

New Life Together In Christ

April arrives as a season of renewal, where the promise of resurrection meets us in both Scripture and daily life. In this holy time, we journey from the solemnity of Holy Week into the joy of Easter morning, proclaiming that death does not have the final word. As believers in Christ, united in faith, we are rooted in grace—trusting that God’s love is freely given and constantly at work, bringing new life out of what once seemed lost or broken.

Together, as one body in Christ, we gather in worship, prayer, and shared purpose, strengthening the bonds that unite us in faith and love. Just as the earth begins to awaken around us, so too are we invited to open our hearts again to hope, transformation, and the living presence of Christ among us.

This month also calls us to live out that resurrection of hope in tangible ways. Whether through acts of service, care for creation, or simply showing up for one another, we embody the good news we celebrate—not as individuals alone, but as a community walking side by side. In unity, we reflect Christ’s love more fully, supporting and encouraging one another as we serve the world God so deeply loves. This time is not only about what God has done, but what God continues to do through us as the body of Christ in the world. May this season inspire us to deepen our faith, strengthen our shared life together, and step forward with courage and compassion—bearing witness to the new life that is ours in Christ.

You are warmly invited to join us for Holy Week services and to take part in the life of our church community, as together we journey in faith, hope, and love.

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PRESIDENT: Peter Antonie
VICE-PRESIDENT: Debbie Krebs
SECRETARY: Frannie Parrell
TREASURER: Karsten Haugen
MEMBERS: Peter Jones, Ingerid Kvam, Andrew Lonsdale
YOUTH MEMBER: Luke Herrling

From The President's Desk, March 2026 **Peter Antonie**

The month of March flew by and during it a lot of activity took place. What I'd like to report this month is a summary of some of that activity. In our effort to ensure that our congregation is fully informed, some of this information has already been reported. However, by reporting it again here it is my hope that the information becomes even clearer.

Two Things: At our annual meeting in January, I asked everyone in attendance to think of two things they hope will happen that will lead to us being a better congregation with a bright future before our annual meeting in 2027. I told the group that my two "hopes" are #1 that we are no longer a divided congregation, and #2 that we have called a pastor who is excited to lead us on our faith journey. I will work hard to make those two things happen and ask that all our members think of two things and then work hard to make those two things happen. By doing so, many good things will happen by next year!

Since mid-February the council has been working on solutions to hope #1. We determined that a key solution to remove the division in the congregation is open, honest and transparent communication. You have the right to expect that you'll be well informed, feel a part of the decision-making process, and have ample opportunity to voice your opinion before major decisions are made. No more "sweeping things under the rug." No more decisions in a vacuum.

Finances: For 2026, Karsten Haugen presented a spending plan with 4 options to consider that differed on how much experience a pastor has and whether called to a parttime or fulltime ministry. The vote was to adopt the option of a fulltime pastor called for the last 8 months of 2026 with the proviso that the council will provide a report to the congregation, no later than the end of May, on how the necessary income will be raised so that there is no deficit by year-end. To that end, Karsten formed a small ad hoc committee to create a plan for the council to bring to the congregation addressing the deficit. During our March council meeting, Karsten reported that because we will likely not have a called pastor until at least mid-2026 the projected budget deficit for 2026 will be minimized. However, the committee is focusing on 2027 and what steps, such as a strategic stewardship program, will be necessary to close any projected deficits going forward.

Call Committee: In mid-March a broadcast email was sent to all members regarding a candidate who was interviewed and the outcome. However, I've heard that for some you that email may have landed in your junk mail and not been read. Therefore, to ensure everyone knows the outcome, here is a copy of that email.

"Last month, our call committee received the profile of a candidate to interview for a possible call to be our new pastor. The committee met to review the profile and develop questions to ask the candidate. In preparation for the interview, we emailed our questions to the candidate, and they emailed us their questions. This gave us all a chance to think about what was really important to discuss.

(cont. next page)

Council President, cont.

We met with the candidate, in the Gathering Place, on March 5th. It was an open, honest, and illuminating 2-hour discussion. For the call committee and the candidate, the interview is just a first step in discerning if there is a good “fit.”

A few days later, we received an email from the candidate that read, in part, “I have determined to move forward in the call process with another congregation. My sense is that as you navigate this important point of transition my own gifts and limitations are probably not optimal for you.”

Just as this candidate determined that Vermont Church wasn’t the fit for their gifts and limitations, we want to assure you that we are being just as vigilant to assure that whoever is brought before you to vote on as our new called pastor is the right fit.

We remain optimistic for the future of Vermont. Perhaps the perfect person is just around the corner. In the meantime, please continue to pray for our church and each other.

Paul Dybdahl, Call Committee Chairperson
Peter Antonie, Congregation President

VLC GIVING. We are grateful for the many ways people support the ministry of our church. Giving is one expression of faith and care, and every gift—of time, talent, or financial resources—helps sustain our shared mission. Whether you give in person during worship, through the mail, or online, each offering is received with deep appreciation and thanksgiving for the work of the Gospel among us.



Scan or click
for link to giving

Monthly Financial Report February 28, 2026

	Actual	Budget	Diff
Contributions			
Monthly	\$ 15,504	\$ 19,167	\$ (3,662)
YTD	\$ 28,726	\$ 38,333	\$ (9,607)
Operating Expenses			
Monthly	\$ 12,355	\$ 24,117	\$ (11,762)
YTD	\$ 28,132	\$ 48,233	\$ (20,102)
Balance			
Monthly	\$ 3,149	\$ 4,950	\$ 1,801
YTD	\$ 594	\$ 9,900	\$ 9,306



Frannie Parrell

If you've been part of Vermont Lutheran Church for a while, chances are you already know Frannie Parrell. A lifelong member of the congregation, Frannie currently serves as Secretary on the Church Council and brings a deep connection to the church and a heart for service.

Frannie was baptized at Vermont Lutheran in 1985, continuing a family tradition of faith that includes her grandparents, Donna and Lyle Schultz, and her mother, Julie Schultz. In 2010, she and her husband Michael were married at Vermont, and later brought their own children to the same baptismal font. Their daughter Molly, born in 2011, was recently confirmed, and their son Brandtly, born in 2015, was also baptized here—continuing the family's faith journey within the congregation.

Frannie has spent much of her life working with children, beginning at just 12 years old. She has served as the director of two childcare centers and now teaches 4K at Wisconsin Heights Elementary School.

Family life keeps Frannie busy cheering on her kids at activities like gymnastics, dance, Girl Scouts, theater, archery, and sports. When they're not on the go, the family enjoys camping and traveling together. Frannie and Michael hope to visit all 50 states and have already checked 21 off the list. In quieter moments, she enjoys reading, scrapbooking, watercolor painting, and spending time with family.

Frannie says Vermont Lutheran simply feels like home. She appreciates the traditional worship service and the relationships she has built with members she has known her whole life, as well as newer members who have joined the congregation.

In addition to serving on Church Council, Frannie is active on the Visibility Team and chairs the TAG Team. She joined council after being asked by Pastor Rebecca and, after prayer and reflection, felt called to serve.

Her favorite hymns include "Silent Night" and "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." And one fun fact—Frannie's home is lively with three dogs: Harvey the Labradoodle, Sadie the Beagle, and Lady the Yorkie.

We are grateful for Frannie's lifelong connection to Vermont Lutheran Church and for her willingness to serve with faith and dedication. Frannie remains hopeful about the future of Vermont Lutheran and trusts that God is guiding the congregation forward. A verse that encourages her is Joshua 1:9.

BE *Strong*
AND
Courageous

Do not be afraid or discouraged,
for the Lord your God will be
with you wherever you go.

April 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). A reminder you can access the church directory online for member contact information.

<https://vermontlutheran.org/connect/for-our-members/>

	April 2 Maundy Thursday	APRIL 5 Easter	APRIL 12	APRIL 19	APRIL 26
ASSISTING MINISTER	Laura Winchip	Debbie Krebs	Laura Winchip	Klover Schafer	Klover Schafer
GREETERS/ USHERS		Bob & LaVonne Clason Aaron & Rita Tigert	Bo & Susan Olson Hefty Family Julie Uselman	Nora Collins Stu Dybdahl Paul Dybdahl	Robin & Pete Jones Wade Winchip Jane Hanson
READER	Assisting Ministers	Aaron Tigert	Joel Oines	Mark Blaha	Laura Winchip
COMMUNION PREP	Laura & Wade Winchip	LaVonne Clason	N/A	Julie Schmitt	N/A
HOSPITALITY	N/A	N/A	Julie Uselman Erika Forseth	Kvam & Fjeld Families	Wade & Laura Winchip Robin & Pete Jones
MUSICIAN	Ingerid Kvam	Ingerid Kvam	Bruce Case	Ingerid Kvam	Micah Oines
ALTAR	Denise Boehnen Sarah Herrling	Denise Boehnen Sarah Herrling	Denise Boehnen Sarah Herrling	Denise Boehnen Sarah Herrling	Denise Boehnen Sarah Herrling
ALCOLYTE		Nora Collins	Aaron Oines	Bridget Lonsdale	Aaron Oines



Holy Week

Holy Week is the time we remember Jesus' last week on earth, beginning with Jesus' entry to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and ending with Jesus' resurrection on Easter. This is the heart of Lent, the time of Jesus' movement to the cross where he showed his love is stronger than death. And finally after 40 days we rejoice in the glorious new dawn of Easter. Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Palm Sunday, March 29, 9:30 am

On Palm Sunday we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, the city where five days later he was crucified. People lined the way, waving palm branches and shouting, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7:00 pm

On Maundy Thursday we remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples. At this meal Jesus washed the feet of his dearest friends to show them that the life of his followers was one of humble service. Then he shared bread and wine, telling them this was his body and blood, given for forgiveness of sins.

Good Friday, April 3

On Good Friday we remember the day that Jesus was arrested, condemned to death, and died on the cross. We gather at the foot of the cross to wonder at the depth of Jesus' love!

Easter Day, April 5, 9:30 am

On Easter Day we celebrate the risen Jesus! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! On every Sunday we remember Christ's resurrection, but once a year we have a blowout celebration of this central mystery of the faith. The congregation comes together to celebrate all the glory of Easter with flowers and music. Come celebrate with us.

Easter Sunday

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!



Ministry Team Profile: Care For Creation Team

*We're excited to introduce a new feature in our newsletter—each month, we'll shine a spotlight on one of the ministry teams or committees that help bring our church's mission to life. It's a chance to learn more about the people, passion, and purpose behind the work happening all around us. This April, we begin with a team devoted to caring for God's good creation—the **Care for Creation Team**.*

"Caring for God's creation is not just an idea—it's a way of living our faith every day."

The Care for Creation Team leads our congregation in living out faithful stewardship—caring for the Earth as part of our call to love God and neighbor.

Rooted in a Larger Mission

This work is connected to the broader ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and our synod's Care for Creation efforts, including events like Church in the Wild, which bring communities together in worship and appreciation of the natural world.

Living Out the Mission

The Care for Creation Team focuses on:

- Education and awareness of environmental issues
- Sustainable practices in church and daily life
- Hands-on action and advocacy
- Engaging the congregation and community
- Connecting faith with care for creation

Highlights from the Past Year

- Collected aluminum pull-tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities
- Promoted reusable alternatives like wool dryer balls
- Hosted a synod-wide Church in the Wild event
- Encouraged reduced plastic use at church gatherings
- Shared educational resources and interactive displays
- Led Adopt-a-Highway clean-up efforts
- Partnered with other ministries across the congregation

Meet the Team

Peter Antonie (Chair), Kris Antonie (Secretary), Beth Gold, Susan Olson, Hannah Lieber, Joel Oines, Robin Jones, and Peter Jones.

Get Involved

Everyone can take part in caring for creation. As we begin the Fast from Plastic, consider how you might make small changes that reflect our shared commitment to God's world.

To learn more or get involved, connect with the Care for Creation Team.



Earth Day: Did you know that the genesis of Earth Day, first held 56 years ago, is the result of an idea our own former Senator and Governor Gaylord Nelson had to bring attention to protecting our environment? To celebrate Earth Day, which is on Wednesday, April 22nd, the Care for Creation team will have a display in the fellowship hall depicting various initiatives and projects our congregation has undertaken to be good stewards of God's creation as well as good stewardship practices we can do individually at home.



Teams

TAG TEAM UPDATE

The TAG Team recently hosted its first informational technology session for team and committee chairs, along with members of those groups. The focus was on creating agendas, taking meeting minutes, and sharing those materials with the office coordinator and social media coordinator for distribution to the congregation.

The session went well, and the team took time afterward to reflect and make adjustments to ensure future meetings run even more smoothly. Ellie also met individually with several chairs to provide additional support and help everyone feel comfortable with the process. The TAG Team will hold its regularly scheduled meeting on March 23 to continue discussions around communication, as requested by the council. A final technology session will be offered on March 26 at 6:30 pm for any chairs or committee members who would like to attend or learn more.

If you are interested in additional information or support, please reach out to Ellie Boebel, Janet Dahl, or Frannie Parrell to set up a time to connect.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MOMENTS: Trusting Through the Storm

Our Sunday School time has been filled with meaningful learning, creativity, and plenty of fun over the past several weeks. In February and early March, the children focused on an important truth: God is their friend—someone they can talk to and trust, especially when life feels uncertain or a little scary.

One of our most memorable lessons came from the story of Jesus calming the storm (Mark 4:35–41). To bring the story to life, the children created small boats and set them on our “sea” made from a blue sheet. As the “storm” rolled in, they worked together to keep their boats steady. Just as in the story, when Jesus told his followers to trust and be calm, the storm passed. It was a powerful, hands-on way to experience how trusting God can bring peace in the middle of life’s storms.

We also made a special craft to help reinforce this message. Each child decorated both sides of a plate—one side showing a storm, the other calm and peaceful. This simple activity became a meaningful reminder of how situations can change when we trust in God’s presence. The children shared thoughtful reflections about staying calm and relying on God’s care, making it a joyful and faith-filled time for everyone.



As we move into the coming weeks, our lessons will focus on holding God in our hearts. We are reminded in Scripture, “We can love because He first loved us.” God’s love for us is constant, and we are called to share that love with others in our daily lives.

This session will also include special and exciting lessons for Palm Sunday and Easter—celebrations you won’t want to miss!

With warmer weather arriving, we’re looking forward to spending a bit of time outdoors. The bulbs we planted last fall are beginning to pop up, and we hope to take a walk up the hill soon to see how they fared over the winter—or if they became a snack for a hungry squirrel!

Finally, the children will begin learning the camp song “Down In My Heart” this month. Be sure to mark your calendars—they will be sharing it during worship on **April 19**. We look forward to celebrating their joy and enthusiasm together!

Legacy Prairie & Woodlands



This month's Legacy Prairie & Woodland update will cover the tree removal project that was completed in the northwest portion of the woodland and give you a heads up about the first prairie burn that will take place this month. The complete April Legacy & Woodland Update is available on the website or you may [click here for the link](#).

Happenings Around Vermont

CHURCH LIBRARY REFRESH

Our church library is getting a fresh new look! As part of the reorganization, we have set aside books that are no longer needed or are outdated. These books are available for free on tables in the Fellowship Hall—please feel free to browse and take any that interest you.

Some of the books are memorial gifts from specific families and have been arranged together on the tables. We kindly ask that these be taken only by members of those families.

As you explore, please leave the books on the library shelves in place while the reorganization is underway. If you would like to support future library needs, free-will donations are always appreciated.

Thank you for helping us refresh and care for this shared space!



APRIL BOOK CLUB

Our April Book Club will gather on **Friday, April 10**, from 2:00–3:30 PM in the Gathering Place. We'll be reading *Jesus Through the Eyes of Women: How the First Female Disciples Help Us Know and Love the Lord*, by Rebecca McLaughlin.

It's a thoughtful and engaging read, and we'd love for you to be part of the conversation. Pick up a copy, start reading, and join us for an afternoon of discussion and fellowship!

Have you noticed the beautiful crosses on display in the Narthex? They've been catching eyes—and touching hearts! Our own Ken Meigs has been hard at work in his workshop, lovingly crafting each cross from locally sourced wood. Every piece is unique, with a variety of designs to choose from—perfect for your home or as a meaningful gift during the Lenten and Easter season (and beyond). Even more inspiring? With every purchase, **\$10 is donated to the WorldWide Microfinance program**, helping provide small loans to individuals around the world striving to build better lives.

And now, the **Mission Team is doubling the impact by matching each donation**—turning every purchase into a \$20 gift of hope! Wall crosses are available for \$45, and three-dimensional table crosses for \$75.

Bring beauty, meaning, and mission together—see Ken today to choose your cross!



Month at a Glance...

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

CHOIR
Wednesday's, 6:30 pm

TAI CHI
Tuesday's, 9:00 am

CONFIRMATION CLASS
April 5, 8:45 am

BOOK CLUB
April 10, 2:00 pm

EASTER CELEBRATION
April 11, 10 am - 2 pm

WORSHIP & MUSIC MTG
April 12, 10:45 am

CONFIRMATION CLASS
April 19, 8:45 am

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE
April 25, 8 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL SINGS
April 26, 9:30 am

COUNCIL MEETING
April 26, 10:45 am

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 03 Margaret Humphrey
 April 05 Karsten Haugen
 April 06 Elliot Lentz
 April 10 Mary Nelson
 April 10 Raegan Tigert
 April 10 Addison Dybdahl
 April 12 Janelle Dyreson
 April 12 Barb Koch
 April 12 Ethan Oines
 April 13 Johanna Lieber
 April 14 Thomas Watkins
 April 19 Brenda Barsness
 April 19 Marlene Ludolph
 April 20 Jerry Howery
 April 20 John Syrjamaki
 April 20 Robert Kane
 April 26 Noah King
 April 28 Jack Haugen
 April 30 Clayton Dybdahl

*May God bless you this day with joy,
 peace, and deep assurance of love.
 May the year ahead be filled with
 grace and light. Amen.*

PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Prayer requests are received by Laura Winchip.
 Please text/call prayer requests to (563) 940-8468.



For What Shall We Prayer...

- For peace and reconciliation among the nations, especially in Iran, Lebanon, Gaza, South Sudan, Ukraine, and Venezuela...
- For the families of those killed in hospital attack in Sudan...
- For safe working conditions for all workers, especially in wake of car parts factory fire in South Korea...
- For victims of the Air Canada runway crash at LaGuardia Airport...
- For all who know the trauma and pain of sexual assault, abuse, or exploitation...
- For elections and political transitions, local and global...
- For those affected by flooding in Hawaii, and all impacted by natural disasters...
- For travelers, especially those facing airport delays and uncertainties, and for TSA workers...
- For all immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers...
- For ongoing energy crises and rising fuel costs...
- For pastors, church musicians, and congregational leaders preparing for Holy Week...

prepared by a variety of leaders in the ELCA

New Members...

We joyfully welcome our newest members to our church family.

Welcome Mark and Julie Blaha, Roman



With Sympathy...

Christian sympathy to the family of Bill Parrell.





OFFICE

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Debbie Krebs

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Bo Olson

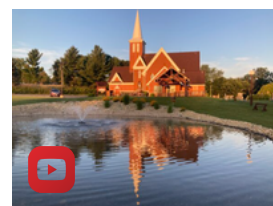
ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

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 **vermontoffice@vermontlutheran** and **social@vermontlutheran.org** 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 **8 am the 25th of each month** for publication in the Newsletter.

Late submissions will be included in the next issue.

CHURCH LINKS



[ELCA website](#)



Donate and Support our ministry

MARCH CALENDAR of EVENTS

April

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
29 9:30 am, Palm Sunday Service	30 AA Meeting	31 9 am, Student-Led Tai Chi 6:30 pm, Budget Meeting	1 6:30 pm Choir	2 7 pm, Maundy Thursday Service	3	4 AA Meeting
5 9:30 am, Easter Sunday Service	6 8:30 am, Quilting AA Meeting	7 9 am, Student-Led Tai Chi	8 6:30 pm Choir	9	10 2 pm, Book Club	11 11 am - 1 pm, The Great Easter Celebration AA Meeting
12 9:30 am, Sunday Service 10:30 am, Reservation 10:45 am, Worship & Music Team Meeting	13 AA Meeting	14 9 am, Student-Led Tai Chi	15 6:30 pm Choir	16	17	18 Reservation AA Meeting
19 8:45 am, Confirmation Class 9:30 am, Sunday Service	20 8:30 am, Quilting AA Meeting	21 9 am, Student-Led Tai Chi	22 6:30 pm Choir	23	24	25 8 am, Newsletter Articles Due AA Meeting
26 9:30 am, Sunday Service 10:45 am, Council Meeting	27 AA Meeting	28 9 am, Student-Led Tai Chi	29 6:30 pm Choir	30	1	2 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 have almost complete updating this section. If you need help or have questions, please reach out to the church office.

