



Vermont Lutheran Church

Vermont Lutheran Church is a congregation that CARES;
Christians **Actively Reaching Out**, Experiencing Christ and **Spreading His Word**

Ask the Pastor Anything...

What are the key points about Martin Luther?

It all started with Johann Tetzel. Who was Johann Tetzel, you ask? He was an indulgence salesman. For a modest contribution, Tetzel could sell you an indulgence....in other words, time off from purgatory – and not just for you, but for your loved ones as well. He even had a catchy jingle – “As soon as a coin in the coffer springs, the soul from purgatory springs!” Tetzel was one slick salesman. He even offered indulges for sins not yet committed.

Enter Martin Luther. Luther smelled a rat, and where there’s one rat, there’s likely to be more. In all, Luther discovered 95 rats, which he tacked to the door at Wittenberg Cathedral. The Reformation was born, through which, as Luther’s great biographer Roland Bainton put it, Luther “revived the Christian consciousness of Europe.”

Luther was a faithful and fearless theological genius – the magnitude of which arises every millennium or so. His thought, however, is surprisingly accessible. Luther’s basal insight is that Christians are justified by grace through faith. Luther didn’t contrive this himself. He got it straight from the Apostle Paul. Roman Catholicism offered an alternative to this -- that Christians are justified through priestcraft -- that is, when the priest rings the bell and turns the host into the literal body and blood of Christ.

And if Christians are justified by grace through faith, a whole constellation of extrapolations can be drawn. For one, the priesthood can be dispensed with altogether. There is no need for it. It provides no function. There is, rather, a priesthood of all believers. If Christians are justified by grace through faith, this can only be the case. For another, primacy goes not to the papacy, but to Scripture, through which grace through faith is revealed. For yet another, it all boils down to the conscience of the individual believer.

What Luther accomplished, in the tiniest nutshell possible, was a massive paradigm shift away from Roman Catholicism and back to the Apostle Paul, where it belongs. Though the Apostle Paul wouldn’t take the credit. The credit goes to what he learned along the road to Damascus. A great legacy has been left us, and we are tasked to honor it.

With you in His Service, Pastor Rebecca

IN THIS ISSUE

Pastor’s Letter

Council News

Worship

Health Ministry

Mission


Outreach

Legacy Prairie

Community

Synod News

Contacts



PRESIDENT: Peter Antonie
VICE-PRESIDENT: Debbie Krebs
SECRETARY: Tracy Yaktus
TREASURER: Karsten Haugen
MEMBERS: Nancy Berkas, Jamie Hallick, Andrew Lonsdale, Frannie Parrell
YOUTH MEMBER: Luke Herrling

From the President's Desk ~ July 2025

In March, we began a series of discussions we called "Strategic Plan". The idea was to recognize the many good things happening at Vermont Church. With the growth in the congregation and exciting new initiatives, like the organ, we saw an opportunity to examine how we work together to keep the positive momentum going.

We asked the members of the Council and leaders from each of the committees and teams to get together for three meetings on May 1, 22, and 29. Ron Boehnen and Polly Kawalek facilitated the discussions, which covered:

1. Current state: what do we like most, what could we do better, what have we seen elsewhere that we might learn from?
2. Potential future state: what ideas do we have for the future, either smaller improvements to try immediately or bigger ideas to follow the major initiatives now underway?
3. Identify priorities and discuss how to engage the whole congregation.

We have summaries of all the observations and ideas, which will be a great resource for future consideration.

Three conclusions emerged from those discussions as priorities to address:

First, we love our worship service. There were some wonderful ideas for enhancements.

Second, we see some communication opportunities that will help everyone better understand the work the teams and committees are doing.

Third, clarification of our service team practices would be much appreciated, especially by our new members.

Our next step is now to share these ideas with you. We know you will have some great perspectives, and we look forward to developing potential new approaches together. We will begin by creating a questionnaire/survey that outlines the ideas and requests your feedback. You can expect that process to begin later this summer.

Peter Antonie

In the strategic planning sessions we identified the need for improved communication. To that end, Pastor Rebecca is now available for "One on One" meetings with anyone and everyone to discuss not only issues relating to the church, but also any other questions you might have - pertaining to the Bible, biblical interpretation, biblical theology, biblical concepts, the Bible's role in contemporary culture, etc.

And as always, if there is anything on your mind, email Pastor Rebecca to schedule a One on One (pastorrebecca@vermontlutheran.org).



Financial Report

Going forward, to ensure the Monthly Messenger is distributed in a timely manner, before the first of each month, the financial report will not reflect the current end of month. The current end-of-month financial report will be printed in the bulletin upon receipt.

Vermont Lutheran Church				
Monthly Financial Report				
Jun-25				
<u>Contributions</u>		Actual	Budget	Diff.
Monthly		16,807	16,350	457
YTD		133,681 ***	98,100 **	35,581
<u>Operating Expenses</u>		Actual	Budget	Diff.
Monthly		25,617	25,293	324
YTD		154,479	151,760	2,719
<u>Balance</u>				
Monthly		(8,810)	(8,943)	133
YTD		(20,798) ****	(53,660)	32,862
<u>Operating Cash</u>		Checking	Money Market*	TOTAL
Current Month	2025	24,117 **	159,149	183,266
Current Month	2024	34,113	170,180	204,293
Current Month	2023			157,997
* Value as of the end of quarter				
**Adjusted for 2024 Year-end Transfers made in March				
*** Adjusted to annualize Health Coordinator's salary contribution				
**** 2025 Budget assumes a shortfall of \$107,320 to be subtracted from our Operating Cash-General savings account (Does not include the Organ)				

July Service Teams

Thank you for assisting with worship. If you are unable to serve on your designated Sunday, please find a replacement and inform the office (vermontoffice@vermontlutheran.org).

	JULY 6	JULY 13	JULY 20	JULY 27
ASSISTING MINISTER	Joel Oines	Laura Winchip	Peter Antonie	Klover Schafer
GREETERS/ USHERS	Mary Aeschlimann Jason & Justine Myers Steve Holzhueter	Bob & Lavonne Clason Aaron & Rita Tigert	Patty & Greg Herrling Dale & Bonnie Paddock Steven Miller	Joyce Howery Ellie Boebel Sharon Lee
READER	Joel Oines	Aaron Tigert	Bonnie Paddock	Jane Hanson
COMMUNION PREP	Debbie Krebs	N/A	Debbie Krebs	N/A
HOSPITALITY	Jane Mickelson Julie Ziemet Ashley Rickey	Bob & Lavonne Clason Aaron & Rita Tigert	Patty Herrling Bonnie Paddock	Joyce Howery Ellie Boebel Sharon Lee
MUSICIAN	Bruce Case	Janet Dahl	Micah Oines	Ingerid Kvam
ALTAR	Janet Castle Tracy Yaktus	Janet Castle Tracy Yaktus	Janet Castle Tracy Yaktus	Janet Castle Tracy Yaktus



SPECIAL MUSIC VOLUNTEERS

Share your musical talents with the church community!
Contact Laura Winchip at 563-940-8468 or Tee Parrell at 608-767-2427.

HYMNALS

There is still time to purchase a hymnal in memory or honor of loved ones.
Hymnals are \$30 each.
Forms are in the narthex.

Worship (cont.)



Holden Evening Prayer Service
Sunday, July 13th, 9:30 am

Mark your calendars! There will be a special service of remembrance for Lalay Ohlrogge on Sunday, July 13th during our regular church service. The timing is opportune as Lalay's family from the Philippines will be in town. It will be nice to finally meet and acknowledge Lalay's family, and Paul said they are really looking forward to meeting the folks here at Vermont and will also join us for hospitality afterwards! As Paul has always said, they are wonderful people, and it will be great to roll out the Vermont red carpet of hospitality. Many will remember that Lalay taught Sunday School with Jill Dybdahl for over 10 years, and fittingly, Jill will say a few words before the start of the service. All seven of Lalay's siblings will be here plus some spouses and many nieces and nephews. Her siblings are Emma, Dioscoro, Dani, David, Deogenes, Evelyn, and Elizabeth. Please join us to pay tribute to a faithful member of the Vermont family!

What is the Holden Evening Prayer?

A vespers service that was written during the winter of 1985-1986 while composer Marty Haugen was the resident musician at Holden Village. It's known for its use of inclusive and contemporary language, while still following the traditional structure of vespers.

What is Holden Village?

Holden Village is a remote wilderness community, rooted in the Lutheran tradition, that welcomes all people into the North Cascade Mountains, above Lake Chelan, Washington. Since 1962, Holden Village has transformed from a copper mining town into a vibrant community of education, programming, and worship. Holden Village welcomes all people to form and renew their relationships with God, the earth, and each other.

Did you know that Joel Oines was the village pastor for three years and that Janet Dahl lived in the village for four months as a volunteer?

Learn more here ... 

Health Ministry

HANNAH'S HEALTH NOTES..."Your monthly dose of wellness, wisdom, and a whole lot of heart."

"Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul." 3 John 1:2

Hannah will be on maternity leave until November. In her absence, please contact Pastor Rebecca email: Rebecca.Clancy@vermontlutheran.org. Prayer Chain Requests can be left with the office at vermontoffice@vermontlutheran.org or 608-767-3312

Welcome Baby Clingman!



JUNE 29



09:02
AM



7 POUNDS
2 OUNCES



21"



DID YOU KNOW...

...over 10.5 % of Dane County households are living in poverty?
...Wisconsin FoodShare does not cover the purchase of paper products, soap, household supplies, grooming items, toothpaste, etc?
These items can add up to 25-35% of an average grocery bill

☀️ Let's Help Fill the Gap This July! ☀️

With kids home from school, many families are in greater need of personal care and paper products. This month, our Food Pantry Focus is on collecting these everyday essentials to support our neighbors with love and care.

🍷 What's Needed:

- Paper towels & toilet paper
- Feminine hygiene products
- Toothpaste & toothbrushes
- Hand soap, bar soap, & deodorant

📍 **Drop-off Location:** Table in the Narthex
📅 **Now through July 31**

💛 If it's easier, feel free to donate cash or a check
(made out to VLC with Food Pantry in the memo)
and we'll gladly shop for you!

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." — Matthew 25:40

🙏 Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ this summer!
Your generosity brings comfort and dignity to those who need it most.

🍅 Garden Overflow? We've Got a Spot for That! 🍓

Is your garden producing more than you can use? Don't let those delicious fruits and veggies go to waste—we'd love to help you share the bounty! Each Sunday morning, a Sharing Table will be set up in the Fellowship Hall for your extra produce. Whether it's a handful of cucumbers or a basket of tomatoes, you're invited to drop off your garden goodies for others in the congregation and for donation to Heights Unlimited Food Pantry.

Please note: *There will be no outdoor drop-off areas this year.*

Questions? Reach out to Ellie Boebel or Klover Schafer.
Let's celebrate the season with fresh, homegrown goodness—
and thank you to all the amazing gardeners who make this ministry possible! 🌱💚



Outreach

Newsletter Short-Notes from Outreach/New Member Meeting, 6/24/25

(For the full official minutes from the meeting, please see the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, or the church website under the "Members" tab.)

Present: Jill Dybdahl, chair, Pastor Rebecca Clancy (via Zoom), Jane Hanson, Polly Kawalek, Susan Olson, Ken Meigs. Not present: Bob Johnson and Bill Meddings.

Agenda Items

Minutes Approved from 5/20/25 meeting.

In Jill's absence (Jill will be on Internship at Grace Lutheran Church in Dodgeville from Aug 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026), Peter Antonie will meet with new members and sign new member papers. Maybe have a member of the Outreach team (New Member Coordinator tbd) sit in with Peter at such meetings to provide backup for Peter and assist with administrative onboarding. Verify all with Peter.

In Jill's absence, Ken Miegs will serve as chair and Polly Kawalek will serve as secretary.

A checklist for onboarding each new member was developed.

New Member Welcome Service and Orientation Event details and responsibilities were finalized. Reminder: all members and potential members are also welcome.

- Jill to follow up with Tracy to get Visibility engaged in spreading the word about orientation.
- See end of notes for Orientation A

Discussion about 'mentorship'. Opportunity to discuss what versions of longer term guidance and partnership might be offered to new members AND ask new members what they would welcome. Committee to discuss in future meeting.

New Member Dinner to be organized and scheduled in fall – Polly.

Photos for Church Directory – Susan.

New Member and existing members Biographies – Susan and Polly.

Report on streamlining new member onboarding – Jill and Polly.

- Council to be accountable for figuring out new approach to service team leadership.
- Would really like to create a New Member packet with a nice folder. Coordinate with Visibility Team.

Meeting Agenda listed additional ideas to keep in mind (not lose track of)

- Bob to meet with Janet in August to brainstorm further streamlining of onboarding process
- Other ideas for welcoming new members: young families group, bible study.
- Ken volunteered to visit members who haven't been attending church regularly to share his positive experience; is coordinating with Pastor Rebecca.

Next Meeting = July 22, 2025, 4:00 PM

Vermont Lutheran Church New Member Orientation

Sunday, July 20, 2025 ~ 10:45am in the Gathering Place

All members and potential members are welcome to attend.



10:45 am Introductions

11:00 am History of Martin Luther
By Pastor Rebecca Clancy

11:10 am What is the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America?
How is ELCA the same/different from other Lutheran denominations?
How is ELCA the same/different from other Christian denominations?
By Vicar Jill Dybdahl, Chair of Outreach Team

11:20 am History of Vermont Lutheran Church – Power Point Presentation
By Jon Urness and Vicar Jill Dybdahl

11:30 am Vermont Lutheran Church Leadership Structure including Service Teams
How can new members get plugged in?
By President Peter Antonie

11:40 pm Vermont Lutheran Church into the future
By Pastor Rebecca Clancy and President Peter Antonie

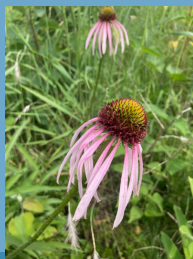
11:45 am Questions

11:50 am Adjourn



What's Blooming in the Prairie?

**Pale Purple
Cone Flower**



**Butterfly
Weed**



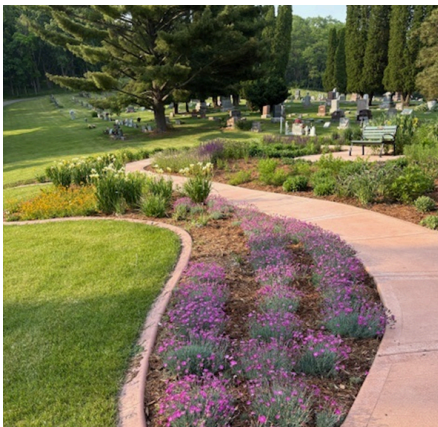
**Hoary
Vervain**



Rosenbaum Garden

Be sure to see what is blooming in the **Rosenbaum Garden**, too....
Take time to just be; to sit and savor the moment.

Yes, sitting in a garden and observing life can be quite beneficial for both mental and physical well-being. Here are several reasons why: Stress Reduction - Spending time in nature has been shown to lower stress levels. The calming environment of a garden can help reduce anxiety and promote relaxation. One member says that 5 am and 7 pm are magical times in the garden. Come and have a seat in the garden.



Month
At a Glance...

MISSION TEAM MTG
July 10, 7 pm

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER
Worship Service
July 13, 9:30 am

BOOK CLUB
July 15, 2:30 pm
Gathering Place

VISIBILITY TEAM MTG
July 17, 4 pm
Gathering Place

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY
July 20, 9:30 am

OUTREACH TEAM MTG
July 22, 4 pm

COUNCIL MEETING
July 27, 10:45 am
Gathering Place

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- July 2 Haylee Adler
Marcia Morley
- July 5 Dean Berkas
- July 6 Rodney Johnson
- July 9 Dale Paddock
Julie Uselman
- July 10 Riley Lynch
- July 11 Robert Clason
Hillary Olsen
- July 13 Leonard Schaub
- July 14 Carol Parrell
- July 15 Samuel King
- July 16 David Haugen
- July 17 Aldo Ziemer
- July 19 Collin Kennedy
Galen Kennedy
- July 21 Bonnie Dauck
- July 22 Carol Johnson
- July 24 Hailey Amble
- July 25 Jill Lynch
Shawn Page
- July 26 Sue Case
Beverly Schultz
Tracy Yaktus
- July 29 Carter Childs
- July 31 Kristin Oines
Randy Page



The South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (SCSW-ELCA) is one of 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and is made up of 133 congregations and worshiping communities across 13 counties in south-central Wisconsin. For 2024-25 we are united under the theme: **“Partner in Theology, Partners in Relationship, Partnership for the Sake of the Gospel.** Rooted in the scripture from Luke 24:13-35, the Walk to Emmaus, our theme calls us to journey together as we discern God’s call in a changing world. By partnering in theology, relationships, and the Gospel, we empower each other to navigate the complexities of modern ministry. As we walk this path, we do so with the understanding that our strength lies in our shared commitment to God’s mission. Through **partnership**, we are equipped to face challenges, celebrate successes, and faithfully serve as the body of Christ.

Caring for God’s Creation Team

Come wonder and wander for about 30 minutes and then come back together and share our experiences for about 15 minutes. Please feel free to join me! Wear appropriate clothing; bring bug repellent as it is likely we’ll have an abundant tick season; bring a water bottle. There is no need to RSVP; simply show up. If there is inclement weather, the hike will be cancelled, and a cancellation notice will be posted on social media. Feel free to contact Deacon Judy Nolde, at judynolde@sbcglobal.net.



MONTHLY MEDITATIVE HIKES

July 20, 3 pm

Festge County Park, Cross Plains

August 17, 3 pm

CamRock County Park, Cambridge

September 21, 3 pm

Indian Lake County Park, Cross Plains

October 19, 3 pm

Holy Wisdom Monastery, Middleton

I am in wonder of God's creation. A favorite hymn, **For the Beauty of the Earth**, depicts beautiful images of all that is provided us. It was written in 1864 by Folliot S. Pierpoint, and is found in our Lutheran hymnal. Each verse paints a picture of gratitude embodied in some aspect of God’s creation: the earth, the senses, human love, the church, and the gift of God as manifest in Christ.

Pierpoint’s words praise the Lord for all the wonderful things He has given us.

Verse 1: the beauty of the earth and glory of the skies remind us of God’s love.

Verse 2: the specific wonders of nature should direct our thoughts to the one who created them

Verse 3: the fact that our ability to enjoy the beauty of the earth and the wonder of each hour with our senses shows God’s wisdom in creation

Verse 4: the social joys and love of home, family and friendship

Verse 5: the church, which is God’s ordained agency to accomplish His purpose in this world

Verse 6: the best gift that God has given mankind is the gift of His Son

Whatever form we may use, singing this song brings to our minds the thoughts and emotions aroused by the poet’s pictures, and in so doing we praise God for the truly beauty of the earth. This joyous hymn is a great reminder of all the beauty that surrounds us and to not take this for granted!

Here is a link to John Rutter and The King's College Choir singing, **For the Beauty of the Earth**.

Janet Dahl

Contacts



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Peter Antonie

BOOKKEEPER

Elizabeth Herrling

CUSTODIAN

Bo Olson

CHURCH LINKS



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

[ELCA website](#)

Articles for August Newsletter
due to the office **JULY 25.**



Donate and Support our ministry

JULY CALENDAR of EVENTS

JULY 2025							AUGUST >
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	
29 Service, 9:30 am	30	1	2	3 Reservation	4	5 AA Meeting	
6 Service, 9:30 am	7 Quilting	8	9	10 Funeral Reservation Missions Team, 7:00 pm	11	12 Reservation AA Meeting	
13 Service, 9:30 am with the Holden Evening Prayer Service Lalay Ohlrogge Remembrance -	14	15 Book Club, 2:30 pm	16	17 Reservation Visibility Team Mtg, 4 pm	18	19 AA Meeting	
Worship July 13th							
20 Service, 9:30 am New Member Welcome Reservation	21 Quilting	22 Outreach Team Meeting, 4 pm	23	24 Reservation	25 Newsletter Article Deadline	26 Reservation AA Meeting	
27 Service, 9:30 am Rescheduled Council Meeting	28	29	30	31 Reservation	1	2 AA Meeting	