

Vermont Lutheran Church

MESSANGER

NOVEMBER 2025

Vermont Lutheran Church is a congregation that CARES:
Christians **A**ctively **R**eaching Out, **E**xperiencing Christ
and **S**preading His Word

FALL festival



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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, November 2025

Peter Antonie

Some of you remember Pastor John Shep who served our congregation 20 years ago. He said several times in reference to Vermont Church, "Here we stand at the top of the hill. But we don't stand still." Looking back at the last 6 weeks, or so, that certainly is true. There was lots going on and here are just a few highlights.

Congregation Surveys: Thank you to everyone who completed one or both surveys that were posted in September. The Worship team has already made changes to the worship service, including having announcements prior to the prelude, using music as a cue to end the passing of the peace, and including a responsive Psalm with the Lessons for the day because of the worship survey responses. Responses to the Communication survey have given us good directions on how to proceed with being more intentional and open with our members. For example, a suggestion box, monthly verbal updates from the council on what has been discussed and/or voted on, and more timely notice for events/activities.

Cushman Property: Members present at a special congregational meeting on Sunday, October 12th voted 53 to 4, with 2 abstentions, to purchase the property along Church Road using Legacy Funds. The Legacy Fund committee has hired Advanced Health and Safety LLC, of Madison, to inspect the existing home and property, on November 11th, especially for hazardous materials such as asbestos, lead paint, etc., which they can also remove. We will receive their report before the property closes on November 18th.

Fall Festival: This year's festival on October 18th was another huge success! It was a glorious fall day, with lots of good food, a quilt raffle, fun kid's games, trunk-or-treating, pumpkin painting and golf cart rides in the Prairie & Woodland. The tally is still being made of the proceeds raised from the sale of lefse and meatballs – all of which goes to our outreach mission.

Supply Pastors: We have been blessed to have several supply pastors lead meaningful and uplifting worship services for us, including our own Vicar Jill Dybdahl who led the Confirmation service on October 26th. Our goal is to have a new interim pastor in place by the start of 2026 so that we have the continuity and stability that a regular pastor brings while seeking a called pastor

(cont.)

Next Steps: Several regular and special meetings of the council were held where discussion took place, with interested congregation members, to better understand the circumstances that resulted in Pastor Rebecca’s resignation and next steps we can take to assure something like this does not happen again. A small group is working on a Biblical, faith-based code of conduct for our members to adhere to, the church book club is reading and will discuss The Art of Disagreeing: how to keep calm and stay friends in hard conversations, and another small group is working on the operational side of the church to make it more efficient, open and transparent so that a pastor can focus on the faith-life of the congregation.

We are a strong, resilient congregation whose members really do care for each other. I remain confident that, with God’s grace, we will move forward together and create an even better congregation.

Vermont Lutheran Church
Monthly Financial Report
September 30, 2025

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Diff</u>
<u>Contributions</u>			
Monthly	\$ 11,504.40	\$ 16,350.00	\$ (4,845.60)
YTD	\$ 164,561.83	\$ 147,150.00	\$ 17,411.83
<u>Operating Expenses</u>			
Monthly	\$ 19,018.98	\$ 25,293.00	\$ (6,274.02)
YTD	\$ 218,833.75	\$ 227,637.00	\$ (8,803.25)

November 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).

	NOVEMBER 2	NOVEMBER 9	NOVEMBER 16	NOVEMBER 23	NOVEMBER 30
ASSISTING MINISTER	Debbie Krebs	Klover Schafer	Laura Winchip	Joel Oines	Peter Antonie
GREETERS/ USHERS	Julie Endres Jon/Margaret Kann Jamie Hallick	Nancy/Dean Berkas Ellie Boebel	Scott/Maxine Patchin Debbie Krebs	Dan/Koa Orth	Mary Aeschlimann Jason/Justine Myers Bill Meddings
READER	Bill Meddings	Dean Berkas	Debbie Krebs	Klover Schaefer	Joel Oines
COMMUNION PREP	Julie Endres	N/A	Brenda Barsness	N/A	N/A
HOSPITALITY	Julie Endres Jon/Margaret Kann Jamie Hallick	Eric & Joanie Haugen	Scott/Maxine Patchin Brenda Barsness Debra Barsness	Frannie Parrell Julie Schultz	Jane Mickelson Julie Ziemet Ashley Rickey
MUSICIAN	Ingerid Kvam	Bruce Case	Micah Olnes	Janet Dahl	Ingerid Kvam
ALTAR	Mary Nelson Pat Ziemer	Mary Nelson Pat Ziemer	Mary Nelson Pat Ziemer	Mary Nelson Pat Ziemer	Mary Nelson Pat Ziemer
ALCOLYTE	Bridget Lonsdale	Aaron Oines	Sophia Kogue	Nora Collins	Bridget Lonsdale

Sunday School

The first rotation wrapped up in October, with students learning the story of Joseph—from being his father's favorite, to being sold into slavery, to ultimately saving the people from famine. We ended our Joseph series hearing how Joseph's father, Jacob, gave him a special, colorful coat to show his love. We talked about how Joseph's story reminds us that God has a special plan for each of us — even when things don't go the way we expect.

To go along with the story's theme of color and wonder, we did a few fun science experiments that helped us see the beauty in God's creation!

- We made "color-mixing rainbows" using water, food coloring, and paper towels — watching how colors travel and blend together.
- We also did a fun pepper and water science experiment that relied on the properties of surface tension. When we added a dollop of dish soap to the mixture the pepper scattered, showing how God's love can change everything. When we added sugar, it brought the pepper flakes back together. Just like Joseph's story, we learned that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

These hands-on experiments helped the children explore the idea that, just like Joseph's coat, God's world is full of amazing colors, patterns, and surprises.

We hope you enjoyed the children's wonderful performance of *In His Dreams* by David Heath-Whyte.



Coming in NOVEMBER...

Krystal and the kids will dive into the story of Noah. Lessons will take place both indoors and outdoors, taking advantage of our beautiful surroundings as they explore the science of boat building and the importance of collecting seeds.

There's so much to discover in the story of Noah!

FALL CALENDAR 2025

Oct. 26 - Nov 16 (4 weeks) Noah
Nov 23 - Kids Sing in Worship

SAVE THE DATE:

December 13, Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
December 14, Christmas Pageant
Dec 21 - Christmas Party

All children and grandchildren are encouraged to take part—we can't wait to celebrate the season together!

God's Work. Our Hands.

On God's Work. Our Hands Sunday, our congregation came together for a day of service and fellowship, putting faith into action through a variety of projects. Volunteers planted flower bulbs to bring new life and color in the spring. Others gathered indoors to write cheerful birthday cards for our young adult members, letting them know their church family is thinking of them. Meanwhile, our talented quilters worked steadily on their latest creations, crafting warmth and comfort for those in need. Just down the road, a hard-working crew cut and split firewood to help a Vermont church family stay warm this winter.

It was a beautiful day of shared purpose—many hands serving in different ways, all doing God's work with grateful hearts. God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is a once-a-year event that highlights how we live out our faith through service. But here at Vermont, we carry that spirit throughout the year with our CARES Team, continuing to serve our community with compassion and love long after this special day has passed.

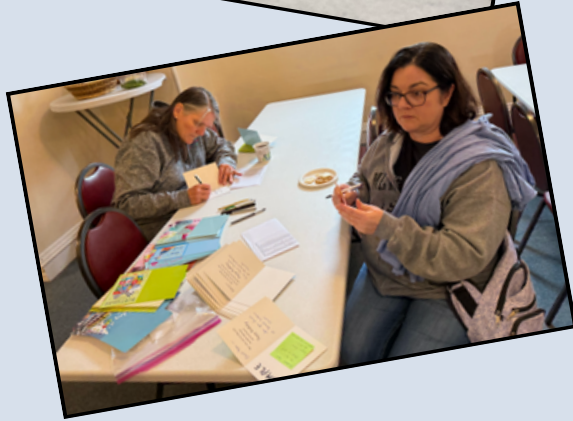
The CARES Team partners with local senior centers to identify community members in need. Through these referrals, volunteers provide practical assistance such as yard cleanups and home repairs, helping seniors and neighbors maintain safe, comfortable homes. Each visit is more than just service—it's an opportunity to share care, conversation, and encouragement, reminding our community members that they are seen, valued, and supported. If you would like to learn more about our CARES Team, please reach out to Ellie Boebel at 608-334-5062 or via email at ellieboebel@tds.net.



Missions



**God's Work.
Our Hands.
Continues...**



Tom Eggert of WorldWise MicroFinance Visits Vermont.

In addition to the two food pantry collections this fall, and God's Work Our Hands, Tom Eggert, Director of WorldWise MicroFinance joined us for worship on October 19. Tom and Paul Ohlrogge told about the organization's unique approach of making small loans to individuals and small businesses in impoverished areas in various countries. Tom also thanked the Confirmation Class who raised funds to help support WorldWise Microfinance as they learned more about it's mission and how as Christians, we are called to help our neighbors both locally and globally. Two of the Confirmation class, Donald and Nora welcomed Tom and encouraged the congregation to continue our support of the program. During the fellowship period, people had a chance to talk with Tom and ask him questions.

WorldWise Microfinance mission is to empower women and their families to break the cycle of poverty through accessible, affordable, locally-based microloans.

They envision a more equitable world where women are financially empowered, families are economically stable, and extreme poverty ceases to exist.

NOVEMBER

In November, the Hospitality collection goes to the Homeless Vets fund.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

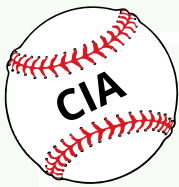
Our canned meal collection has been delivered to the local food pantries—just in time for the cooler weather! Thank you to everyone who contributed. The pantries are deeply grateful for your generosity and support.



As Halloween gives way to Thanksgiving, baking season is upon us! For many families facing financial hardship, the ingredients for holiday cookies and treats can be out of reach. To help, we're collecting baking essentials—flour, sugar (white, brown, powdered), and vegetable oil—for our neighbors served by the Christians In Action and Heights Unlimited food pantries. Small containers of vanilla, nutmeg, cinnamon or cocoa would be greatly appreciated.

You can drop off your donations on the table in the narthex, or contribute funds by giving money to Ellie or Joanie, or by placing it in the basket—we'll do the shopping for you! Checks may be made payable to Vermont Lutheran Church. We will deliver to the food pantries just before Thanksgiving.

Thank you for helping spread holiday warmth and joy throughout our community!



CHRISTIANS IN ACTION TEAM

Batter Up! The Brewers may be finished for the season but Vermont is not!

On **November 8** our team plays at the **CIA Food Pantry** in Mazomanie at the downtown Community Building.

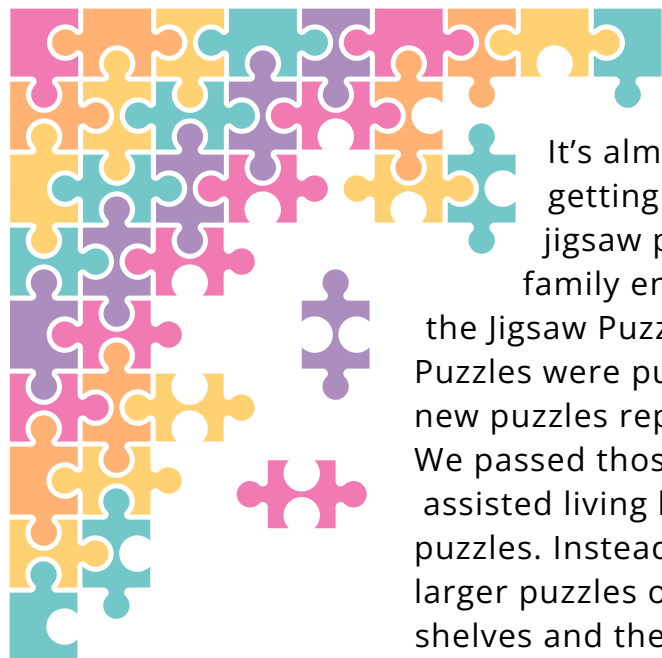
Who is on our team? Everyone who volunteers to “play” that day!

The top half of the inning begins at 9:15 AM and includes lifting, carrying and arranging the items that will be offered to our customers! This takes about 45 minutes.

The bottom half of the inning begins at 11:30 AM when volunteers return and remove all the items from the floor, again carrying, lifting and clearing the room! This takes about half an hour.

So all are welcome to join the Vermont Team that day for an inning of volunteer activity. You may let Larry Ziemer know if you can help or just show up that day! Thank You!

Missions



JIGSAW PUZZLE LIBRARY

It's almost time....Frost is on the ground, the days are getting colder and shorter. All signs of the need to get the jigsaw puzzles out of the boxes and onto the tables for some family entertainment. In case you didn't notice, the Friends of the Jigsaw Puzzle Library did a thorough makeover of the library. Puzzles were pulled from the shelves, the shelves were dusted and new puzzles replaced those that were no longer being checked out. We passed those on to libraries, schools, and senior housing and/or assisted living homes. We also changed the arrangement of the puzzles. Instead of being organized by subject, they are arranged by larger puzzles on the top shelves, medium size puzzles on the middle shelves and the large piece smaller puzzles on the lower shelves. Come Check them out.

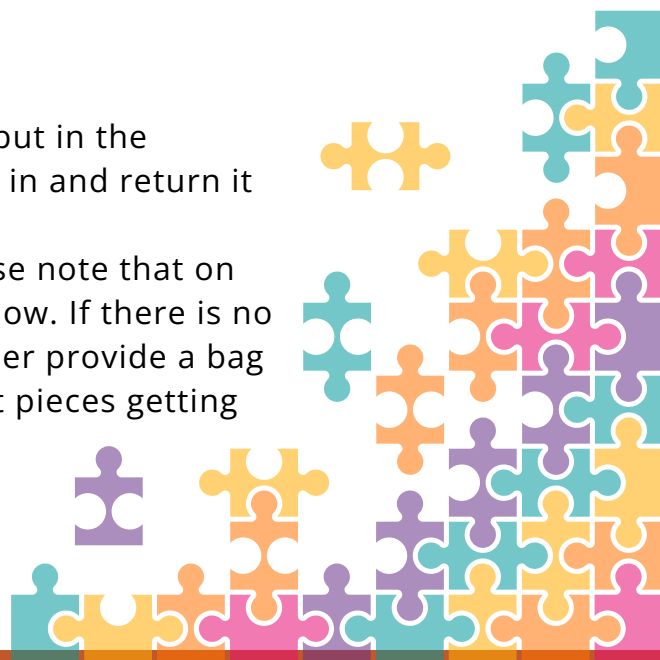
How to Use the Jigsaw Puzzle Library: Some people have asked if they can take a puzzle and how do they do it. Let's Review:

TO CHECK OUT

1. Choose a Puzzle you are interested in working on. You do not need to be a member of Vermont Lutheran but we do ask that you return it when you are done,
2. Locate the Blue Box with a clipboard inside.
3. Sign your name on the clipboard list, the number of the puzzle (Important for us to know) and the date you checked it out. That's It!

TO RETURN

1. Do not put the puzzle directly back on the shelf, but in the container next to the Library. We will sign it back in and return it to the shelves for you.
2. Please Note: If a piece or more are missing, please note that on the outside of the box, so the next person will know. If there is no bag to hold the pieces inside the box, please either provide a bag or carefully tape the box on all 4 sides to prevent pieces getting lost. Thank you.



Member Spotlight

Joel Schultz Vermont Cemetery Legend

One of the pure pleasures of being part of the Vermont Cemetery Association over the years has been the comments and compliments received from members, non-members and visitors to arguably one of the most scenic and well-kept cemeteries in the area. Sure, there's a six-member management board overseeing the big picture aspects of the cemetery, but on a day-to-day and week-to-week basis, one guy makes sure the maintenance details are covered and covered well.

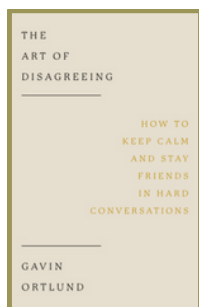
And of course, that's Joel Schultz! Joel has been doing the mowing and much more for Vermont for more than twenty years. He kind of flies under the radar as you're far more likely to catch him sitting on his high-powered Grasshopper lawn mower on a Friday morning than sitting in a pew on Sunday morning. That doesn't mean that he hasn't been an important part of Vermont congregation for many years though. His folks were Lyle and Donna (Barsness) Schultz and his siblings are Jim, Joey, Jonathan and Julie. You'll recognize Joel's mowing business by the big, black trailer with the "Prairie View Feeds" or Norskie Woodworks" logo. Somewhat retired from those businesses Joel still helps out with firewood deliveries and provides the 1000's of cubic feet of bedding shavings for the annual World Dairy Expo in Madison. He's a real Entrepreneur!

Reliable is a word that comes to mind when dealing with Joel Schultz. Even with all the rain we got earlier this summer, Joel finds time to do the extras and really makes the cemetery and church property look great. He mows around the historical marker where the old 1863-1913 church stood and keeps the intersection of Vermont Church Rd and State Hwy 78 looking spiffy. Plus, he's constantly cleaning up branches from the big pine tree on the cemetery. And the list goes on and on.

From the Vermont Cemetery Association, we want to say thank you to Joel and hope that others do the same when they get a chance.



Happenings Around Vermont



What if there were a way to disagree well - to love one another and learn from one another even when we don't see eye to eye? Consider participating in the Vermont **BOOK CLUB** where we will be discussing Gavin Ortland's book, **The Art of Disagreeing: How to Keep Calm and Stay Friends in Hard Conversations**. This book shows how the gospel message can transform the way you discuss and disagree with courage and kindness, avoiding divisive arguments.

All are welcome. Join us in Fellowship Hall, Monday, November 3, at 2 pm. Please contact Kristin Oines (contact info in the member directory) if you would like to attend.

VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE. Sunday, **November 9, 2025**, we will observe and recognize our veterans with a special observance at Vermont Lutheran Church. This observance will include veterans of both family and extended family members who served in our Armed Forces. We will need your assistance in identifying and inviting veterans to participate and we don't want to overlook any of our veterans, so please contact Bud Erickson (608-873-5305) or Bill Meddings (608-630-1066) with names and mailing addresses. The Church and its membership has a long tradition of honoring veterans, as evidenced by our Veterans Memorial and the large number of veteran members past and present.

69TH ANNUAL DEER HUNTERS POTLUCK. Saturday night, **November 15**, we will have the 69th Annual Deer Hunters Potluck in the Fellowship Hall. Doors will open at 5:30 pm and the program will start promptly at 6:00 pm. There will be door prizes for the first 100 in attendance, a gun raffle and lots of "silent auction" items of high quality. We will also have the ability to process credit charges for your convenience. There is no cost of admission, we simply ask that you bring a favorite dish to pass (hot dish, salad, or dessert item). This is a fun time for a good cause with all proceeds going to support our youth events.

PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Laura Winchip will continue to receive prayer requests.
Please text or call prayer requests to (563) 940-8468.

Happenings Around Vermont



On October 5th, we celebrated with Cooper Beckwith, the sacrament of **Holy Baptism**. We welcome Cooper into the family of God and the community of Vermont Lutheran. We are reminded that our journey of life and faith as people of God begins in Baptism.



Confirmation was celebrated October 26th, with Vicar Jill, one of the confirmand's teachers, presiding over the worship. Andrew, Raegen, Arianna and Molly made public profession of their faith and lay claim to their baptismal promises. What a blessing to welcome these young people into the life of faith!



We celebrated Reformation Sunday, the day that celebrates the historical event of Martin Luther posting his "95 Theses" on the door of Wittenberg's Castle Church. On **October 31, 1517** — this courageous stance by one man sparked a century of conflict, changing Europe and Christianity forever.

In Rick Steves' video, **Luther and the Reformation**, you'll learn the story of a humble monk who lived a dramatic life. He visits key sites relating to the Reformation (including Erfurt, Wittenberg, and Rome) and explores the complicated political world of 16th-century Europe — from indulgences to iconoclasts, and from the printing press to the Counter-Reformation. It's a story of power, rebellion, and faith that you'll never forget.

Advent Begins November 30

Advent is a special season of watching, waiting, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. The word Advent means "to come," reminding us that God comes to us—in the birth of Jesus and in the promise of Christ's return. The color for this season is blue, symbolizing hope and expectation. This year's readings center on the Gospel of Matthew, along with stories from Genesis, Moses, and the early church. May this Advent season draw us closer to God's promise of light and hope.



Legacy Prairie & Woodland

Legacy Committee Meeting Summary — September 18, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Gathering Place.

Cushman Property: The State/Cushman's accepted our offer for purchase. A congregational vote to finalize the purchase is scheduled for October 12.

Discussion then turned to ongoing and future projects:

- Donation Box: Options are being explored for a "Legacy Prairie Donations" box—either purchasing one or having one built locally.
- Friends of the Prairie: The idea of forming a support group was discussed but no action taken at this time.
- Trail Updates: Trail conditions are good following reseeding and limestone work. Improvements to Trail 14 are planned for 2026.
- Trail Maps & Signs: Feedback indicates some confusion with trail directions. The committee will research durable, burn-resistant signage and possible trail naming before implementing updates.
- Invasive Species Project: Most work has been completed ahead of schedule. Follow-up will occur with EC3 and NRCS regarding reimbursement.
- Bridge Project: Plans for a bridge over the creek continue to be explored. Estimated cost is \$57,000, with grant funding pursued. Due to survey and permitting requirements, this project likely won't occur until 2027. Coordination with the county's creek remediation plan may help reduce costs.
- Logging: Selective logging of fallen or damaged Poplar trees will take place this fall/winter for safety and forest regeneration (\$5,000 cost).

The committee will develop a 2026 budget to support these initiatives.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 23, focusing on the 2026 budget.

Community

Month at a Glance...

QUILTING

1st & 3rd Monday's, 8:30 am

CHOIR

Wednesday's, 6:30 pm

YOGA

Thursday's, 10:00 am

CONFIRMATION CLASS

October 2, 10:45 am

CIA FOOD PANTRY

November 8, 9 AM

BOOK CLUB

November 10, 2 pm

VISIBILITY TEAM MEETING

November 11, 4 pm

IN-REACH TEAM MEETING

November 13, 12 pm

MISSIONS TEAM MEETING

November 13, 7 pm

DEER HUNTER'S POTLUCK

November 15, 5:30 pm

CONFIRMATION CLASS

November 16, 10:45 am

CPR CLASS

November 16, 11:00 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL SINGS

November 23, 9:30 am

COUNCIL MEETING

November 23, 10:45 am

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 30, 9:30 am

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF

EMERGENCY ALERT:
You can help neighbors
affected by Hurricane Melissa

[Donate Here](#)

Contacts



OFFICE

Janet Dahl, Office Coordinator
Tuesdays and Thursdays 8 am - 1:00 pm
PH: 608-767-3312
vermontoffice@vermontlutheran.org

FAITH COMMUNITY LPN

Hannah Clingman
PH 608-400-7038
health@vermontlutheran.org

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Peter Antonie

BOOKKEEPER

Joanie Haugen

CUSTODIAN

Bo Olson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

If you would like an announcement included in Sunday's bulletin or the weekly e-mail (News From the Pews), please e-mail it to the church office by 8:00 am on Wednesday. Announcements should be brief (a couple sentences) and will run for two weeks, unless space allows for longer.

Longer articles should be submitted to the church office by the **25th of each month** for publication in the Newsletter.

Late submissions will be included in the next issue.

The church office will be closed on Thursday, November 27, for Thanksgiving. Please have **December newsletter articles** submitted by **Saturday, November 22.**

CHURCH LINKS



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

[ELCA website](#)

Donate and Support our ministry



NOVEMBER CALENDAR of EVENTS

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
26 9:30 am, Worship Service Service - Confirmation of Students	27 AA Meeting	28	29 6:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal	30 6:30 pm, Operations Meeting 10:00 am, Yoga Reservation	31	1 AA Meeting
2 9:30 am, Worship Service 10:45 am Confirmation Class	3 Quilting AA Meeting	4	5 6:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal	6 10:00 am, Yoga Reservation	7	8 CIA Food Pantry AA Meeting
9 9:30 am, Worship Service	10 2 pm, Book Club AA Meeting	11 Visibility Meeting - 4 PM	12 6:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal	13 10:00 am, Yoga 12 pm, IN-Reach Team Meeting Reservation 7 pm, Missions Team Mtg	14	15 Deer Hunter's Potluck AA Meeting
16 9:30 am, Worship Service 10:45 am Confirmation Class 10:45 am, CPR Class	17 Quilting AA Meeting	18	19 6:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal	20 10:00 am, Yoga Reservation	21	22 AA Meeting
23 9:30 am, Worship Service 10:45 am, Council Meeting	24 AA Meeting	25 Newsletter Article Deadline	26 6:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal	27 10:00 am, Yoga Reservation	28	29 AA Meeting
30 9:30 am, Worship Service	1 Quilting AA Meeting	2	3 6:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal	4 10:00 am, Yoga Reservation	5	6 AA Meeting

You can find the calendar on the website 'Events Calendar'. If you need contact information for Vermont's members, please remember you can always go the 'Members' Tab on the church's website. Here you will find church contacts as well as member contacts. We are working on updating this section. Don't forget to update your member contact information. Your patience is appreciated.

