the question: Where is God amidst this magnitude of suffering and injustice? The answer it came up with is as follows: History is in the vice grip of evil. Evil has marshalled the fullness of its forces. This will signal God to unleash the final cataclysm that will usher in the Kingdom of God. Now be careful here. Apocalypticism does not assert that God will merely destroy evil. It asserts that God will end time, history, creation...all that there is. These things will give way to the Kingdom of God, which had always been God's end goal for time, history, creation....all that there is.

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Three of the gospels, Matthew, Mark, and Luke are apocalyptic in nature. They modified an apocalyptic framework as follows: The Christ event is a preliminary apocalyptic cataclysm. In other words, it is a preliminary in break of the Kingdom of God. It inaugurates the Kingdom of God which will culminate in the final cataclysm that will end it all in the Second Coming of Christ. In order to convey that, at the death of Jesus there is apocalyptic imagery -- the dead emerging from their tombs for the final judgment, for instance. That is an apocalyptic image because apocalypticism houses in the final cataclysm the resurrection of the dead to a final judgment.

As to the tearing of the temple curtain and the Centurion's recognition that Jesus was the Son of God, that's a whole different matter. The inner sanctum of the temple was closed by a curtain. It was thought to contain God's presence. When the curtain was torn, God's presence was abroad. By that presence, the Centurion, a Gentile, confessed that Jesus was the Son of God. Sit down, because this is a shocker. This is nothing less than Matthew and Mark's version of the Pentecost wherein Jesus endowed history with his Holy Spirit by which the Gentiles declared Jesus was the Son of God. Matthew and Mark don't exactly spell it out as Luke does in the book of Acts, but this is the way they assert it.

As you can see, the gospel's are extremely complex theologically. There's more there than the casual reader can see. No one asked me about the gospel of John, but it is the most sophisticated theological statement ever made.

Next month's question on what the Bible says about homosexuality will be a skate after this....

Ask me anything, anytime.

Pastor Rebecca

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## HIGHLIGHTS

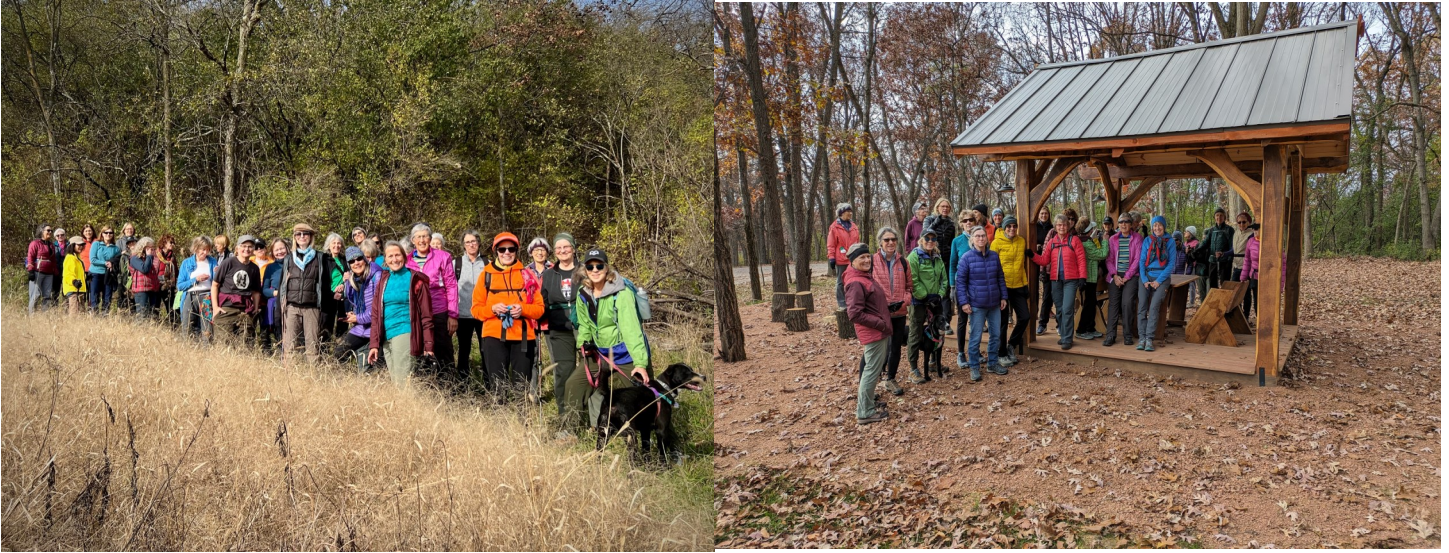


Baptism of Andrea Marie Dyreson

Welcome to Vermont!



# HIGHLIGHTS (continued)



Thanks for all you do and please thank your church family for letting us use the building and trails and for their stewardship of this lovely land. **We are impressed with the project and we will be back!**

35 women hiking the trails with a potluck afterwards in the gathering place. It was great. I was floored by how many of them showed up and the enthusiasm that they had with the outing. They loved the trails and enjoyed the Gathering Place facilities. They asked tons of questions about the church and yikes...I couldn't answer them all. Many of them plan to come back and hike the trails again. They were so impressed by what our church has done. Gaila





# HIGHLIGHTS (continued)



**Thank You, Strings to Roam:** We had a faith filled Bluegrass worship service on November 12<sup>th</sup> with the music provided by Strings to Roam. If you'd like to hear them at nearby venues, check out their website, [Strings to Roam Madison bluegrass band](https://www.strings-to-roam.com/).



**NEW SIGN !**  
building and installing





# NEWS

## Giving Tuesday November 28, 2023

people all around the world are coming together to tap into the power of human connection, strengthen communities and change our world

We've created a directory to help you find organizations, events, and ways to give back to organizations that Vermont Lutheran Church supports:

### Vermont Lutheran Church

<https://www.vermontlutheran.org/>

### Annual Mission Projects

ELCA Good Gifts - We have more than 50 charitable gifts to choose from, and each makes a real impact in the world, sharing the love of Christ — one goat, water well or school uniform at a time.

<https://goodgifts.elca.org/>

South Central Synod of Wisconsin

<https://scsw-elca.org/ministries/>

Sugar Creek Bible Camp

<http://wp.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org/>

Lutheran Social Services –

<https://www.lsswis.org/donate/>

Lutheran World Relief

<https://lwr.org/>

Wartburg Seminary

<https://www.wartburgseminary.edu/>

American Red Cross

<https://www.redcross.org/donate/donation.html>

Heights Unlimited Food Pantry

<https://www.heightsunlimited.net/donations>

Luke House

<https://www.lukehousemadison.org/donate-online/>

Make a Wish Wisconsin

[Donate - Make-A-Wish](#)

Mazomanie Community Food Pantry - Christians in Action

109 W Hudson St, Mazomanie, WI 53560

Porchlight

<https://porchlightinc.org/donate/>

Salvation Army

<https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/ways-to-give/>

Second Harvest

<https://www.secondharvestmadison.org/donate-now/>

VA Homeless Vets

<https://www.madison.va.gov/giving/>



### 2023 Mission Projects

Heifer International

<https://www.heifer.org/>



**NEWS** (continued)

## December Services

Sunday, December 10th at 9:30 am - Sunday School Christmas Pageant



Sunday, December 17th at 9:30 am - Christmas Concert Service

December 21 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 - A Virtual Blue Christmas Webinar offered by WELCA

Our Blue Christmas Service offers a safe place to bring your grief, fear, and loss. Brief readings. Quiet and reflective music. Prayers. All are welcome. Spanish translation provided. register at

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/event/a-virtual-blue-christmas-service>

Sunday, December 24th at 4 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Sunday, December 31st at 9:30 am - New Year's Eve Service

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**All committee and teams need to submit a summary of the 2023 year to the church office by January 2nd, 2024 to be place in the annual packet for the Annual Congregational Meeting.**





**Drive with RSVP of Dane County!**


Retired Senior Volunteer Program's (RSVP) needs drivers for seniors and veterans for medical appointments and meal delivery. Drivers receive mileage reimbursement (65.5 center per mile), extra insurance coverage, and the satisfaction of helping seniors remain independent and in their homes.

With RSVP Driver Services, you decide how often you wish to drive, as well as when and where, and you will feel great knowing that you are directly helping those in your community who may otherwise be isolated.

Did you know that volunteers have been proven to live longer and happier lives? Join us and find out for yourself! Better yet, join with a friend!

Please inquire today. Contact Steve Jaeschke ([sjaeschke@rsvpdane.org](mailto:sjaeschke@rsvpdane.org) or 608-441-7892) or Camela King ([cking@rsvpdane.org](mailto:cking@rsvpdane.org) or 608-441-7896).

**NEW MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE for RSVP DRIVERS!**



**Now 65.5 cents per mile!!**



**Cabin Fever Reliever Ideas:** It is time to think about our wintertime once a month Sunday evening Cabin Fever Reliever meetings in the Gathering Place. Have you been on a trip that folks would be interested in hearing about? Perhaps a special event you participated in? This is the time to turn on the fireplace, use the big-screen TV to show your pictures and entertain your friends for an hour or so. We'd like to have a Reliever starting in January and running through April. So, let Peter Antonie know if you'd be willing to be a presenter and what month works for you.

**MITTENS & HATS & GLOVES & WINTER CAPS & MITTENS**

Last Day, December 10th, to get your Contribution in! BRRRR! Our 10 degree Morning this week was a reminder of what's to come. Let's help keep our Neighbors warm with hats and gloves.

Bring them to the Collection Display in the Narthex.

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





## NEWS (continued)

The Puzzle Library is now open! And, reports are coming in that people are enjoying their "new" Puzzles! Check it out in the Fellowship Hall and Check out a Puzzle. Self check-out on Clipboard. ENJOY!



Family Christmas Gift Idea? Buy them a new jigsaw puzzle, offer to help them put it together, and then suggest to them that you have the perfect place to donate it. . .so others get to enjoy it too. The Gift that Keeps on Giving!



The Mission Team is looking for ideas and suggestions for Vermont's 2024 Missions and beyond. Please be thinking of what you want to see and do. We'll be asking you to share them early next year!

Thanks, Klover

## 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*

<sup>9</sup> (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended<sup>[c]</sup> into the lower parts of the earth?<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup> He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity,<sup>[e]</sup> to the measure of the full stature of Christ. <sup>14</sup> 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; <sup>15</sup> but speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> 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.***







December 3

Isaiah 40:1-11  
 II Peter 3:8-15a  
 Mark 1:1-8

Sermon Title: Repent!

December 10-Christmas Pageant

Genesis 1:14-19  
 Deuteronomy 10:12-15, 20-22  
 Luke 2: 8-14

Sermon Title: A Star Out of Orbit

December 17

Isaiah 11:1-3, 6-9  
 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-12  
 Luke 1:26-38

Sermon Title: The Virgin Mary

December 24—Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7  
 Luke 1:26-28, 31-32, 46-48  
 Luke 2:1-20  
 Matthew 2: 1-11

John 1:1-5, 14, 16-8

Sermon Title: O Come All Ye Faithful

December 31 - New Year's Eve

Psalms 45:1-9  
 Revelation 21:1-8  
 Matthew 2:13-15

Sermon Title: Myrrh

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Luke	Herrling	December 01
Nora	Collins	December 04
Ryan	Farran	December 04
Ron	Boehnen	December 05
Micah	Hanson	December 07
Brandtly	Parrell	December 07
Aaron	Tigert	December 07
Rita	Tigert	December 07
Paul	Ohlogge	December 08
Linda	Page	December 08
William	Hanson	December 10
Ingerid	Kvam	December 11
Molly	Parrell	December 12
Jenna	Endres	December 13
Brooke	Statz	December 13
Amy	Schlimgen	December 17
Donovan	Lonsdale	December 18
Ethan	Myers	December 18
Dennis	Schafer	December 21
Drew	Schlimgen	December 24
Michael	Page	December 28
Erika	Forseth	December 29
Lucas	Danz	December 30
Brogan	Page	December 31



# Vermont Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes (Draft)

November 19, 2023

Present: Aaron Tigert, Steve Holzhueter, Deb Krebs, Karsten Haugen, Jaimie Hallik, Wade Winchip, Pastor Rebecca, Carol Johnson,

Called to order 10:46am- Aaron Tigert.

Approval of 10.15.2023 minutes: (Deb Krebs/Steve Holzhueter)

Pastor's Report: Pastor Rebecca reported that we are approaching optimal load within the capacity level of activities within the committees. This is a positive statement as all are engaged and working hard. The mission team has begun to meet now as well. Pastor Rebecca is doing consulting with the teams via zoom rather than being on site for each of the meetings. This is working well. She will also be starting a book discussion via zoom after the holidays. She is keeping up with visits and office hours.

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

Treasurer's Report: Approved (Carol Johnson/Deb Krebs). Steve reported on the current financials sharing that spending is up from last year but doing ok financially. He went on to share that attendance continues to be up from last year as are contributions. The goal for 2024 will be to build-up property, legacy, and memorial funds. Steve mentioned that a PD for an Event Coordinator is being prepared. The funding will come out of rental fees. There will be a marketing budget request/presentation by the Visibility committee at the annual meeting in January. Steve will prepare and bring a draft budget to the Council at the December meeting. Tracy Yaktus will be replacing Steve as treasurer on the Council.

Wade Winchip: A discussion about the organ acquisition process ensued.

**MOTION:** The council retracts previously approved motion approving the expenditure of up to \$125,000 for the purchase and restoration of a pipe organ. (Wade Winchip/Steve Holzhueter). Abstained – Deb Krebs.

It was agreed by all that those involved with organ acquisition discussions should come back to the Council with more options and more price points for consideration. It was also agreed by all that these options, and costs, will go in front of the congregation for consideration and discussion.

**MOTION:** The Council, vis this motion, is asking those involved with the organ acquisition discussions to collaborate on options to replace the current organ and to bring a proposal to the council, and then the full congregation, for consideration and support. (Aaron Tigert/ Karsten Haugen).

Call Process Update: Carol shared that the Call Committee was scheduled to meet Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Administration update:

Soup Luncheon will be on December 10<sup>th</sup> immediately following the Christmas Pageant.

Christmas Eve lands on a Sunday this year. There will not be a morning worship service this day. The Christmas Candlelight will start at 4:00pm.

There was a generous donation to support a sound system in the Gathering Space.

Adjournment 11:58 am

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

Submitted

Carol Johnson, Secretary VLC Church Council

Joan Haugen & Kris Antonie

DECEMBER  
ALTAR GUILD



# COMMITTEES/TEAM REPORTS

Worship & Music Team Meeting Notes  
November 27, 2023

Present: Tee Parrell, Jamie Hallick, Patty Herrling, Bruce Case, Klover Schafer, Jill Dybdahl, Debbie Krebs, Laura Winchip

Online participants: Peter Antonie, Ingerid Kvam

Absent: Pat Powers

Opened meeting with a Prayer for Wisdom

Review of steps taken since last meeting

1. Bruce provided an assessment of our old organ and a proposal for a replacement pipe organ
2. Many people attended a demonstration of the pipe organ at Holy Name Heights
3. Alternative options were presented to the church council, it was agreed that procedures to present the information to the committee should have preceded their meeting

History

1. In choosing between a pipe organ and electronic or hybrid organ, it was pointed out that VLC will always seek top quality (as with most projects) to maintain their strong musical heritage
2. Will talk with Liz about finding the records on the old organ purchase in the church history

Concerns of committee and membership

1. Remodeling or changing architecture is a primary concern  
We plan to maintain the structure as it is, will search for a smaller organ (new or refurbished) that will fit into the existing area  
Bruce will keep searching for a 7-Rank pipe organ of similar size to what we have
2. Downtime during construction  
Piano can be used to lead services for a period of time  
Without a need for remodeling, removing the organ, conditioning of the area for a new organ, and installing a new organ should not be disruptive to services
3. Cost of the project  
We do have funds committed to an organ purchase  
Additional funds will be required – targeting \$250,000 (we are halfway there)  
Fund-raising chairperson would be needed – Jill will contact a member for this position  
Must clarify the council's position on the status of finances  
Must raise funds for an organ without impacting regular contributions

Consideration of Options

1. Larger vs. Smaller instrument  
We will continue searching for an organ of the same size to avoid the cost of remodeling and to avoid disturbing the architectural look of the front of the church

## COMMITTEES/TEAM REPORTS (continued)

2. May consider a NEW smaller (7-rank) organ as well as used  
Bruce knows organ builders to contact who work with both new and rebuilt organs  
    Schantz Music - Jeff Dexter (working on an organ in Wisconsin now)  
    Dobson Organs - located in Iowa and has worked on many organs in Wisconsin  
Organ builders are 1 ½ - 2 years out in the process
3. Digital organs and Hybrid organs (pros and cons)  
Costs less (maybe half of pipe organ cost)  
Would easily fit the space  
We could foresee many problems with electronics  
    Service life and obsolescence  
    Technology quickly becomes "dated"  
    Maintenance may be a problem without local dealer  
Sound quality may not be what is expected  
Typical builders, Allen and Rodgers, may be considered lower quality organ builders  
Regardless, we should see a demonstration and hear what the company representative says  
    about the newer digital options  
Aim for a Friday afternoon or Saturday morning the second week of January  
Contact is Steve Smith at Triune Music in Michigan  
Mr. Smith recommended we see the hybrid organ at Immaculate of Mary Church in Monona
4. Used and Refurbished 7-rank pipe organ  
Bruce, who restores organs, reports that it may be possible to re-use some of present  
    components or pipes  
The console must definitely be replaced - old and odd, once in choir space under the pipes, then  
    set into lower space  
Steps with purchase and restoration of used organ (Est. cost = \$250K)
  1. Removal from current church or location
  2. Transportation
  3. Refurbish and Restore components
  4. Re-build and Install into churchOur church will need to
  1. Dismantle and remove current organ
  2. Prepare space as needed (walls and floor, additional lighting, etc)
  3. Consider climate for the organ  
    The air conditioner blasting cold air into the area is not ideal  
    Humidity should be maintained - work not guaranteed if it drops below 25%

### Actions moving forward

1. Communicate in message to congregation  
Increase awareness of why we need to replace the organ  
What are we looking at for replacing the organ  
What the costs may look like  
We will be voting on approval for costs of entire project and fund-raising
2. Meeting notes will be provided to keep updated on project



# COMMITTEES/TEAM REPORTS (continued)

3. Prepare a presentation for the council and annual meeting to begin a fund-raising campaign
4. Set in place a process to "fast-track" if needed, while still following appropriate procedures  
 The church council had approved up to \$25K for a purchase of an organ  
 Obviously, the total costs for the project will run higher and must get approval

### Worship service

There has been some discussion regarding reading from the Apocrypha in our lessons. These books are not included in our Canon, sometimes considered useful for instruction as history, they were removed from the Bible by the Protestant Church in the 1800's. The ELCA has begun including readings from them with the literature provided for our service. We will discuss with Pastor Rebecca to scrutinize them when included, or perhaps not use them at all.

Next meeting scheduled for after the holidays Monday, January 15, 2024

Closed meeting with The Lord's Prayer

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## MISSION TEAM UPDATE

Vermont's Mission Team has begun to meet in preparation for 2024 Missions. Our purpose is to first and foremost lift up and offer support to the ongoing Mission programs of our church. We are looking for ways to best communicate to the congregation at large the important work our congregation is doing.

We also are looking at other ideas for the coming year. Early in the new year, you will be asked to share what your vision of mission is and ways to carry those ideas out. So, stay tuned. We'll be in touch.

And, truly live in the season of Christmas-the birth of the Christ Child who lived a life of Mission.

Merry Christmas!

Monthly Financial Report						
November 2023						
	Contributions			Operating Expenses		
	2023	2022	Change	2023	2022	Change
Monthly	\$ 11,706	\$ 24,961	\$ (13,255)	\$ 11,471	\$ 9,939	\$ 1,531
YTD	\$ 135,421	\$ 134,868	\$ 554	\$ 152,459	\$ 131,653	\$ 20,806

## Mark Your Calendars!

### LEAD 2024

**Saturday, February 17, 2024 - 9:30am to 3:30pm**  
**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**(100 Oak St., Prairie du Sac, Wis.)**

We gather under the theme of "Building, Learning, Growing," which is a perfect fit for what LEAD has always been all about.

**Registration Opens on December 6!**

## Meet Our Presenter



**This year's presenter is the Rev. Dr. Ulrich Rosenhagen.** Dr. Rosenhagen is the Interim Director of the Center for Interfaith Dialogue at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has taught Religious Studies and History of Religion at UW-Madison, and has led interfaith work on campus since 2007.

He held a research fellowship at Boston University, was a researcher at the Technical University of Dresden, and received his PhD from the University of Heidelberg. His interests are interreligious dialogue, the role of religion throughout American history, and the work of Rudolf Otto, author of *The Idea of the Holy* (1917). He is also an ordained Lutheran pastor and worked for several years in the ministry in Germany and Miami, Florida.

## December Reflection

*by Rev. Jen Christenson, Associate to the Bishop for Candidacy & Community*

**I love Advent.** I love the sense of hopeful longing found in Advent hymns. I love the way the church leans hard into the promise not only of the Incarnation, but of Christ's return. I love the way the season embodies the "now, not yet" of our faith.



## SYNOD (continued)

**I love Advent.** I love the sense of hopeful longing found in Advent hymns. I love the way the church leans hard into the promise not only of the Incarnation, but of Christ's return. I love the way the season embodies the "now, not yet" of our faith.



**And yet, at times I wonder if I love Advent, or maybe the idea of Advent, a bit too much.** Every year I make all kinds of Advent plans for how I'm going to honor this season of waiting. Like many of you, I get emails from all kinds of Christian publishers and writers sharing about the new and delightful things they have created for the season of Advent. And, in my Advent optimism, I buy, download, save...a lot of them. This year, I have at the ready no less than three Advent devotionals, plus an

Advent cross-stitch kit – every day you stitch a little more of the scene until the picture is complete by Christmas Eve.

Every year I prepare for the Most Meaningful Advent Ever and...many years I end up with an Advent coloring book abandoned by Day 3, an ornament-a-day Advent garland with maybe six ornaments on it (one year, I didn't make it past one), and will find on December 20 that the last daily devotional I read was from December 10...and that was after I'd already missed days 3-9.

Perhaps that's why the title of the Kate Bowler resource, "Bless the Advent We Actually Have" spoke to me. (Yes, that is one of the aforementioned three devotionals for this year.) **So often we get caught up in the idea of how things should be, or look, or feel, that we lose sight of the beauty, the holiness of what is.** The "not yet" part of this season is important. Looking forward in hope to the time that Christ will return and make all things right is sometimes the only thing we have to cling to. And yet, we also live in the now.

**The years that my Advent plans went awry was because life was happening around me:** preparations for worship, Christmas concerts for my children, snowstorms, colds and flus, time with loved ones, and more. The season, in all of its anticipation and preparation and hopefulness, was honored – just not in the way I had originally planned. And when Christmas Eve and Christmas Day finally arrived, the celebration of the birth of the One who was, and is, and is to come, was still glorious and full of wonder.

So, my friends in Christ, however you mark time this Advent – via a delightful bit of chocolate pried out from behind a tiny door each day, stitching together a picture on cloth, spending time in hope-filled prayer and devotion, or careening through these weeks ahead in a whirlwind of activity and frenzy – **may you trust that God-with-us, Emmanuel, is with you. Emmanuel is with you: blessing you, keeping you, and filling you with hope – right now.**

Blessed Advent to one and all.

Rev. Jen Christenson

Associate to the Bishop for Candidacy and Community

## New in 2024: Affinity Groups

This year, in addition to the large-group presentation, **part of our time together will be spent with affinity groups.** Over the years we have consistently received feedback that LEAD attendees would love time to simply engage in conversation with others from around the synod. In response, this year we are planning to use the traditional workshop time for affinity groups!

**What's an affinity group?** Put simply, an affinity group is a group of people gathered around a shared interest. In our context, that would mean you would get together with people from around our synod who are engaged in similar ministries as you, whether it is teaching Sunday School, serving as a council president, working as a parish secretary, coordinating volunteers, singing in the choir, serving on stewardship...you get the idea!

**Affinity groups can also be built around conversation topics,** such as how to talk about vision and mission in your congregation, how to talk about social justice issues when not everyone agrees, how to partner with local organizations in your community and more.

**When you register for the event, you will have an opportunity to share your role within your congregation or ministry in order to identify topics of interest about which you would love to connect with others in our synod.** While we can't guarantee a group will form around every topic named, we will do our best to create opportunities that will encompass as many of the ideas lifted up as possible.

## Registration Opens December 6

**Registration for this year's LEAD event will open on Wednesday, December 6.**

The cost of registration is \$25 per person **or** \$100 per congregation/ministry with five or more person registered.

Watch your inbox on December 6 and get ready to be inspired as we build, learn, and grow together at LEAD!

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.

**January Newsletter**  
**articles are due**  
**December 21st**

**to Elizabeth Herrling at**  
**vermont\_church@tds.net**

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

E-mail address: Vermont\_Church@tds.net  
Website: vermontlutheran.org

**Visit Vermont's Website:**

**[www.vermontlutheran.org](http://www.vermontlutheran.org)**

**Password: CARES**

**Log on to see all Vermont**  
**news and pictures!**

