



THE MESSENGER

Vermont Lutheran Church's Mission Statement:

Christians **A**ctively **R**eaching Out **E**xperiencing Christ and **S**preparing His Word

From Pastor Barry's Desk . . .



Greetings to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of Jesus the Christ!

You may have noticed (if you came by the church for one reason or another), that we have a new sign that announces “the hours” that the church bell is tolled – 6 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 noon, 3 p.m., 6 p.m., and 9 p.m. I thought it might be interesting to explore a little bit about the use of church bells.

Bells serve a practical purpose, and at the same time provide a pleasing way of conveying messages of purpose.

It seems particularly appropriate to understand the bells as a means of communication in a time when most of us are restricted to our homes because of this Corona virus. That is because bells were an ancient way of calling together community and keeping people in touch with one another.

Bells have been used to warn of invading armies, of a fire or other threats to a community; bells were used to tell of a death of a community member; bells were used to signal that all was well; bells were rung to celebrate holidays, other celebrations, or major victories in war.

Around 400 AD bells were adopted into churches Bishop Paulinus of Nola in Campania. Bells were used to signal the beginning of a church service, or when the congregation was reciting the Lord' Prayer.

Today the bells ring on the hour (between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.) at ELC in Mt. Horeb, followed at times of “the hours” with the playing of a hymn. In many cases, such as the case for Vermont Lutheran, the bells ring when they do as a reflection of what are sometimes called the “canonical hours”. These are set to remind us that God is with us always, and as a reminder to the faithful to praise and honor God. And, people were encouraged when hearing the bells, to stop for prayer (in particular, the Lord's Prayer).

Bells at these times also served the purpose in earlier times to signify when to rise (or for farmers, time for first milking), when markets would open, when it was time for dinner, time for school to get out, time for supper, and time to turn out the lights. Watches were not affordable or available to many, so the church bells marked the important hours of the day.

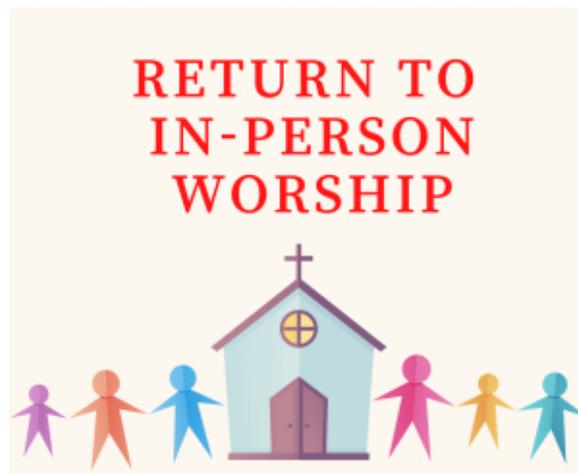
And, when in times like we are in, the bells serve as a constant reminder that the church and God are still there and standing sentinel. We may not be able to gather in church, but the church still stands. We might not be able to gather together in worship, but we can still worship God in our homes and in nature.

The next time your hear church bells, realize the number of people who hear those same bells, and how God holds all of us in beloved care. Know too, the message that Vermont Lutheran sends out, telling people that God and the church is still alive, and that we bring that good news to all wherever they may be.

Peace! Pastor Barry

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The votes are in! We have had 51 responses to the survey, no:29 yes:22. Although we feel we can safely hold in person worship while in phase 2, our decision at this point in time is to hold off on returning to in person worship. We most likely will return when ...

Dane County moves to Phase 3

As we make plans to return to in-person worship, it is important for you to be aware that there are several guidelines that we will need to follow.

We are looking to the guidance of our healthcare and government officials but ultimately we want to make a decision that will best serve our congregation.

In order for you to make an informed decision about gathering; these are the general guidelines that we will need to follow.

1. Everyone must wear a mask at all times.
2. We will not be singing and will not be able to have the choir sing, but we can use instrument solos or recordings.
3. In order to accommodate the social distancing guidelines, we ask that families or groups that generally spend time together arrive and are seated at the same time. We will seat from front to back and either stagger or skip pews to maintain a safe distance.
4. No food or beverages may be prepared or served.
5. No pew Bibles or hymnals may be used. We ask that other personal belongings are limited.
6. Ushers will open church doors and hand sanitizer will be placed at each entrance.
7. The church will be cleaned each week using an EPA approved disinfectant.
8. We will not be using the balcony.
9. Services will continue to be recorded and offered online.

News

Work at the Church

Do you have any spare time? Is there something that you have been meaning to do at the church and haven't gotten around to it?

Now is the time! It is pretty much empty and waiting for a deep clean and organizing.

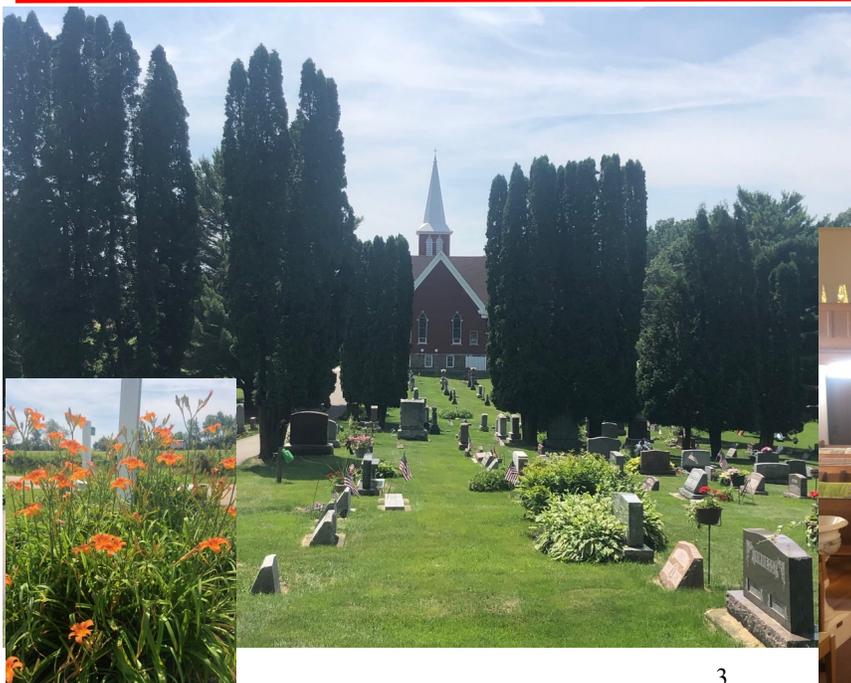


The Herrlings had some extra time and were able to get some painting done at the church.

The lawn is always growing.



A beautiful new oil painting has been donated to Vermont Lutheran Church, painted and donated by Paul Goderstad.



**Remember
the
Church**



News

The Legacy Fund: Our Opportunity to Pay-It-Forward

Perhaps you've heard or even used the phrases, "pay-it-forward" or "random acts of kindness." In either case, the person paying-it-forward or performing the random act of kindness does so out of the goodness of their heart, seeking no recognition and with no strings attached. The recipient is thankful, uplifted and often moved to do the same for another.

My family and I experienced the pay-it-forward and random acts of kindness of the congregation before we were even members of Vermont Church. It was June 1984, the Barneveld tornado had taken the roof off our house in Black Earth and we would spend the summer in a rental house as we rebuilt. Cleaning up debris from the front yard one day, friends asked us if we'd like to come up to church for lunch. Our response was, we're not members. No matter – the congregation was serving lunch for everyone in the community as folks rebuilt! From that day forward, we knew we'd be life-long members of Vermont! And, we knew we were in for a journey of paying that kindness forward.

We soon realized the founders of Vermont Church chose a beautiful hilltop site, built a brick and mortar church to stand the tests of time and purchased enough land to also provide a final resting place for their dearly departed. They had faith that their actions would spur future generations of congregation members to pay their faith forward. That is their legacy.

Now, we have the opportunity to pay their legacy further forward through the Legacy Fund which was created through a resolution approved by the congregation in 2019. The purpose of the fund is to have money available to purchase land directly to the east of the church - to retain our beautiful hilltop view and expand the cemetery - and/or provide funds for the ongoing building and grounds needs of the church, Gathering Place and cemetery.

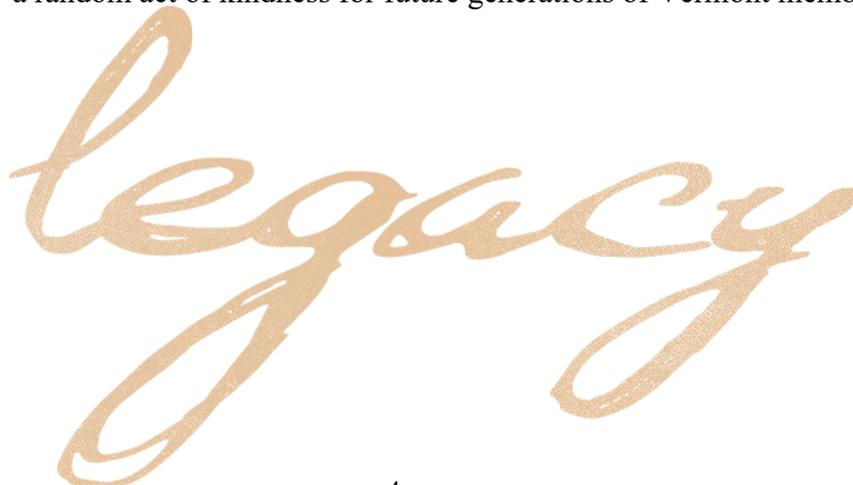
Many members and friends of Vermont Church have already stepped forward with generous donations such that we are well on our way to the Legacy Fund goal of one million dollars, although we need not stop there! After purchase of the land, the interest income on the fund will provide an excellent source of future funding for the building, grounds and cemetery upkeep needs.

In addition, the fund resolution allows future church councils to use Legacy Fund dollars, in an emergency, to help balance the normal day-to-day operational and benevolence expenses of the congregation. Thus, the Legacy Fund can act as a "rainy day" fund.

I envision Vermont Church continuing to be a vibrant, welcoming and mission oriented congregation for generations to come. And, the Legacy Fund is a key tool in ensuring that happens. Imagine the council president 75 years from now encouraging her members to continue donating to the Legacy Fund because, through our foresight, our hilltop view is still serene, the church building was able to be retrofitted with the latest energy efficient technology, visitors still marvel at the beauty of the iconic altar and stained glass windows which were artfully restored 40 years prior and the road through the expanded cemetery now needs repaving.

That will be our legacy – a random act of kindness for future generations of Vermont members with no strings attached.

Peter Antonie



Daily Discipleship

(A) – Matthew 10:40-42

Tips of Discipleship: *Welcome Others*

Focus Question: *How have you welcomed someone this week as if that person were Christ?*

word of life

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.” Matthew 10:40 (NRSV)

Read Matthew 10:40-42

The tenth chapter of Matthew focuses on the mission of the twelve being sent into a hostile world. Jesus warns his disciples to be ready for persecution and rejection. This chapter concludes with gentler words concerning the opposite response by people – being welcomed. Not everyone rejects followers of Jesus. This news is refreshing consolation to any who are sent in the name of Jesus.

1. *What are ways to welcome a stranger?*
2. *How does it feel to be welcomed – especially when away from home?*

When someone welcomes one of the disciples it is like welcoming Jesus Christ. And there is more. To welcome Jesus is to welcome God who sent Jesus. Basic hospitality is not to be underestimated. Jesus clearly links his disciples with himself and God.

3. *How can this be?*
4. *Knowing a disciple is connected to God, why would anyone reject the disciple?*
5. *How is a disciple of Jesus recognized?*

This concept is not new. The Old Testament prophets were sent in the name of the Lord. Some were rejected, but they were also welcomed at times. If and when prophets are welcomed, the person who extends hospitality is promised a reward. Likewise, anyone who welcomes a righteous person also receives a reward.

6. *What reward might be given to the person who extends hospitality to a prophet or righteous person?*
7. *What might be the difference between a prophet and a righteous person?*

Jesus is not finished. “And whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple – truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.” (Matthew 10:42 NRSV) Cold water means a great deal in a desert where water is not easily available. The real question is the identity of “these little ones.” Scholars sometimes describe “these little ones” as the ordinary members of the body of Christ – those who live their lives faithfully, full of humility, and without acclaim.

8. *How do you define “these little ones”?*
9. *Who are “these little ones” living today?*
10. *Why is there such an emphasis on hospitality?*

Jesus connects himself to his followers as they bear witness to him. Thus, anyone who receives and welcomes one of his ambassadors will be recognized and rewarded.

11. *How do we prepare to welcome others in the name of Jesus Christ?*
12. *How do we respond when others welcome us?*

Pentecost Bible Study (continued)

word among us

Many congregations gathered together in the heat of summer to hear a guest pastor preach. Through the humor of his stories, they heard about him growing up in Africa and coming to the South for his high school years. At one point, he asked them to shout “Amen” if they agreed with him. How could you not agree with him as spoke eloquently about Jesus Christ? He was their guest. Why not shout an “Amen”? They realized it was enjoyable to get involved in the sermon in such a way.

Midway through the sermon, the preacher instructed them to say “ouch” if he was close to a sore point in their life. The people complied as he offered prophetic words on the hurts of their day. He preached the gospel – challenging and comforting them with his words. They in turn welcomed him in their midst, grateful for his time with them.

1. *What does it mean to welcome a representative of Christ?*
2. *Do you have to agree with an ambassador of Christ to welcome him or her? How so?*
3. *If you knew Jesus was coming tonight to a meeting at your congregation, what would you do?*
4. *If you were at a meeting at your congregation and a stranger walked in, what would you do?*
5. *Describe a time when you were warmly welcomed.*

Hospitality seems to come naturally for some people. They seem to have a knack for sensing the needs of others – ready to get a glass of water, give directions, or listen.

6. *How do we learn how to welcome people?*
7. *What advice would you give to someone who wanted to increase their welcoming skills?*

Take a few minutes to assess your own congregation’s hospitality. Imagine you are a visitor trying to find your church and attend worship. List the ways a person finds out about your worship schedule and location. Describe how that person would be received before, during, and after worship.

8. *How would you rate the hospitality of your congregation?*
9. *How might it be improved?*

Take a few minutes to assess your own personal hospitality skills. Think through a typical day. Consider opportunities to welcome people in your life. Imagine Jesus crossing your path this week. Describe the reception he might receive from you – especially if you do not first recognize him.

10. *What can we learn from this?*
11. *How might you become more welcoming?*

Prayer

Gracious God, show me ways to welcome your ambassadors into my life. Help me to be open to the needs of the stranger. Amen

Dig Deeper

Jeremiah 28:5-9

last word

Take time this week
to welcome a stranger in the name of Christ.



Daily Discipleship

Written by John and Robin McCullough-Bade

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www.elca.org/evangelizingchurch/dailydiscipleship

(A) Page 2 of 2



July 5

Faith can be strengthened through the hard work of wrestling with suffering and recovery.

Job 41:1-8; 42:1-17

July 12

Consolation

Suffering thrives in isolation. Consolation brings people and communities together so healing can begin.

2 Corinthians 1:1-11

July 19

Forgiveness

Paul urged forgiveness and also reconciliation as tools toward healing the Corinthian Christian community.

2 Corinthians 2:1-10

July 26

Treasure in Clay Jars

God's Holy Spirit, which lives inside breakable vessels, cannot be contained.

2 Corinthians 4:1-18

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Haylee	Adler	July 02
Marcia	Morley	July 02
Kaitlyn	Severson	July 02
Dale	Paddock	July 09
Riley	Lynch	July 10
Robert	Clason	July 11
Hillary	Olsen	July 11
Leonard	Schaub	July 13
Carol	Parrell	July 14
Samuel	King	July 15
David	Haugen	July 16
Collin	Kennedy	July 19
Galen	Kennedy	July 19
Bonnie	Dauck	July 21
Carol	Johnson	July 22
Hailey	Amble	July 24
Jill	Lynch	July 25
Shawn	Page	July 25
Beverly	Schultz	July 26
Donna	Dybdahl	July 28
Carter	Childs	July 29
Randy	Page	July 31



VERMONT LUTHERAN CHURCH Council Minutes

June 17, 2020

Draft—to be approved at the next council meeting

The June meeting was held via conference call due to the Covid19 Pandemic and was called to order at 6:02 PM by President Aaron Tigert

Attendance: Aaron T, Carol J, Pastor Barry, Jamie H, Len S, Steve H, Melissa H, Larry Z

Devotions Pastor Barry led us in Devotions piggy backing on his recent article in the Mount Horeb Mail Faith section. Of all the Religions in the world, the one thing that they have in common – they teach Love one Another! We may profess leading a Faith Life, yet we spend so much time disagreeing with each other. If we say that we that we are Faithful but do not show Love to our fellow human beings, we are not measuring up to God's Will!

Pastor's Report: Carol made a motion to approve as presented, Steve seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The Pastor's Report can be found printed separately.

Secretary's Report: Carol made a motion to approve the MAY Secretary's Report, Steve seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. The Draft of the JUNE Minutes can be found printed separately.

Treasurer's Report: Steve reported that May contributions were \$3,000 less than May of 2019. This is the second month in a row that we received less than in the same period in 2019. The positive side is that our expenses were \$5,000 less than in 2019. Our overall contributions Jan-May are about \$8,000 ahead of 2019 due to an extremely generous start of the year. We are so appreciative that the Congregation finds a way to continue to support Vermont even though we have not been able to congregate in person and we hope that this may continue through current online services. Our PPP Funds of \$19K, to be used towards Salaries and Utilities had an expiration date of June 18. Steve said we had \$3K left on that date but is waiting to hear if there will be an extension approved that we may use all the dollars and not have to repay any leftover amount by the target date. Larry made a motion to accept the Report, Jamie seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

- **Building and Grounds:** Samantha and Luke Herrling sanded and painted the steps to the Church and also the picnic table! A huge Thank You to the duo for their work in helping to maintain the appearance of Vermont Church! Len made a motion to approve the Report, Steve seconded and it was passed unanimously.
- **Visibility:** An update report on Christians in Action, Mazomanie Food Pantry is printed separately. Carol made a motion to approve the Report, Melissa seconded and the Report passed unanimously.

Old Business

- **VLC Committee Structure Update** – The Draft to the restructure had been presented by Carol and Steve last month. They had passed it to some other Church members to review and offer opinions. It received a positive response with the agreement we were Committee overloaded with overlaps. Steve and Carol are hopeful they can present a final draft at the next Council Meeting for review and approval.
- **Reintegration to Worship** - This of course is the hot topic of the day for discussion. We revisited our decision from last month when we set a tentative date of July 12 to re open the Church for Worship. Of course this Coronavirus Pandemic is fluid in its day to day and month to month affect. A robust discussion was held on Vermont's next step. Many great suggestions were brought forth. Bottom line is that we just don't know what and when will be the safest course of action to reconvene. Pastor Barry had presented an informal survey from area Churches on their possibilities to reintegrate. It was observed they varied widely with no definite plans other than wait and see seemed the most prominent. Ultimately a Council decision was made to create a sub-committee that would formulate a questionnaire to be presented to Vermont's members. Opinions of our members means a lot going forward in laying out a procedure. Jamie, Mellissa

and PB with Liz will develop a letter/questionnaire for members to respond back to the Church. Their capable skill in doing this seemed to be the best route to follow at this point before hard decisions are made. So July 12 is flexible at this point , we will stay the course for the present. President Aaron’s prophetic words of “Crawl-Walk-Run” seems to be the guide phrase that we will be taking.

New Business

- Lutfisk Dinner – Conversations with the Chair Heads of the Lutfisk Dinner, Janet Castle and Patty Herrling both had the same answer. It just does not seem feasible to hold the Dinner this year. So many underlying reasons of close contact in repeated situations is just not recommended under the current Covid19 circumstances. A motion was made by Steve to not hold the Dinner in 2020. Carol seconded and it passed unanimously. So what do we do to make up for the financial result of the Dinner that we depended on for our Mission commitment? Again many good suggestions came forward. We decided to go forward with a “ Non-Lutfisk, Lutfisk Fund Raiser” . Carol will create possibly two letters. One to the volunteers of the Dinner, and another to past ticket buyers, remaining Congregational members and other supporters of the Church. It will be asking for contributions to this Non Dinner Fund to help us in our annual \$10,000 support of Missions.
- Month Break – A discussion was held whether the Council should take a Summer month break from meeting like we did last year. We agreed that we could do this and deal with any pressing matters via email or conference. So we plan to have our next official meeting August 20, moving back to Thursdays at 6 PM.

Aaron made a motion to adjourn the Meeting, Jamie seconded and with the motion passing unanimously, the Meeting was adjourned.

Pastor Barry led us in The Lord’s Prayer

The next Meeting will be Thursday August 20, 2020 at 6PM with the hope we will be able to once again meet in person

At 7:02 PM President Aaron closed the Conference Call

Submitted by Larry Ziemer, Secretary



STEWARDSHIP
Managing God's Gifts To Us

Financials: Year to Date June 2020

Operating Contributions:	\$ 81,608-22
Total Operating Expenses:	\$ 68,059.45
Difference:	\$ 13,548.77

Attendance Matters

June 2020

3rd none
10th none
17th none
24th none
31st none

Visibility Committee
Christians in Action—Mazomanie Food Pantry

As the Pantry continues on a weekly basis, this is a summary of the May activity: 39 different households were served – this is the highest total in the most recent 4 years and previously it was on a once monthly basis.

The Pantry continues on a solid financial basis through thoughtful management and generous donations. Government donation programs provide a variety of option such as pork chops, pork loin, sausage patties, whole chickens, chicken patties, fish sticks and ground beef, cheese and butter. These selections are rotated throughout the month.

Canned goods and dry boxed foods are also rotated to continually offer a variety to the families due to the fact that they aren't able to select for themselves under the current Covid19 conditions. Fresh fruit and vegetables are purchased locally weekly.

Vouchers for milk are available and provided at a local gas station/ convenience store

Information provided by Barbara Blattner and Larry

WELCA News

JULY ALTAR DUTY

Judy Urness & Shelby McKenzie

Fall Retreat: A Fall Retreat is in the works at Lutherdale Bible Camp for September 18-19 with overnight and day camp options. See the WELCA website for our synod or the April 2020 Trumpeter, which is also on line. For more info, please contact Janna Smith, SWO President (5K), 262-215-6892 smithjanna55@gmail.com



Synod News

EMANUEL 9 DAY OF REPENTENCE – June 17, 2020 (or the Sunday After)



In 2019, as a result of grassroots organizing, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted a resolution to establish June 17 as “**Emanuel 9 Day of Repentance**,” commemorating the martyrdom of Pickney, Graham-Hurd, Jackson, Lance, Middleton-Doctor, Sanders, Simmons, Coleman-Singleton and Thompson. The resolution calls for worship resources and deepening conversations with the African Methodist Episcopal Church on matters of racism and white supremacy. It was adopted alongside another resolution condemning white supremacy and racist rhetoric, and in the context of the ELCA’s public apology articulated in the “Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent.”

The synod’s racial equity team invites you to use the resources provided by the ELCA in creative ways to raise awareness and to commemorate this day on June 17 (or the weekend after), whether we worship in person or via electronic means.

First, you may wish to become better informed by reading this overview provided by the ELCA, “An Overview of Ecumenical Relations between the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.” It provides insight to the journey the ELCA has taken to come to this place in our understanding.

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Ecumenical_Relations_Emanuel_Nine_Commemoration.pdf?_ga=2.114616964.2026109940.1590436226-556277034.1583787802



Also provided are ELCA created resources available for your use. This page on the ELCA website is rich with resources and useful information to share in your settings.

<https://elca.org/EmanuelNine>



Our neighbors are struggling with hunger more than ever!

Consider signing up to pack Care Boxes* for Second Harvest Food Bank to help meet the need as we continue to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Care Box volunteer shifts are available for volunteers 12 years & above** and are currently available through next Saturday afternoon, June 27.

Your volunteer shift will be well organized and safe with attention to face masks, proper distancing, and frequent cleaning including

high touch surfaces.

Additional shifts will be added in the days to come. For all the details and to sign up, click the button below. You are very welcome to share this opportunity with others.

*Care Boxes will be distributed to our neighbors in need by partner food pantries, shelters, meal sites, etc. as well as through our mobile pantry program.

SIGN UP TODAY:

<https://www.secondharvestmadison.org/volunteer/care-box-assembly-volunteer-opportunity>

**Volunteers 12-15 years must be accompanied by an adult.

**NEW SYNOD ASSEMBLY DATE ANNOUNCED!
SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2020 IS NEW DATE**



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

ELCA Presiding Bishop Responds to Today's Supreme Court Decision on DACA Program

This church urges "flexible and humane ways for undocumented persons who have been in this country for a specified amount of time to be able to adjust their legal status."

— ELCA social message, "Immigration" (1998)

Today I rejoice in the renewal of dreams and the transformation of heartbreak into hope that today's Supreme Court decision brings to our nation's more than 700,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, their families and their communities. Today's decision recognizes the American identity of these young adults and values the long and deep contributions that these DACA recipients are making and will make to our nation.

Since 2012, DACA has provided protection from deportation to young people who have grown up as members of our churches and as neighbors enriching our common life. It has allowed them to remain in the only home they have ever known, pursue their educations, and work to strengthen our communities. For these reasons the ELCA has been on record in support of such a program since 2011 (CA11.04.26; <https://www.elca.org/Resources/Faith-and-Society#Socialresolutions>). These protections can now continue, easing individual anxiety for the future and ensuring that families can stay together.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that our health and future cannot be separated from the well-being of our neighbor. Even as we celebrate, there is more to do to provide permanent protection for DACA recipients. Today's important decision must be reinforced by legislation that ensures our immigrant neighbors can continue to pursue educations, develop careers, raise families and worship alongside us without constant threats of deportation.

We look ahead and urge passage of H.R.6, the American Dream and Promise Act, which passed the House of Representatives in June 2019. It would provide legal status and a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients while promoting just treatment for other undocumented communities.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Hope for sufficient livelihoods

Malawi

ELCA World Hunger's
40 DAYS
of Giving

The hope for sufficient livelihood that could provide for her family inspired Mrs. Kamela to join a village savings and loan group through Evangelical Lutheran Development Service (ELDS), which is supported by ELCA World Hunger. With the combined savings of the group and additional training in business management, Mrs. Kamela was able to start a small business. The income she earned through her hard work and the support of ELDS and ELCA World Hunger helped her provide for her children and improve her home. Now, instead of a dilapidated thatch house, she has a brick home with iron roofing – a safe and secure dwelling that will withstand the rains.

“This project has changed my life from a nobody to a somebody,” she says. “My life has changed from the worst to the better, and there is a bright future for me and my children.”



This is church. Mrs. Kamela’s hope is grounded in knowing that she is not alone, that the future can be bright for her and her children because of the community and church that walk with her. Gifts to ELCA World Hunger support this program and address hunger and poverty in 60 other countries around the world with creative and courageous action.



Philip Bidal, 17, and his grandmother, Acii Paulina, who is in her 80s, are refugees from South Sudan living in Palabek Refugee Settlement in northern Uganda. They received improved seeds and agricultural training from Lutheran World Relief to help diversify their diet and increase their income. (Photo by Jake Lyell)

Hunger or coronavirus: an impossible choice for refugees in Uganda

• Emily Esworthy Jun 19, 2020

Acii Paulina doesn't know exactly how old she is.

All she knows for sure is that when the first Sudanese Civil War broke out in 1955, she feared most for her young children, who were still small enough to be carried in her arms.

Life was not easy before the war, but in the six decades since the fighting started, Paulina has endured more suffering than most people can imagine — the tragic deaths of countless family members and friends to war and sickness, bouts of deep poverty and wasting hunger, and the loss of her home, to name a few.

Three times she has had to run for her life to seek refuge in Uganda, where she now lives in a tiny mud hut in a refugee camp. This time, she says, there's no going back to her war-torn homeland.

Instead of being surrounded by her small children, now she has her teenage grandson Philip by her side. Philip's parents died during the second Sudanese Civil War, and Paulina insisted he come with her to Uganda because she feared rebel soldiers would either kill him or force him to join their ranks and kill his own people.

Together, grandmother and grandson fled to start a new life.

After surviving a life of war, COVID-19 threatens

Paulina and Philip have no running water, so Philip goes to the community tap daily to haul water for drinking and washing. For food, they grow a few vegetables in a tiny garden next to their hut, which is only a few feet away from their neighbors'. Whenever they have any produce leftover, Philip takes it to the crowded street market to sell. This is their only income to buy what they need to survive.



Over time, as they cultivated their tiny plot of land and established roots, Paulina and Philip began to feel secure in their new life and routine. But now, a new threat is pressing. Every time Philip ventures to the market, he knows he risks being exposed to COVID-19 and bringing it home to his grandmother. With her fragile health and advancing age, her risk of death is high.

But the choice is impossible: how can they choose between going hungry or getting sick and dying?

Reaching neighbors at risk of coronavirus

Your gift to Lutheran World Relief will deliver urgent support to people like Paulina and Philip who are facing impossible choices as the coronavirus pandemic continues to advance across the globe. Your love will rush masks, soap, emergency food, access to medical care, handwashing stations and more to families with no defense.

You'll also provide seeds and tools so that families can grow more of the foods they need to survive.

Though Paulina and Philip face impossible choices, you can choose to ease their burden and change their lives by extending your love to these neighbors in their time of need. Please give what you can today, and help ensure all God's people receive the lifesaving care they need.

Until your love reaches every neighbor.

Call or email

PRAYER

REQUEST to

Jan Cowan - 767-4616 - jancowan@tds.net
Kay Rettenmund - 767-2328 - rett@tds.net.

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.

August Newsletter
articles are due
July 24th

to Elizabeth Herrling at
vermont_church@tds.net

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