

Vermont Lutheran Church

FAVORITE HYMNS: Be Thou My Vision

One of the joys of our congregation is discovering the hymns that have shaped and sustained our faith. This month, we feature one of the church's most cherished hymns, "Be Thou My Vision."

One member shared why this hymn has remained a lifelong favorite: *"Aside from its beautiful Irish melody, 'Be Thou My Vision' is a prayer of trust that can be sung with joy but also at times of doubt or sorrow. As the melody rises, so too does our determination to do good, stay true, and love with our whole hearts."*

Those words beautifully capture why this hymn has touched generations of Christians. More than a hymn of praise, it is a heartfelt prayer asking God to be our guide in every season of life—our vision, our wisdom, our treasure, our protector, and our lasting hope.

The hymn's roots reach back more than a thousand years to an early Irish prayer, Rop tú mo baile ("Be Thou My Vision"). In 1905, Mary Elizabeth Byrne translated the ancient text into English prose, and in 1912 Eleanor Henrietta Hull crafted it into the poetic form we sing today.

Its familiar melody, known as SLANE, is a traditional Irish folk tune that was paired with Hull's text in the 1919 Church Hymnal of the Church of Ireland. The tune takes its name from Slane in County Meath, Ireland, a place closely associated with the ministry of St. Patrick, who boldly proclaimed the Christian faith there. The union of this ancient prayer with its soaring Irish melody has made Be Thou My Vision one of the most beloved hymns in Christian worship.

Whether sung in times of celebration, uncertainty, or quiet reflection, this hymn reminds us to keep Christ at the center of our lives. As we pray, "Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all," we join countless believers across the centuries in entrusting our lives to God's faithful care.

Do you have a favorite hymn? We'd love to hear from you! Tell us the title of your favorite hymn, why it is meaningful to you, or share a special memory connected to it. Your story may be featured in an upcoming issue of the newsletter as we continue celebrating the songs that nurture our faith.

IN THIS ISSUE

Council News

Worship

Ministry Team Profile

Team/Committee Updates

Faith Community LPN

Community

Congregational Life

Contacts

Calendar



[Click to 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, August 2026 Peter Antonie

One of our former pastors, John Shep, often said, "we are a church standing on the top of a hill, but we don't stand still." My message this month is devoted to us not standing still.

Upcoming Activities: If you are looking for something to do, the next three months provide you with many opportunities to get involved.

Cottage Conversations: I encourage everyone to provide your input at any or all three of the Cottage Conversation meetings in the Gathering Place starting after church on August 2nd, at 9 am on August 3rd, and after church on August 9th. You can also provide your input, in writing, by completing the answers to the questions that will be asked at the Cottage Conversations. Finally, come to the session after church on the 16th when our consultant, Sarah Schulting-Kranz, will lead a discussion of the findings of all the input provided.

Parades: Vermont Church will have a tractor and hay wagon, driven by Doug Hayes, in the Black Earth Field Days parade on Saturday, August 8th, and in the Mazomanie Wild West Days parade on Sunday, September 13th. Come and ride on the hay wagon, walk behind to hand out goodies, or be a spectator to cheer us on!

Quilt Blessing: The quilters have been busy since last fall producing quilts to send off around the world. Their hard work will be displayed in the pews on two Sundays, August 23rd and 30th, with the blessing of the quilts on Sunday, September 6th. You can purchase a quilt, to defray some of the cost of transporting the quilts, and/or help box the quilts up for transportation right after Labor Day.

Rally Day & Team Fair: The start of our Sunday school year and our annual Team Fair are both on Sunday, September 20th. Come to the fair to learn more about what each team does, activities you can participate in, and perhaps sign up to be a team member.

Highway Pickup: You can participate in the Care for Creation team's Adopt-a-Highway pickup along highway 78 on Saturday morning, October 3rd (rain date the 31st).

God's Work, Our Hands Day: After an abbreviated worship service on Sunday, October 11th, you'll have an opportunity to participate in activities that use your hands to do God's work.

(cont. next page)

Host Fest: Our annual fall festival is on Saturday, October 17th . However, preparations for the event start early. You can help with potato boiling/lefse dough preparation on Friday, September 18th and 25th , and/or lefse rolling, baking and packaging on Saturday, September 19th and 26th. And the Norwegian meatballs will be baked on Friday, October 9th and packaged, in gravy, on Saturday, October 10th. Times for all these preparation dates and sign-up sheets to volunteer will be posted right after Labor Day. Then, come to the festival for a hearty lunch along with lots of fun activities for the whole family!

WorldWise Microfinance Event: Our congregation is a partner of the WorldWise Microfinance program. We will commemorate the partnership with an event that will be scheduled later in the fall.

All these activities are proof that our congregation is a little like the old Timex commercial, we just “keep on ticking.”

Thank you to everyone who helps organize the activities and thanks to everyone who steps forward to take part.

During the Dog Days of August, please continue to praise God, pray for each other, our congregation, and a brighter future.

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 June 30, 2026

	Actual	Budget	Diff
Contributions			
Monthly	\$ 8,338	\$ 19,167	\$ (10,829)
YTD	\$126,580	\$115,000	\$ (11,580)
Operating Expenses			
Monthly	\$ 21,334	\$ 24,117	\$ (2,783)
YTD	\$ 92,419	\$144,700	\$ (52,281)

Council Member Feature



Andrew Lonsdale

Although Andrew Lonsdale has been a member of Vermont Lutheran Church for just 2½ years, he has already become a familiar and valued part of the congregation. Andrew and his family first came to Vermont Lutheran after a family member, who was visiting them from out of state, attended worship at the church and encouraged them to come along. What began as a simple invitation soon became a church home filled with supportive people, meaningful worship, and a strong sense of community.

A commercial and residential construction contractor by trade, Andrew enjoys spending his free time outdoors, caring for his property, and, most importantly, spending time with his wife and cheering on his children in whatever activities they're pursuing. With his calm, easygoing personality and genuine interest in people, Andrew has a way of making conversation with just about anyone and helping others feel welcome.

Although he was nominated to the Church Council while still new to the congregation, Andrew embraced the opportunity to serve. His thoughtful, level-headed approach makes him a valuable voice around the council table. He listens carefully, considers different perspectives, and isn't afraid to ask the difficult questions when they help the council make wise, informed decisions.

Beyond his role on the council, Andrew serves on the church's Security Team and volunteers as an event coordinator. He assists community groups and organizations that reserve the church for meetings and other gatherings, answering questions and lending a hand whenever needed to help ensure their events run smoothly.

Andrew also shares his rich singing voice with the choir, adding to the beauty of worship each week. The congregation has even been treated to special musical offerings from Andrew and his family, whose talents have enriched worship and blessed the congregation on several occasions.

Looking toward the future, Andrew hopes to see Vermont Lutheran continue to grow by welcoming more young couples and families into the congregation. He's also excited about the possibilities the new organ will bring, envisioning a small concert series and other musical events that invite the wider community into the church.

One fun fact that might surprise people: Andrew is colorblind, and his favorite color is yellow.

Ask the Complicated Questions

Ask the complicated questions; do not fear to be found out,
for our God makes strong our weakness, forging faith in fires of doubt.

Seek the disconcerting answers; follow where the Spirit blows,
test competing truths for wisdom, for in tension new life grows.

Knock on doors of new ideas, test assumptions long grown stale,
for Christ calls from shores of wonder, daring us to try and fail.

For in struggle we discover truth both simple and profound:
in the knocking, asking, seeking, we are opened, answered, found.

All Creation Sings. Text: David Bjorlin (USA), © 2017 GIA Publications, Inc.

August 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/>

	AUGUST 2	AUGUST 9	AUGUST 16	AUGUST 23	AUGUST 30
ASSISTING MINISTER	Klover Schafer	Laura Winchip	Joel Oines	Peter Antonie	Debbie Krebs
GREETERS/ USHERS	Bo & Susan Olson Hefty Family Julie Uselman	Jon Urness Steve Holzhuetter	Mike & Bonnie Dauck Leonard & Susan Schaub	Bob & Lavonne Clason Aaron & Rita Tigert	Eric & Joanie Haugen
READER	Joel Oines	Jon Urness	Susan Schaub	Aaron Tigert	Joanie Haugen
COMMUNION PREP	Joanie Haugen	N/A	Bonnie Dauck	N/A	N/A
HOSPITALITY	Sue Case Erica Forseth Joanie Haugen	Jon & Judy Urness Christy Maik	Mike & Bonnie Dauck Susan Schaub	Bob & Lavonne Clason Aaron & Rita Tigert	Eric & Joanie Haugen
MUSICIAN	Bruce Case	Ingerid Kvam	Ingerid Kvam	Micah Oines	Ingerid Kvam
ALTAR	Joanie Haugen Klover Schafer	Joanie Haugen Klover Schafer	Joanie Haugen Klover Schafer	Joanie Haugen Klover Schafer	Joanie Haugen Klover Schafer

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Volunteers for Altar Duty are needed for the Sundays in **October**. If you are available to help for one Sunday or for the month, please contact the church office. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Ministry Team Profile: Safety & Security 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 August, we continue with a team devoted to telling our story—the **Safety & Security Team**.*

The Safety & Security Team is dedicated to helping Vermont Lutheran Church remain a welcoming place where members, visitors, staff, and volunteers can worship, learn, and gather with confidence. Their mission is to thoughtfully prepare for emergencies while preserving the warm, inviting atmosphere that makes our church feel like home.

Since the team was formed, they have made significant progress in strengthening the safety of our physical spaces. Some of their accomplishments include:

- Installing exterior security cameras to help protect our buildings and property.
- Adding keypad door locks to both the church and Gathering Place, improving building security while providing convenient access for authorized users.
- Strengthened emergency preparedness by purchasing and strategically placing an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), comprehensive first aid kits, and LifeVac airway clearance devices throughout our facilities to ensure emergency medical equipment is readily available when needed.
- Providing initial CPR and AED training for staff and volunteers, helping build confidence and readiness in the event of a medical emergency.
- Continuing to strengthen emergency preparedness by working collaboratively with church administration and our Faith Community Nurse to evaluate emergency response needs, improve safety procedures, and identify opportunities for ongoing training, equipment, and preparedness initiatives.

The team is also in the final stages of developing a comprehensive Safety & Security Policy, which is currently under review before being presented to Church Council. The policy will establish clear guiding principles for protecting people, property, and church resources while outlining best practices for emergency preparedness, facility security, incident reporting, and the responsible use of safety equipment. Throughout the process, the team's focus has remained on balancing preparedness with the welcoming spirit that defines our congregation.

Safety is not about expecting the worst—it's about being faithful stewards of the people and blessings God has entrusted to our care. Through thoughtful planning, practical improvements, and ongoing education, the Safety & Security Team is helping ensure that Vermont Lutheran Church remains a safe and welcoming place for worship, fellowship, and ministry for generations to come.

Whether your background is in emergency response, healthcare, facilities, law enforcement, or you simply have a heart for serving others, the Safety & Security Team welcomes members who are interested in helping care for our church family. Current team members are: Ellie Boebel (chair), Melissa Hanson, Steve Holzheuter, Bill Meddings, and Andrew Lonsdale. Wade Winchip and Karsten Haugen serve technical advisors.

Team & Committee Updates

Building &
Grounds Team

Care for
Creation Team

Cares Team

Education/Faith
Formation Team

Events Team

Inreach Team

Kitchen Team

Missions Team

Outreach Team

Safety &
Security Team

Stewardship
Team

TAG Team

Visibility &
Marketing Team

Worship &
Music Team

Mission Team: *This article is reprinted from the WORLDWISE Microfinance Summer 2026 Newsletter and celebrates the partnership that has grown between our congregation and WORLDWISE Microfinance. We are grateful for this shared ministry and the lives being transformed through opportunities for entrepreneurship and economic empowerment. Watch for details about a special event later this fall as we gather to commemorate and celebrate this meaningful partnership.*



From Black Earth to the Philippines A Partnership with Purpose

WorldWide Microfinance is excited to welcome Vermont Lutheran Church in Black Earth, Wisconsin as our first Partner With Purpose.

Through this new partnership, the congregation is directly supporting entrepreneurs in Iloilo City, Philippines, where small business owners use affordable microloans to grow food businesses, farms, sewing enterprises, and other family-run ventures.

Even more exciting, the church's commitment will double the size of the existing loan program in the area, creating opportunities for many more entrepreneurs to build stable incomes and brighter futures.

Unlike traditional donations, Partner With Purpose connects sponsoring organizations with a specific WorldWide Microfinance partner. Vermont Lutheran Church will receive regular updates and stories from borrowers, creating a meaningful relationship that goes far beyond writing a check.

"This will make it possible for our congregation to engage with entrepreneurs and their families in a way that hasn't been possible before," said Paul Ohlrogge, a member of the church's Mission Team and a longtime WorldWide Microfinance board member.

We're grateful to Vermont Lutheran Church for helping demonstrate how local communities can create lasting global impact, one small loan at a time.

Audit
Committee

Call Committee

Cemetery
Committee

Endowment
Committee

Legacy Fund
Committee

Mutual Ministry
Committee

Nominating
Committee

Faith Community LPN

Dear Vermont Lutheran Church Family,

As we move through the remaining summer days, we have experienced some challenging weather here in Wisconsin. The recent stretches of extreme heat and periods of poor air quality from wildfire smoke have been a reminder that caring for our health is an important part of caring for the lives God has given us.

Please remember to be gentle with yourself during these hot days. Drink plenty of water, take breaks in cool places, and avoid spending long periods outdoors when temperatures or humidity are high. On days when the air quality is poor, especially if you have asthma, COPD, heart disease, or other chronic health conditions, it is best to limit time outside and keep windows closed if possible.

Just as importantly, take a moment to check on a neighbor, friend, or family member. A simple phone call, text message, or visit can mean so much, especially for our senior members, those living alone, or anyone who may not have air conditioning. Sometimes the greatest act of care is simply letting someone know they are not forgotten.

August offers several meaningful reminders to care for ourselves and those we love:

National Immunization Awareness Month

This is a wonderful time to make sure your vaccinations are up to date. As children prepare to return to school and we begin thinking ahead to fall, talk with your healthcare provider about recommended vaccines for you and your family.

National Wellness Month

Wellness is about more than avoiding illness. It includes nourishing our bodies with healthy foods, staying active, getting enough rest, managing stress, and making time for prayer, worship, and relationships that bring us joy.

National Breastfeeding Month

We celebrate and encourage mothers and families who are providing a healthy start for their children and recognize the importance of community support along the way. Please feel free to use "The Nest" quiet corner space for any breastfeeding needs while visiting our church.

As summer begins to wind down, I encourage each of us to take a few moments each day to appreciate God's creation, enjoy time with loved ones, and care for the bodies He has entrusted to us.

"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

If you or a loved one could use support, encouragement, health information, or prayer, I would be honored to walk alongside you during your journey. It is a privilege to serve as your Faith Community LPN, and I am grateful to grow with this congregation in supporting health of body, mind, and spirit.

May God bless you with good health, peace, and many moments of joy as we enjoy the remaining days of summer.

With care,
Hannah Clingman, Faith Community LPN

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

WALK WITH A NATURALIST

August 1, 9:30 am

COTTAGE CONVERSAION

August 2, 11:00 am

COTTAGE CONVERSATION

August 3, 9:00 am

BLACK EARTH PARADE

August 8, Noon

COTTAGE CONVERSATION

August 9, 11:00 am

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

August 23, Last day

COUNCIL MEETING

August 23, 10:45 am

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

August 25, 8 am

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 01	Bailey	Lynch
August 02	Janet	Castle
August 03	Maya	Burton
August 03	Janet	Dahl
August 04	Brady	Hurner
August 04	Allan	Koch
August 06	Hannah	Hurley
August 07	Jonathan	Schultz
August 08	Randall	Adler
August 13	Isaac	Lentz
August 13	Owen	Danz
August 14	Klover	Schafer
August 15	Maxine	Patchin
August 15	Bonnie	Pribbenow-Paddock
August 20	Bridget	Lonsdale
August 23	Greta	Ziemer
August 25	Judy	Urness
August 25	Wade	Winchip
August 25	Thomas	Hefty
August 25	Andrea	Dyreson
August 30	Gary	Olsen
August 31	Jacob	Laurent
August 31	Grant	Laurent



Happy Birthday! May God bless you with joy, peace, and abundant grace in the year ahead. May your day be filled with love, laughter, and the knowledge that you are a cherished child of God.

PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

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



With Sympathy...

During the past month, our church family has lost loved ones. We lift up these families in our prayers, asking for God's peace and strength in the days ahead.

Dory Brinker, Jill Dybdahl's mother

Scott Patchin

Dave Dybdahl, (Memorial Service, October 19)

Steve Cowan



For What Shall We Pray...

- For peace and reconciliation among the nations, especially in Iran, Lebanon, Gaza, Mali, South Sudan, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Mexico, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Venezuela...
- For those in the path of Tropical Storm Bertha...
- For affected by devastating tornadoes in the Fox Valley, from flooding in Texas and New York, wildfires in Canada, Minnesota, and California, and for rescue teams supporting recovery...
- For those living in areas with dangerous air quality...
- For the families of American service members and civilians killed in US-Iran escalations...
- For wisdom and integrity for world leaders making critical geopolitical decisions...
- For global health and for those continuing to navigate ebola and cyclospora outbreaks...
- For safety and resolution to mass protests in India...

prepared by a variety of leaders in the ELCA

Gracious and guiding God,

Be present with us as we gather for our Cottage Conversations. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we may listen with open hearts, speak with kindness and honesty, and seek your will above our own. Bless the members of the Vitality Task Force, our Church Council, and our consultant as they guide these conversations. Strengthen us in our shared faith, deepen our love for one another, and help us discover the commitments that will shape our life together in the years ahead. Lead us forward with courage, unity, and hope, trusting always in your faithful promises. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Congregational Life

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED – Help Students Start the Year Strong! Drop off supplies to support students both near and far by **August 23rd**.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS

- 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approx. 8" x 10"; NO loose-leaf paper
- 30-centimeter (12" approx.) ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- Pencil sharpener
- Blunt-tip scissors
- Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- Black or blue ballpoint pens (NO gel ink);
- 16 or 24 crayons (NO large boxes)
- 2½" eraser

WISCONSIN HEIGHTS SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

- Clorox wipes
- Pencils (not a lot)
- Glue sticks (need lots)
- Kleenex
- Washable markers
- Masking tape
- Dry eraser markers (mostly black)
- White glues



[Click here to read the Summer Edition....](#)

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
billing@vermontlutheran.org

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Laura Winchip
lwinchipdc@aol.com

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



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

[ELCA website](http://ELCA.org)



Donate and Support our ministry

AUGUST

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
26 9:30 am, Sunday Service 10:45 am, Council Meeting 1 pm, Reservation	27 7 pm, AA Meeting	28 9 am, Tai Chi with Bob	29	30 5:00 pm, Security Team Meeting	31	1 9:30 am, Walk With a Naturalist 7 pm, AA Meeting
2 9:30 am, Sunday Service 11 am, Cottage Conversation	3 8:30 am, Quilting 9 am, Cottage Conversation 7 pm, AA Meeting	4 9 am, Tai Chi with Bob	5	6	7	8 Noon, Black Earth Field Days Parade 7 pm, AA Meeting
9 9:30 am, Sunday Service 11 am, Cottage Conversation	10 7 pm, AA Meeting	11 9 am, Tai Chi with Bob	12	13	14	15 7 pm, AA Meeting
16 9:30 am, Sunday Service	17 8:30 am, Quilting 7 pm, AA Meeting	18 9 am, Tai Chi with Bob	19	20	21	22 7 pm, AA Meeting
23 9:30 am, Sunday Service 9:30 am, School Supplies For LWR & WHSD 10:45 am, Council Meeting	24 7 pm, AA Meeting	25 8 am, Newsletter Articles Due 9 am, Tai Chi with Bob	26	27	28	29 7 pm, AA Meeting
30 9:30 am, Sunday Service	31 7 pm, AA Meeting	1 9 am, Tai Chi with Bob	2	3	4	5 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. If you need help or have questions, please reach out to the church office.