



Vermont Lutheran Church

Resting in the Grace of Creation

Wendell Berry's writings on agriculture, community, and environmental stewardship are deeply rooted in Christian faith and moral values. His poem, The Peace of Wild Things, speaks to the human experience of anxiety and the healing power of nature. In the poem, creation becomes a sanctuary where we can step away from our fears and enter a larger reality.

Berry's words echo Jesus' teaching in Matthew 6:25-34, where he points to the birds of the air and the beauty of the lilies, reminding us to trust in God's care. While we cannot eliminate every worry, we can find moments of peace when we turn our attention from our fears to the beauty and wonder that surround us.

Berry concludes, "For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free." What a gift it is to remember that God's grace surrounds us, not only within the walls of the church, but also in quiet lakes, singing birds, wildflowers in bloom, starlit skies, and gentle summer evenings.

When fear threatens to overwhelm us, creation itself can become a teacher, reminding us to trust, to be present, and to receive the grace that surrounds us. Watching the birds, admiring the lilies, or simply pausing to appreciate the beauty of the natural world can help us recognize God's generous care for all creation.

As we move through the busy summer days ahead, may we take time to notice the peace of God's creation. May we rest in the grace of the world God has made and find renewed confidence in the One who holds all things in loving hands.

The Peace of Wild Things, Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

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Wendell Berry, farmer, poet, and activist has written Sabbath poems, a kind of spiritual practice rooted in Sunday walks and in the land that he worked the rest of the week. Take a solitary walk and listen...



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

From The President's Desk, June 2026 Peter Antonie

Call Committee Update: In early May, our call committee received the profile of a candidate for a possible call as our new pastor. After reviewing the profile, the committee decided to ask the same questions used with previous candidates. We met with the candidate by Google Meet on May 21 for an open, honest, and informative 90-minute conversation.

For both the committee and the candidate, the interview was only a first step in deciding whether there was a good fit. The committee agreed to continue the conversation with the candidate, who currently serves in California. As a result, Paul Dybdahl and I held a second, shorter Google Meet on May 26 to confirm the candidate's interest in continuing to explore a call to Vermont. The candidate appreciated our interest and we extended a tentative invitation to visit Vermont for further discussion sometime after June 10th. We will keep you informed as this process unfolds in the coming weeks.

A New Name: The Legacy Fund Committee would like your input on a name for the special three-acre hilltop addition to the Prairie & Woodland, rather than continuing to call it the "former Cushman property." Historically, all of the land that now includes the church, cemetery, Prairie & Woodland, and this three-acre addition was once owned by Pastor John Fjeld (pronounced Field), who came from Norway in the 1880s to serve the fledgling Vermont congregation. We invite you to vote for one of these three names: 1) Fjeld's Viewpoint, 2) Fjeld's Heritage Hill, or 3) Harmony Hill. A "Name That Hill" sheet will be available in the fellowship hall on Sundays, June 7 and 14, for you to mark your choice, or you may call or email the church office with your selection by June 14.

BECWA Watershed Project: The Legacy Fund Committee is supporting a Black Earth Creek Watershed Association (BECWA) project to build a table-sized 3-D model of the watershed for educational purposes. The committee will provide a matching donation of up to \$500 for contributions from congregation members made by June 30. Please see the BECWA flyer for more information about the project. Donations by check should be made payable to Vermont Church with "BECWA" in the memo line, or cash may be placed in an envelope marked "BECWA."

Spare Elevator Control Boards: Our hydraulic elevator is 30 years old, well maintained, and still in good condition. The challenge is that replacement parts are becoming increasingly difficult to find and may soon no longer be available. The elevator relies on six distinct electronic control boards; for example, one operates the doors and another controls movement between floors. If any one of these boards fails, the elevator becomes unusable until a replacement is installed. As a preventive measure, the council decided to purchase one of each type of control board so that replacements will be on hand if needed, especially if these parts are no longer being manufactured.

Council (cont.)

Vitality Task Force: The ad hoc Vitality Task Force (Ingerid Kvam, Frannie Parrell, Nancy Berkas, and Debbie Krebs) has been authorized to meet once a month, beginning in May, with leadership consultant Sara Schulting Kranz for three one-hour Zoom sessions. These meetings will help advance plans to strengthen communication with the congregation, clarify decision-making guidelines, and develop a shared set of congregational values and behaviors. At the May council meeting, Ingerid reported that the first session went very well. She and the task force plan to present a proposal to the council at its June meeting, with a proposed rollout to the congregation on Rally Day this fall.

Upcoming Events: June will be a busy month, with several opportunities to gather and serve. On Saturday, June 6, the Hanson family will celebrate the wedding of Willy Hanson and Juliana Renly. On Sunday, June 7, we will celebrate the baptism of Sutton, son of Taylor and Ryan Klien. Then on Saturday, June 13, Vermont will serve as the 25-mile aid station for the Horribly Hilly Hundreds bike race from 6:30 a.m. to noon, and it will also be Vermont's turn to assist with the Christians in Action food pantry that morning; volunteers may sign up at church. The month will conclude with the annual Community Picnic on Saturday, June 20. Who says nothing happens around here?

Finally, as we enter the summer season, please remember our stewardship challenge to help close the budget gap. Travel safely wherever you may go and continue to pray for our church.

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 March 31, 2026

	Actual	Budget	Diff
Contributions			
Monthly	\$ 18,844	\$ 19,167	\$ (323)
YTD	\$ 67,836	\$ 76,669	\$ (8,831)
Operating Expenses			
Monthly	\$ 12,170	\$ 24,117	\$ (11,947)
YTD	\$ 55,662	\$ 96,467	\$ (40,805)

Council Member Feature



Nancy Kay Berkas

Nancy Berkas is currently serving her second year on Church Council at Vermont Lutheran Church and has been part of the congregation for the past 18 months. A lifelong educator, Nancy taught Mathematics and German for 25 years and is now in her 26th year as a Math Education Consultant and Coach.

Nancy and her husband, Dean, have been married for more than 50 years. They enjoy camping, hiking, traveling, reading, and spending time with family. Their son Erik and his family live in Washington, while their daughter Kristin and her family live nearby in Mount Horeb. Nancy says they also enjoy the simple joy of being home.

Nancy and Dean first connected with Vermont Lutheran through a Cabin Fever Reliever event at The Gathering Place focused on Norway. With Norwegian heritage and plans for a trip to Norway, they immediately felt welcomed. Years later, that same spirit of hospitality drew them back for worship, especially through the warm welcome and invitation to fellowship extended by Larry Ziemer.

In addition to serving on Council, Nancy is part of TAG (Take Action Group) and has participated in the church's space usage assessment efforts — both groups focused on thoughtfully improving how the church functions, communicates, and uses its spaces to better support ministry and community life. She also serves as the Council liaison to Outreach.

Nancy says Pastor Rebecca inspired her to serve on Council. One of her goals is to continue asking thoughtful questions, especially around “we’ve always done it this way” thinking. She hopes the congregation continues moving toward healing, unity, and renewed direction in the future.

Her favorite Bible verse is The Gospel of John 3:16, and some of her favorite hymns include *Earth and All Stars, Here I Am, Lord, and Lift High the Cross*.

Something many people may not know is that Nancy grew up on a dairy farm in Fitchburg, Wisconsin, and the farm is still operating within her family today.

Nancy shares this simple message with the congregation: *“Please keep Vermont Lutheran Church in your prayers!”*

FOR GOD SO
LOVED THE WORLD
THAT HE GAVE HIS
ONE AND ONLY SON,
— THAT WHOEVER —
BELIEVES IN HIM
SHALL NOT PERISH
— BUT HAVE —
ETERNAL LIFE

JOHN 3:16

June 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/>

	JUNE 7	JUNE 14	JUNE 21	JUNE 28
ASSISTING MINISTER	Laura Winchip	Peter Antonie	Debbie Krebs	Klover Schafer
GREETERS/ USHERS	Joan & Dave Haugen Kim & Karsten Haugen	Debbie Krebs Polly & Paul Kawalak Jamie Hallick	Beth Gold Carolyn Antonie	Tony & Missy Danz Andrew & Donovan Lonsdale
READER	Dave Haugen	Debbie Krebs	Debbie Krebs	Joel Oines
COMMUNION PREP	Karsten Haugen	N/A	Peter Antonie	N/A
HOSPITALITY	Joan & Dave Haugen Kim & Karsten Haugen	Debbie Krebs Polly Kawalak Jamie Hallick	Antonie Family	Tony & Missy Danz Andrew & Krystal Lonsdale
MUSICIAN	Ingerid Kvam	Micah Oines	Ingerid Kvam	Bruce Case
ALTAR	Volunteer Needed	Molly Parrell Frannie Parrell	Molly Parrell Frannie Parrell	Molly Parrell Frannie Parrell

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Volunteers are needed for **Altar Duty for June 7, the months of July, and October.** If you are available to help, please contact the church office. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Ministry Team Profile: Outreach Team

*We're excited to continue to 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. In June, we continue with a team devoted to telling our story—the **Outreach Team**.*

The **Outreach Team** helps ensure Vermont Lutheran Church is a welcoming, connected, and an easy place to belong—whether someone is visiting for the first time or becoming more deeply involved in church life. Their work focuses on hospitality, relationships, and helping people discover meaningful ways to share their gifts within the congregation.

In 2024 and early 2025, the Outreach Team focused on strengthening how guests and new members were welcomed and integrated into the church community. Current team members included Susan Olson, Polly Kawalek, and Nancy Berkas (council liaison). During that time, one highlight was a joyful new member dinner hosted at the home of Paul and Jill Dybdahl, where nearly thirty new members gathered for fellowship and a meal prepared by church member and chef Scott Patchin, with assistance from volunteers. The evening reflected the heart of Outreach's mission: creating spaces where relationships can grow naturally.

The team also worked to strengthen hospitality during worship and fellowship by updating Service Team instructions and organizing training for greeters, ushers, readers, communion preparation, and hospitality volunteers. Additional efforts included organizing updated new-member packets, refreshing pew cards, launching a name tag initiative, and introducing "Meet Your Church Family" postcards to help members connect more personally with one another. The introduction of CARES bracelets also served as a visible reminder of the congregation's shared commitment to compassion, respectful communication, empathetic listening, and sensitivity toward one another.

Following Pastor Rebecca's resignation and Jill Dybdahl's internship, the Outreach Team lost some momentum and is currently in a season of restructuring and discernment as it looks toward future direction and priorities. At the same time, the team's work remains especially important as Vermont Lutheran Church seeks to share its faith, welcome new people, and strengthen connections within the broader community. Through simple acts of hospitality, invitation, communication, and relationship-building, Outreach hopes to create an environment where people feel seen, valued, and encouraged to grow in faith together. The team would warmly welcome a few more members as it continues this important work.

Faith Community LPN

HEALTH & WELLNESS CORNER

Enjoying Summer Safely

June is here, bringing sunshine, blooming flowers, and more opportunities to spend time outdoors enjoying God's beautiful creation. Whether you are tending your garden, visiting with family, attending church events, or simply enjoying a walk outside, a few simple safety reminders can help keep you feeling your best this summer.

"The Lord bless you and keep you." — Numbers 6:24

Stay Cool & Hydrated

As we age, our bodies may not recognize thirst as quickly as it once did. Even mild dehydration can cause fatigue, dizziness, or headaches.

- Keep a water bottle nearby throughout the day.
- Try drinking water regularly, even before you feel thirsty.
- On especially warm days, take breaks indoors or in the shade.

Be Careful in the Heat

Warm weather can be enjoyable, but too much heat can become dangerous quickly.

Watch for:

- Dizziness
- Weakness
- Nausea
- Confusion
- Unusual tiredness

If you begin feeling overheated:

- Move to a cool area
- Rest
- Drink water slowly
- Ask for help if symptoms do not improve

Sun Protection Matters

A little sunshine can lift the spirit, but protecting your skin is still important.

- Wear a hat and lightweight clothing when outdoors.
- Use sunscreen on exposed skin, especially your face, ears, and arms.
- Consider planning outdoor activities earlier in the morning or later in the evening when temperatures are cooler.

Prevent Falls Outdoors

Summer often means more walking, gardening, and outdoor gatherings.

- Wear supportive shoes with good traction.
- Be mindful of uneven sidewalks, garden hoses, wet grass, and loose gravel.
- Take your time when standing up or walking on unfamiliar ground.

Protect Yourself from Ticks & Mosquitoes

Ticks are especially common in grassy and wooded areas during Wisconsin summers.

- Use insect repellent when spending time outdoors.
- Check clothing and skin after gardening or walking in tall grass.
- Ask someone for help checking hard-to-see areas if needed.

Enjoy God's Creation

Fresh air, sunshine, fellowship, and time outdoors can be wonderful for both physical and emotional health. Take time this summer to rest, enjoy the beauty around you, and connect with others. I will be doing just that on my vacation June 7th through the 13th in an unreachable area. Please contact the church office if you need anything during that time.

Wishing you a safe, healthy, and peaceful June!

Hannah Clingman
Faith Community LPN

June 7th- National Cancer Survivors Day
June 27th- National PTSD Awareness Day

Team & Committee Updates

Building & Grounds Team

EDUCATION: Sunday School

What a great Sunday School year!! A huge thanks again to our teacher, Krystal Lonsdale. We appreciate the effort she puts in each week to teach our children about the Bible and nourish their faith. This year our students learned Old Testament lessons about Joseph and his brothers and Noah and his family. Spring semester they studied Jesus as a young boy in the temple and how He wanted to be and learn in His father's house. They learned how God is always with us and puts love in our hearts. The semester ending with lessons on Jesus calling the disciples and how He calls each of us to spread His gospel of love.

Audit Committee

Care for Creation Team

Call Committee

Cares Team

Cemetery Committee

Education/Faith Formation Team

Endowment Committee

Events Team

Thank you for sharing your children with us!

Legacy Fund Committee

Inreach Team

MISSIONS: Food Pantry

Kitchen Team

School's Out and we would like to stock the food pantries with healthy snacks that kids can grab/make on their own. Schools provide breakfast and lunch to many families in the area. Once school is out, there is an extra burden on families to be able to provide food for their kids. The local food pantries help to fill this need.

Mutual Ministry Committee

Missions Team

Outreach Team

We will be collecting items through Father's Day, June 21. Ideas include:

Nominating Committee

Safety & Security Team

- granola bars
- trail mix
- fruit cups
- mac n cheese
- peanut butter and jelly
- pickle packs

Stewardship Team

TAG Team

You can give money to Ellie or Joanie to shop for you. Checks can be made out to Vermont Luther and reference Food Pantry.

For I was hungry and you gave me food...Matthew 25:35

Visibility & Marketing Team

Worship & Music Team

Month at a Glance . . .

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

AA MEETINGS
Monday's & Saturday's, 7 pm

TAI CHI
Tuesday's, 9:00 am

AA MEETING June 6th, 7 pm
Meet Black Earth Village Hall

NO TAI CHI
June 9th, 9:00 am

HORRIBLY HILLY REST STOP
June 13, 7-11 am

CIA FOOD PANTRY
June 13, 9 am

COMMUNITY PICNIC
June 20

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE
June 25, 8 am

COUNCIL MEETING
June 24, 10:45 am

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June 01 Terrence Rettenmund
 June 02 Nathaniel Haugen
 June 03 Robin Jones
 June 08 Douglas Hayes
 June 08 Micah Oines
 June 12 Krystal Lonsdale
 June 18 Jack Ziemet
 June 19 Tony Danz
 June 20 Scott Herrling
 June 20 Alia Schlimgen
 June 21 Stan Morley
 June 24 William Meddings
 June 24 David Dybdahl
 June 24 Kimberly Fiala
 June 25 Randy Kvam
 June 25 Terrance Doyle
 June 25 Myron Norslien
 June 27 Shaun Lynch
 June 28 Quinn Doyle
 June 29 Larry Ziemer

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.



SUTTON SCOTT KLEIN

We give thanks for the baptism of Sutton and welcome him into God's family, on June 7. Bless this child and family with your presence.

Son of Taylor & Ryan Klein

Sponsors:

Jaclyn Bryhn, Lyndsey Digman, Grant Digman



CLAIRE MARGARET

Congratulations to Maggie and Jon Kann on the birth of their daughter Claire Margaret. We rejoice with them and pray God's blessings upon their family.



GRADUATES

We are incredibly proud to celebrate our 2026 graduates! We are excited to see where their next journeys lead and all they will accomplish in the future.

Micah Hanson, Canesius College

Jack Haugen, UW Stevens Point

Aldo Ziemer, Wauwatosa East HS

Taylor Ziemet, Wisconsin Heights HS

Molly Parrell, Wisconsin Heights MS



WEDDING BLESSINGS

Congratulations to Juliana Renly and Willy Hanson, who will be united in marriage on June 6. We give thanks for God's gift of love and pray that their life together will be filled with joy, faith, and abundant blessings. Please keep Juliana and Willy in your prayers as they begin this new chapter of their lives.



For What Shall We Prayer...

- For peace and reconciliation among the nations, especially in Iran, Lebanon, Gaza, Mali, South Sudan, Ukraine, and Venezuela...
- For all immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers...
- For fair and compassionate immigration policies and enforcement...
- For LGBTQIA+ individuals and communities during this upcoming Pride month...
- For graduating students and all experiencing the transition of the school year into summer and beyond...
- For all those wounded and grieving after various events of death and destruction across the world: a coal mine explosion in China, a building collapse in the Philippines, a suicide bombing in Pakistan...
- For the safety of all evacuated in Garden Grove, California, due to a cracked chemical tank...
- For Muslims completing their Hajj pilgrimage this year, for their safety and spiritual welfare...
- For synods of the ELCA as they gather in their assemblies, that the Spirit would enliven and guide them...

prepared by a variety of leaders in the ELCA

Contacts



OFFICE

Janet Dahl, Office Coordinator
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 am - 2:00 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

Debbie Krebs

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Laura Winchip

SOCIAL MEDIA

Ellie Boebel
social@vermontlutheran.org

CUSTODIAN

Bo Olson

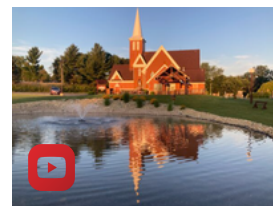
ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

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 **vermontoffice@vermontlutheran.org** 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

June

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
31 9:30 am, Sunday Service 10:45 am, Council Meeting	1 8:30 am, Quilting 7 pm, AA Meeting	2 9 am, Tai Chi with Bob	3	4	5	6 10 am, Reservation 7 pm, AA at Black Earth Village Hall
7 9:30 am, Sunday Service	8 7 pm, AA Meeting	9	10	11	12	13 6:30 am, Reservation Horribly Hilly Hundreds Rest Stop 7 am - 11 am 9 am, CIA Food Pantry 7 pm, AA Meeting
14 9:30 am, Sunday Service	15 8:30 am, Quilting 7 pm, AA Meeting	16 9 am, Tai Chi with Bob	17	18	19	20 Community Picnic 7 pm, AA Meeting
21 9:30 am, Sunday Service	22 7 pm, AA Meeting	23 9 am, Tai Chi with Bob	24	25 8 am, Newsletter Articles Due	26	27 7 pm, AA Meeting
28 9:30 am, Sunday Service 10:45 am, Council Meeting	29 7 pm, AA Meeting	30 9 am, Tai Chi with Bob	1	2	3	4 7 pm, 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.

