

# THE MESSENGER

Vermont Lutheran Church's Mission Statement:

**C**hristians **A**ctively **R**eaching Out **E**xperiencing Christ and **S**spreading His Word

## From Pastor Barry's Desk . . .

Dear lovers in Christ,

Some tid-bits gleaned from the files of *Google*:

The feast of St. Valentine of February 14 was first established in 496 by Pope Gelasius I, who included Valentine among all those "... *whose names are justly revered among men, but whose acts are known only to God.*" As Gelasius implies, nothing was then known about his [St. Valentine's] life.

In the French 14th-century manuscript illumination from a *Vies des Saints*, Saint Valentine, bishop of Terni, oversees the construction of his basilica at Terni; there is no suggestion here that the bishop was a patron of lovers.

During the Middle Ages, it was believed that birds paired in mid-February. This was then associated with the romance of Valentine. Although these legends differ, Valentine's Day is widely recognized as a day for romance and devotion.

Historians trace the origin of **Valentine's Day** to ancient Roman Empire. It is said that in the Rome of ancient times people observed a holiday on **February 14th** to honor Juno - the Queen of Roman Gods and Goddesses. On the following day, February 15th began the fertility festival called 'Feast of Lupercalia'. The festival of Lupercalia was celebrated to honor the gods Lupercus and Faunus - the Roman god of Agriculture besides the legendary founders of Rome, Romulus and Remus.

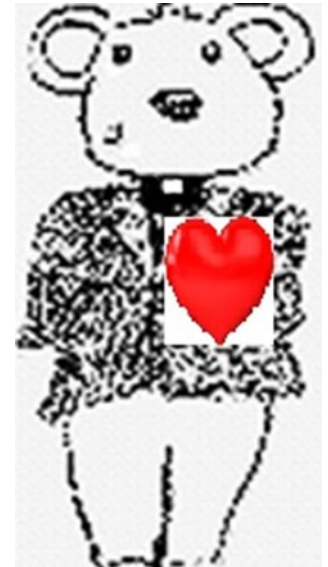
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Isn't it funny how traditions get established? Though Valentine's Day is celebrated throughout the world, no one seems to put as much into this day as Americans do. Whether that is the influence of the Hallmark Company, [In the United States, about 190 million Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, not including the hundreds of millions of cards school children exchange] or just our ingrained desire for love and romance is anyone's guess.

What it does bring to my attention is that we all desire to be loved. No matter what age, what background, what nationality or whatever else might be said to distinguish "us" from "them", we all have this inherent need to be loved.

I find it confusing and audacious that in a time where we have a generation (the "Millennials") who claim to be the "most connected generation in the world", we find ourselves to be suffering from an epidemic of loneliness. The more we connect with one another and find each other reachable at any time of the day or night, the more we find ourselves unfulfilled and alone. Not only is that a shame,



## continued From Pastor Barry's Desk . . .

but it is wholly against the Christian ideal.

Maybe we should be celebrating Valentine's Day more... Not just for lovers intent on spending their lives together, but for all of us in Christian love. After all, we read in Matthew 22 Jesus saying, <sup>37</sup> **He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."** <sup>38</sup> **This is the greatest and first commandment.** <sup>39</sup> **And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'** <sup>40</sup> **On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."**

February 14<sup>th</sup> is as good a place to start as any, but let us all dedicate ourselves to loving each other as God would have us do!

*Pastor Barry*

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## Highlights . . .

CABIN FEVER  
RELIEVERS:

The Magic  
and  
Mystery of Maui

more dates to come!

February 10th

March 10th &

April 7th



## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Black Earth Elementary school recently received a donation of school supplies from Vermont Lutheran Church. Each year, our members collect school supplies for Lutheran World Relief that get sent all around the world. This year, we also collected supplies to stay in our local community. Pictured is Scott Moore, school principal, Kris Antonie and students Arianna Gold and Raegan Tigert.





# Pancake Dinner

**Good Samaritan Fund**—We raised \$358 dollar for the Good Samaritan Fund on Sunday, January 13th with our pancake breakfast. Thank you all who came.





# QUAKE—2019 Weekend Retreat

## YOUTH ENCOUNTERING THE GOSPEL

**Favorite Things about Quake:** we were with our church family, the dance party, stories told during the celebration services and how energetic everyone was. The people there were nice and we all had a lot of fun.



**I learned:** that Jeremiah was suicidal, a lot of people back when Jesus was alive had lots of problems, a lot of new songs and Jesus loves us more than anyone could imagine.



**My Favorite part of the Wilderness Resort:** the waterpark, the waterpark and the wave pool at the waterpark



# WELCA News

## **FEBRUARY ALTAR DUTY**

Joan Skalet

### December Meeting:

We held our meeting on December 10 in the Fellowship Hall. We filled our Christmas Baskets (13) and sent out some Christmas cards (5). Thank you everyone for your donations to this mission.

In our business meeting, we discussed the 2019 budget. For Thankofferings in November, we will donate \$500 to the churchwide WELCA and if there are additional funds donated we will donate these to Vermont Church's general fund. The missions that we would like to continue include school kits, quilts, global health, and include supplies for our local elementary school. Other organizations are mentioned in our budget. Our next meeting will be held in June after Sunday church.

Save the Dates: The Barneveld Spring Gathering Conference will be held on April 27, 2019 at Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mt. Horeb. Check in is at 8:30am with the program starting at 9:30 am. The program will have Bev Burns of "Passages" which is a women's shelter and Darlene Masters of Family Advocates. Pre-register at [elc@mhtc.net](mailto:elc@mhtc.net). There will be a \$5. Charge at the door.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Triennial Convention and Gathering will be held July 14, 2020—July 16, 2020 in Phoenix, Arizona. See the Trumpeter on our bulletin board for information.

2019 SWO Biennial Convention will be held September 20 + 21.

Pennies for Poverty: You may remember the pennies jar that we have on the kitchen counter. These donations are gathered up yearly and support our local domestic abuse shelters. 100% of all the money goes to the shelters. Let's see how fast we can fill up that penny jar. Thank you

WELCA Annual Donation: All confirmed women of Vermont Church are members of Vermont WELCA. Every time you make a mission donation, help at funerals, make a quilt or shawl, or help our women's organization in anyway, you are a participating member. In order for our organization to continue these services and missions, we would like you to consider giving a one time annual donation. These donations are needed by March 3, 2018 in an amount of your choosing. Place the donation in the offering plate (marked for WELCA) or mail it directly to Susan Olson, our treasurer. THANK YOU!

Dear Vermonters

It was a pleasure to serve our Church, as treasurer, for the last 20 years. I enjoyed the position and everyone I had the pleasure to work with.

Thank you for the thoughtful gift. Greg and I will reminisce while enjoying dinner at two of our favorite restaurants.

Thank you! Patty

*Thank  
you*







**February 3**  
**Treasure in Heaven**  
 Matthew 6:7-21  
 Psalm 20:7

**February 10**  
**The Golden Rule**  
 Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29  
 Psalm 37:16-18

**February 17**  
**Parables of the Kingdom**  
 Matthew 13:24-46  
 Psalm 84:1-7

**February 24**  
**Feeding 5,000**  
 Matthew 14:13-33  
 Psalm 95:1-5

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Endres, Julie
5	Antonie, Carolyn
5	Schultz, Donald
6	Haugen, Joan
6	Rickey, Ashley
11	Statz, Taylor
13	Stuart Dybdahl
14	Hoerz, Bob
16	Schlingen, Grant
16	Schmitt, Julie
17	Norslien, Kyle
19	Collins, Jaxon Philip Abline
19	Gold, Arianna
20	Erickson, Patricia
20	Field, Stephen
21	Lynch, Quinn
21	Ziomet, Taylor
22	Lemke, Brooklyn
27	Wolle, Christopher



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## CABIN FEVER RELIEVERS

**Mark Your Calendars:** Three interesting and diverse Cabin Fever Relievers are set for the Gathering Place. All are set for 7 PM on Sunday evenings with popcorn and refreshments served. Come join in the fun!

### Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> – The Truth about Climate Change



Bob Lindmeier is Chief Meteorologist at WKOW-TV, a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Oregon and a member of our synod's Care for God's Creation team. Bob will use his many years of experience as a scientist who has closely followed the problem of climate change to present information on the following: causes of global warming; impacts of global warming in Wisconsin and in the U.S.; consensus in the scientific community; what is needed to create positive change; and, taking responsibility as people of faith.

Bob will also share resources from the Care for God's Creation team that include materials from ELCA World Hunger, ELCA Advocacy, and additional faith-based and secular groups.

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### Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> – Gateway to the Driftless (GTTD)



As residents of this beautiful piece of God's creation, we know there are many valuable natural resources, a rich history and interesting cultural heritage that make our home unique. These assets also produce an interesting opportunity.

In partnership with the Villages of Cross Plains, Black Earth, Mazomanie, and Arena, the Wisconsin Heights School District, the local Chambers of Commerce, and other nonprofit mission organizations, GTTD was created to promote smart economic growth in northwestern Dane County sustained by our area's wealth of outdoor recreation and abundant natural resources.

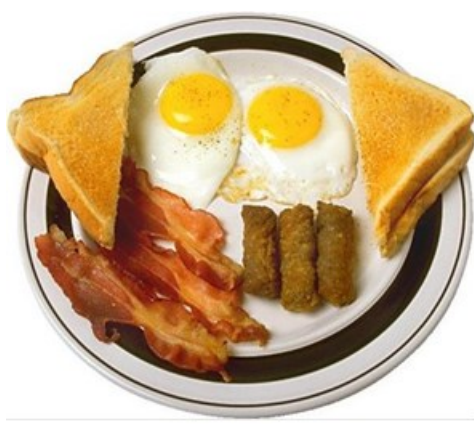
GTDD Executive Director Chris Long will provide insight into the kinds of projects GTTD envisions, such as completion of a multi-use year-round trail from Middleton to Sauk City, and the work already accomplished, such as coordination of the restoration of the Wolf Run Trail after the flood damage and creation of an interactive website: <https://gatewaytothedriftless.com>

# UPCOMING EVENTS –continued

## MEN'S MEATBALL DINNER

**Mark your calendar!** Everyone is invited to attend the annual Men's Meatball Dinner, Sunday February 17, 2019. This is a fund raiser for the ongoing ministry of the congregation. There is one seating, at 11:30 AM, for 120 diners. The \$14 price (\$5 for kids 9 and under) includes a dinner of Norwegian meatballs, lefse, potatoes, beans, dessert and plenty of hospitality. Reservations should be made by calling Peter Antonie (767-2641) after 5PM.

## VERMONT MONTHLY BREAKFAST SOCIAL



We would like to invite all members to meet for breakfast.

**When:** On the second Wednesday of every month at 8:30AM

**Where:** Macker Backer restaurant in Black Earth.

It is a great opportunity to meet and share fellowship with other Vermonters.

Hope to see you there!



# UPCOMING EVENTS –continued

## CONFIRMATION

February 13th @ 3:30 pm – 5pm Class

February 27th @ 3:30 pm – 5pm Class

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## YOUTH

(grades 6-12)



Join us at Cascade Mountain for  
Tubing and dinner with the youth  
group.

Bring a couple of friends.

**Date :** Sunday, February 24th, 2019 (CHANGE OF DATE)

**Hours:** 2PM-9PM

**Cost:** \$16 or \$18

**Includes:** \$16 tubing ticket and basic food voucher

(hot dog, bag of chips, soda or milk)

\$18 tubing ticket and deluxe food voucher

(7"pizza or popcorn chicken, bag of chips, soda or milk)

**Reservation requires 10 person minimum.**

**Register by February 10th** by e-mailing the church office at  
Vermont\_church@tds.net

## Valentine's Day—February 14th

we love  
because  
he first  
loved us.

1 John 4:19



let us love  
one  
another,  
because  
love is of  
God.

1 John 4:7



If we love  
one  
another,  
God remains  
in us.

1 John 4:12



Trust in  
the Lord  
with all  
your  
heart.

Proverbs 3:5



Love the Lord,  
your God, with  
all your heart,  
and with all your  
soul, and with  
all your strength.

Deuteronomy 6:5



So faith, hope,  
love remain,  
these three;  
but the greatest  
of these is  
love.

1 Corinthians 13:13



### Ten ways to love

Listen without interrupting. (Proverbs 18)  
Speak without accusing. (James 1:19)  
Give without sparing. (Proverbs 21:26)  
Pray without ceasing. (Colossians 1:9)  
Answer without arguing. (Proverbs 17:1)  
Share without pretending. (Ephesians 4:15)  
Enjoy without complaint. (Philippians 2:14)  
Trust without wavering. (1 Corinthians 13:7)  
Forgive without punishing. (Colossians 3:13)  
Promise without forgetting. (Proverbs 13:12)





# Vermont Lutheran Church

## Minutes for January 17, 2019 Council Meeting

Meeting was called to order @ 7:03:54 by Pres. Peter Antonie

**Attendance:** Pastor Barry, Peter A, Ellie B, Missy D, Connor D, Klover S, Carol J, Paul D

**Devotions:** Led by Pastor Barry, the story of the Farmer in Africa whom sold his farm to search for diamonds. Meanwhile diamonds we discovered on the farm he sold. Moral of the story, Tend to the fields in your own backyard, whether it be diamonds or parishioners for our church family that we seek.

**Vision & Mission:** Picture in the paper @ the Black Earth Elementary School with Vermont's Donation

Bob Lindmeier will be doing a Cabin Fever Reliever talk on Weather Change Feb. 10 in the Gathering Place.

### **Old Business:**

Legacy Fund Resolution. Motion by Ellie, Second by Missy, passed unanimously.

Synod Assembly, May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> being held at the Alliant Energy Center, Madison. Denise Boehnen and Larry Ziemer are attending ( let me know if I have the attendees incorrect).....

### **Annual Meeting Draft:**

2019 we are focusing more on "what we are grateful for" rather than the discussion of money.

Spending Plan is currently showing now money in the "Missions Columns". The council will determine what we can contribute starting in October/November of the year. There was discussion of "how to deal with Missions" moving forward. Perhaps have a joint Stewardship and Participation meeting ( sorry my notes are pretty sketchy on this line item).

### **New business:**

Stewardship is focusing on Monthly Temple talks on "what you are thankful for".

Committee reports we passed unanimously, motion Connor D, second Ellie B,

Synod Lead Conference, March 9<sup>th</sup> in Mt Horeb. Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> registration dead line. Interested council members were Pastor Barry, Klover, Carrol ( if not on vacation), Peter as possibility..... Pastor Barry and Liz to forward the dates to the congregation for interested parties as well.....

Men's Meatball Dinner to be Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>.....

Bike Breakfast in May.

Pres. Peter offered gracious "Thank You's " to the council for their service.

A special Thank You and Two gift certificates to Patty Herrling for her many years of service to our church!!!

8:44:26 Missy D motions for adjournment. " her final act as a current Vermont Lutheran Church Council member, ( she can always re-up next year).....

We **did** close with the Lord's Prayer.....

## Pastor's Report

Baptisms: 0      Weddings: 0      Funerals: 0      Home Visits: 4

Hospital Visits: Marie Severson at Sauk Prairie Hosp.

West Dane Text Study: 4      Area Narrative Study Group: 1

Nursing Home Worship: 1 at Milestone in Cross Plains, 1 at Heartland Village cancelled because of Norvo virus.

Play attended at WHHS – Marvelous rendition of Beauty and the Beast!

A big thank you to all who made our Christmas celebrations fantastic this year! Liz and the Confirmation students, Dave Dybdahl, our magnificent choir, the men who brought in the tree and put it up, the folks who decorated the sanctuary to put us in the spirit of Christmas in the first place, Tee and Ingerid and those who provided music... It was a very meaningful and celebratory observation of the reason for us all to be here in the first place as we honored our Savior, Jesus the Christ, Mary and Joseph! Thank you all!

Each year as we once again approach the new year and attend to reports and facts and figures in an attempt to measure our accomplishments of the year past, I hear the warning cries: "We're shrinking in Sunday attendance!" "It's harder and harder to meet our budget and we really try to take good care of our resources!" "Who is going to \_\_\_\_\_ (teach Sunday School, help with the lefse, collect the offering on Sunday morning, make sure the heat is on and the candles are lit on Sunday morning... pick one or add your own here) next year?" I empathize with those cries; I really do. But at the same time, I recognize that there is going to be a **next year** here. I think those worries are well-founded and realistic, and we should never ignore them. But, at the same time, I want to be the voice that these are the same concerns that have plagued the church since it's conception (both here in Vermont and elsewhere). I don't mean to diminish those fears at all, but I do want to remind us that God is still in control here and this is still very much GOD's church. Put your shoulder to the grindstone for we have a heavy responsibility in doing God's work, but at the same time, understand that this is God's work, and if God should so desire, God could call up people from the rocks of the earth, and God's desires will be accomplished. There, now get back to worrying, but not quite so much...

I am excited about upcoming events here. The Youth have a Youth Quake event in the Dells coming up, we have Cabin Fever Relievers scheduled which sound exciting – including having Meteorologist Bob Lindmeier coming to speak with us about Climate Change, another attempt at Game Night (any suggestions of a good day/time?), the Men's Meatball Dinner... Vermont Lutheran continues to be a happenin' place!

So, don't forget the Annual Meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>! And for those who haven't turned in their reports, do them now! On Tuesday Liz told me that I was the only one to have reports turned in so far – and she has to have it all put together by the 19<sup>th</sup>, to be put out on the 20<sup>th</sup>!

Thank you also for continued prayers for Ingrid and my brother, Ric; they are appreciated!

PB



# ELCA World Hunger

## Chili peppers boost income for farmers in Indonesia

INDONESIA  
[ELCA.org/hunger](http://ELCA.org/hunger)



On a half-acre on the island of Nias, Indonesia, that belonged to his father, Yaatulo and his wife, Mariata, grow bananas to support themselves and their two children.

While they work hard, the income from the bananas wasn't enough to support the family, Yaatulo says. Bananas are only harvested once a year, bringing the family an income equivalent to about \$40 USD a month.

One day while working, Yaatulo heard about a development program of the Center for Disaster Risk Management & Community Development Studies, which is supported by gifts to ELCA World Hunger. He decided to join, and soon he had the support to borrow enough money for chili seeds. Over two months, Yaatulo and Mariata cleared their land and dug trenches to plant more than 1,000 chili bushes.

Chilis can be harvested multiple times a year and grow relatively quickly, giving farmers more opportunities to sell them at markets. One kilogram can sell for \$3 USD, so over three months the crop has the

potential to add up to \$200 USD in revenue. Now, Yaatulo and Mariata have diversified their income sources.

"I will pay [the loan] back in three months so that someone else can use the money," Yaatulo says.

Through ELCA World Hunger, this church accompanies our neighbors like Yaatulo around the world as they work to end hunger and poverty. Thanks to your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, farmers like Yaatulo have improved access to the tools, training, livestock, seeds and more that will help their families increase farm production and have more to eat and sell on the market.

Yaatulo and Mariata have become an inspiration for others in their community and have helped their neighbors start their own farms. "We are listening and learning," he says. "I feel very happy."

WHF18

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support innovative solutions that fight hunger and poverty in more than 60 countries around the world, including the United States.

### Will you help with your gift today?

**YES!** I would like to support ELCA World Hunger (WHG0038)

- ☐ I have enclosed my gift of \$100  
☐ I have enclosed my gift of \$250  
☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail** Make your check payable to "ELCA World Hunger." Place your gift in your congregation's offering plate or mail it to:

ELCA  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

**Online** [ELCA.org/hunger/donate](http://ELCA.org/hunger/donate)

**Phone** 800-638-3522



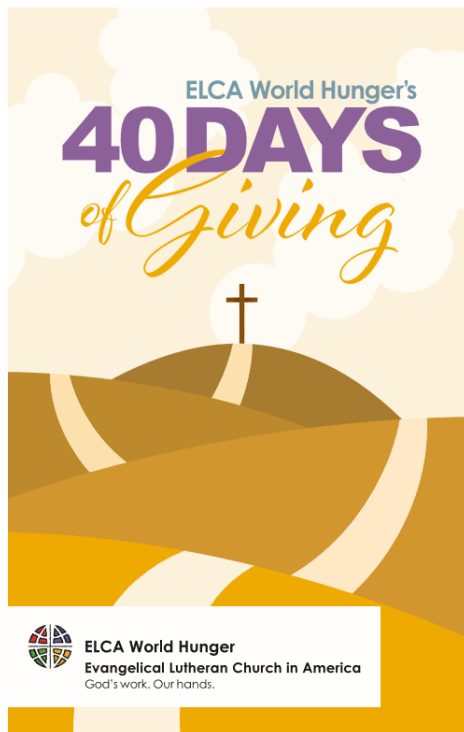
**ELCA World Hunger**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

## News From ELCA World Hunger (continued)

# This Lent,

you're invited to join together with fellow Lutherans to study, reflect and give during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving.

Experience how the grace of Christ moves us to engage in transformative works of love around the world through ELCA World Hunger as God calls us into the ministry of hope, liberation and restoration.



The world provides enough food for all, but more than **800 million people** around the world face chronic hunger.

We believe in a God of abundance, so as a church, we live out our baptismal call to strive for a just world where **all are fed.**

ELCA World Hunger is our church's ministry to end hunger and poverty. We walk alongside our partners and companions in the United States and more than 60 other countries.

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger address hunger and poverty around the world with creative and courageous action.

A photograph of several young children sitting on the ground, eating from pink bowls. They are smiling and appear to be in a communal setting.

### INVITATION TO LENT

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. **I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent – self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love – strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament.** Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Leaders Desk Edition)

### HOW TO GIVE

**ONLINE:**  
ELCA.org/40Days

**BY MAIL:**  
ELCA, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009  
Please make checks payable to "ELCA World Hunger" and write "40 Days of Giving" on the check's memo line.

ELCA World Hunger  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

ELCA040516

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## News From Your Synod and Ministry Partners . . .

Oakwood Village University Woods needs additional Sunday Worship Volunteers. Volunteers are needed from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to help Assisted Living residents attend the service (at least once a month - scheduling negotiable) and up to four volunteers for the service in the Oakwood chapel every other month on the third Sunday of the month. Interested persons should plan to volunteer on an ongoing basis. Contact Volunteer Services Coordinator Kim Viney at (608) 230-4238 or [kim.viney@oakwoodvillage.net](mailto:kim.viney@oakwoodvillage.net) for more information.



# News From Lutheran World Relief . . .



Thank you for being part of the Lutheran World Relief family. From providing aid in emergencies to working with families to grow food, build rural livelihoods and create more stable futures, your support is truly making amazing things happen in the world, which is why I'm excited about the news I'm sharing with you today.

Founded by U.S. Lutherans at the end of World War II, grounded in Lutheran theology and building on decades of experience, Lutheran World Relief is called to break the cycle of poverty, so families and communities can thrive.

To increase our impact, and promote healthier families and communities around the world, Lutheran World Relief and IMA World Health — a humanitarian organization that provides solutions to health-related problems in the developing world — are excited to announce we are joining forces.

We know that rural livelihoods and health are intrinsically linked. A family in poverty can scarcely afford health care. A sick breadwinner may be unable to earn income. Together we will help transform the lives of millions more people around the world.

[I invite you to learn more about this evolution by visiting our website.](#)

We remain an organization rooted in the Lutheran values upon which we were founded, and this new partnership will increase the impact of your generosity and compassion around the world.

Thank you for your enduring support of our mission. We look forward to working with you to create healthy communities, build sustainable livelihoods, reduce hunger and suffering — to end extreme poverty.

In Gratitude,

Daniel Speckhard  
President and CEO

If you know someone who would like prayers simply call or email:

# PRAYER REQUEST

Jan Cowan - 767-4616 - jancowan@tds.net  
Kay Rettenmund - 767-2328 - rett@tds.net.  
and the prayer chain will be activated.



## STEWARDSHIP

*Managing God's Gifts To Us*

### Financials: For January 2019

Income: \$ 9,085.33  
Expenses: \$ 10,324.66  
Difference: \$ - 1,239.99

## Attendance Matters

### January 2019

6th	65
13th	58
20th	34
27th	44

**February Newsletter**  
**articles are due**  
**February 21st**

to Elizabeth Herrling at  
**vermont\_church@tds.net**

**V**ermont **L**UTHERAN **C**hurch

9886 Vermont Church Road  
Black Earth, WI 53515  
Telephone (608) 767-3312

E-mail address: **Vermont\_Church@tds.net**  
Website: **vermontlutheran.org**

**Visit Vermont's Website:**

**[www.vermontlutheran.org](http://www.vermontlutheran.org)**

**Password: God'sWork**

**Log on to see all Vermont  
news and pictures!**



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at **Smartchurch.com**