

The Cemetery View

Vermont Lutheran Church Cemetery Association

May 2019

Vermont Legacy Fund Established

A few years ago the Vermont Cemetery Association established a fund for the eventual purchase of adjacent property to expand the cemetery. At the time, we estimated the current cemetery space would be “full” by perhaps as early as 2050. We called it the Vermont Cemetery Association Preservation Fund. Many of you have since contributed and pledged gifts or bequeathments after death. The fund has grown to well over \$80,000 in cash and additional estimated pledges of \$100,000 or more. Giving us perhaps \$180,000 some time in the future for cemetery expansion. In the meantime, it was also recognized that our view to the rising sun in the east could some day be marred by development in that direction.

Discussion at Cemetery Association meetings suggested that expansion of the cemetery and preservation of the viewscape would not only benefit the cemetery but the congregation as a whole. At the same time, the future will undoubtedly require funding of other church-wide capital intensive projects which normal weekly offerings may not be able to sustain. Discussion was also taking place at the church council level about such future needs. The goals of the fund now go beyond simple cemetery expansion and take in the viewscape preservation as well as other needs yet to be determined. Ideas from both groups were combined and presented to the congregation. The result- **The Vermont Legacy Fund.**

It is our time to build a legacy

Become a member of the Legacy Fund. Members of the Legacy Fund come from all walks of life and are united by a desire to preserve our beautiful Church and Cemetery.

Vermont Lutheran Church owns and maintains a cemetery, historic church building and Gathering Place with a hilltop viewscape. Christian stewardship involves the faithful management of all the gifts God has given us, including accumulated, inherited and appreciated resources. Therefore, we created the Legacy Fund to encourage, receive and administer these gifts. Our goal is to generate a Legacy Fund of \$1 Million dollars, or more.

Through receipt of bequests, grants and/or gifts, contributions to the Legacy Fund and investment growth will serve two very important purposes now and into the future:

- To purchase neighboring land for expansion of the cemetery; and/or
- Provide funds for future maintenance of the cemetery and/or building and grounds needs of the Church.

Any legacy member whose contribution totals \$1,000 or more will be recognized with a brass plate on a prominently displayed plaque. Annual meeting reports will include all the names of those individuals who made a contribution of any amount that year.



Current Cemetery Association Projects

A new blacktop surface for the entire cemetery driveway is scheduled to go in this summer. The current drive is cracking badly and the west section has never had blacktop and is subject to erosion whenever we get a gully-washer. Which seems to happen often!

The Cemetery Association secured a very attractive bid from Fink's Paving last summer and if the weather would have cooperated, the new drive would have been laid in last year. However, we all know how things went late last season with record setting rainfalls so the project is slated for this year. The \$18,200 estimate includes digging out the old driveway, laying down a gravel base and installing a hot mix layer over the top. The fairly steeply sloping west drive will get the same treatment, eliminating the constant rutting, regrading and need for adding gravel to that section.



Joel Schultz has again been contracted to mow the cemetery in 2019. Joel and his crew go above and beyond each year with timely mowing, extra cleanup and also mowing the historic marker just east of the church and the approach to Vermont Church Road at the intersection of State Highway 78.

You may have noticed that the flags on veteran graves remain year round. In the past, these were placed for Memorial Day by American Legion Post 313 in Black Earth and removed shortly after. However, the Post and their Legion Auxiliary have seen fit to keep the flags out all year. In addition, the Cemetery Association makes a donation to the Legion each year for the effort.

Speaking of flags, the Veteran's Memorial at the cemetery gate always has fresh flags in place due to the efforts of the Cemetery Association. It costs us some money but we feel it's appropriate to continually show appreciation to our congregation veterans.

Contact Vermont Cemetery Association

Should the need arise to reserve a cemetery lot, make arrangements for a burial or place a marker, please contact Jon Urness at (608) 575-2387 or jcurness@outlook.com

Other Cemetery Association members include:

Dave Haugen (608) 767-3313,
Greg Herrling (608) 219-7271,
Gary Olsen (608) 767-3988,
Jim Herrling (608) 220-6420 or
Karsten Haugen (608) 767-5586.

Cost of Gravesites

- Members in good standing: no charge
- Non-Members: \$1500 per site

Burial Fees

- All burials require a \$400 maintenance fee to cover current and future cemetery maintenance in addition to any grave site charge.
- Cremain burials also require payment of the full burial fee.
- Up to four (4) cremains are allowed on one grave site. Maximum of two containers per site.
- There are no special requirements for vaults or cremation urns beyond what is provided by State law.
- All grave openings and closings shall be performed by Linley Excavating, Cross Plains.

Markers

- All cemetery markers shall be approved for size, location and design by the Vermont Lutheran Cemetery Association.
- A marking fee for installation of markers is \$15.

Contacts for burial arrangements or lots:

Jon Urness 608.575.2387 jcurness@outlook.com

David Haugen 608.767.3313 jdhwindyacres@tds.net

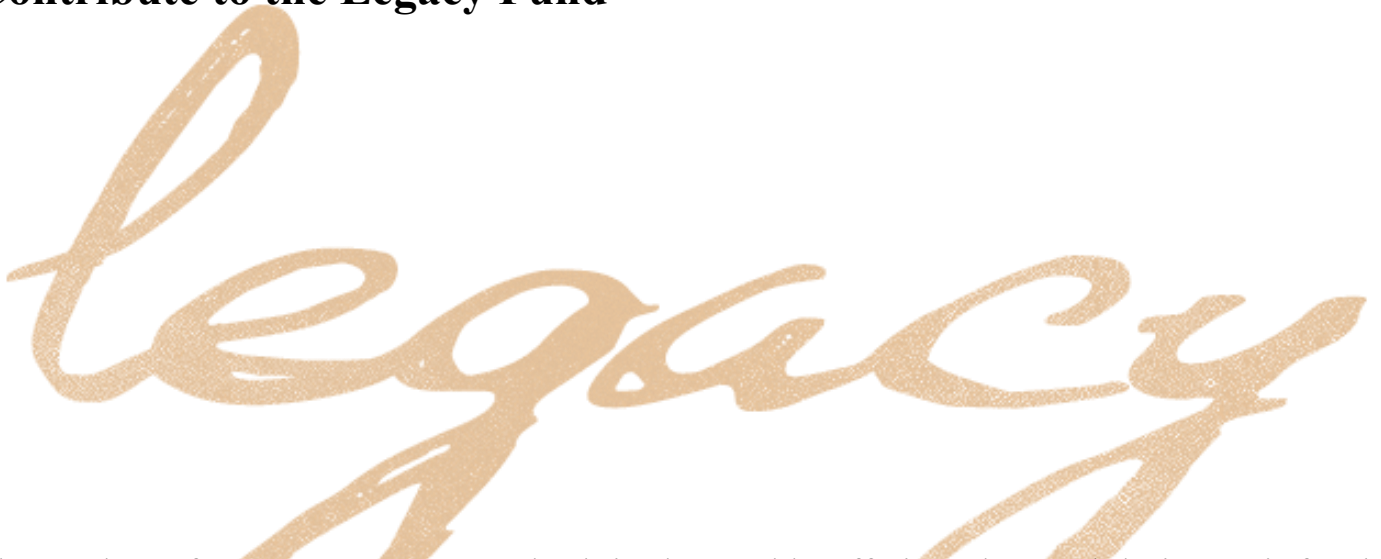
Greg Herrling 608.219.7271 pherr@aol.com

Gary Olsen 608.767.3988 gghh@charter.net

**Vermont Lutheran
Church Cemetery**

9886 Vermont Church Road
Black Earth, WI 53515

Contribute to the Legacy Fund



There are lots of easy ways. Drop a check in the weekly offering plate and designate it for the Legacy Fund if you're at Vermont. Otherwise, just send a check to Vermont Lutheran Church, 9886 Vermont Church Rd, Black Earth, WI 53515 and designate it for the Legacy Fund. To set up a future gift or an estate bequest, contact a member of the Cemetery Association or Vermont Church Council officer. We'll make sure you get a form for that purpose. In every case, you will be recognized and you'll also receive a receipt for tax purposes.
