

# THE MESSENGER

Vermont Lutheran Church's Mission Statement:

Christians Actively Reaching Out Experiencing Christ and Sspreading His Word

## From Pastor Barry's Desk . . .



Brothers and sisters in Christ, warm greetings and Happy New Year to all!

It's that time of year once again when celebration is in the air and spirits are high. Actually the festivities began weeks before - even as early as Thanksgiving - and have built in intensity through Christmas, culminating in this great observance of the beginning of a whole new year. It really is quite something when you think of it. We really do enjoy having a good time, don't we?

So why is it that we get so excited after all of this time of celebration, what re-energizes us to have one more party before we settle in for a winter's respite? It is the hope that is felt in beginning a brand new year once again. There's something pretty Lutheran in this if I might say. We know how new beginnings for Martin Luther were quite a thing... that is, Martin was good at seeing new chances come about in the most ordinary of places. Each time at Holy Communion, Martin would teach us that our sins once again have been forgiven and our slates of offenses were once again washed clean.

"And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened." (Luke 11:9-10)

"Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me." (Psalm 50:15)

"Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstance so for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)

Luther writes about the command and promises, "You should say, 'My prayer is as precious, holy, and pleasing to God as that of St. Paul or of the most holy saints. This is the reason: I will gladly grant that Paul is personally more holy, but that's not because of the commandment. God does not consider prayer because of the person, but because of His Word and obedience to it. For I rest my prayer on the same commandment on which all the saints rest their prayer. Furthermore, I pray for the same thing that they all pray for and always have prayed. Besides, I have just as great a need of what I pray for as those great saints; no, even a greater one than

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

they.”

So, in fact, Martin taught us to pray each morning, *“I thank you, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that you would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.”* Each and every day was a new chance...a new beginning...a clean slate on which to once again give glory to God and to try again to live as God's servant.

So this new beginning of a brand new year *is* exciting! It is another chance at living a life that would please our God, and bring us closer to models of the godly life. Doesn't it feel good to wash away the dirt of 2018 that has accumulated and weighed us down? Now we get to start again, renewed, refreshed, and reminded once again that Jesus is coming!

*Pastor Barry*



Conner Danz (The Beast), Cassidy Dewitt (Mrs. Potts), Jack Haugen (Tuba), Luke Haugen

### Congratulations

to the cast, crew and pit orchestra of the

Wisconsin Heights  
School Musical

Beauty and the Beast:



(Monsier D'Arque & Egg Man),

Brianna Herrling (Production Staff), Emma King (Production Manager) and Riley Lynch (Trumpet).

# Annual Congregation Meeting

**JANUARY 27TH, 2019**

All committees—please submit all reports to the church office ASAP.

All members— Your attendance is requested. The purpose of the annual meeting is to conduct the official business for the year. Members will read minutes, make and receive reports, vote on the budget and elect new officers and/or council members.

## WELCA News

### **JANUARY ALTAR DUTY**

Bonnie Dauck  
&  
Sue Schaub



Join your Sisters in Christ for Women of the ELCA January Update and Sharing Event 1:00 to 2:30 pm .

All women are invited, especially leaders and officers of women's groups:

Saturday, January 12, 2019 St. John's Lutheran, 625 E. Netherwood Street, Oregon  
Please RSVP by January 8

OR

Saturday, January 19, 2019 Dekorra Lutheran, N3099 Smith Road, Poynette  
Please RSVP by January 15.

Snow date is Saturday, January 26, for either location, 1 – 2:30 pm

Program includes: Time for sharing your women's group's activities and information to assist you in planning events, serving as officers, and starting new women's groups. Bring your Yearly Ministry Report. The same information will be presented at each location. Please RSVP if possible to Janna Smith at [smithsj@charter.net](mailto:smithsj@charter.net) or 262-473-9719



# CONFIRMATION

January 9th @ 3:30 pm – 5pm Class

January 23d @ 3:30 pm – 5pm Class

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## YOUTH EVENTS (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



### **January 6**

#### **Magi Visit**

Matthew 2:1-23

Psalm 96:10-13

Psalm 11:1-3

### **January 13**

#### **Jesus' Baptism: Matthew**

Matthew 3:1-17

Psalm 2:7-8

### **January 20**

#### **Tempted in the**

#### **Wilderness**

Matthew 4:1-17

Psalm 91:9-12

### **January 27**

#### **Beatitudes**

Matthew 5:1-20

Psalm 1:1-3

## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Mickelson, Jane
- 1 Olsen, Henry
- 1 Pappas, Riley
- 1 Watkins, Linda
- 2 Brandt, Shirley
- 5 Brandt, Earl
- 5 Fitzgerald, Alex
- 5 Fitzgerald, Eric
- 6 Hanson, Cora
- 8 Dauck, Gretchen
- 8 Schaub, Susan
- 8 Schaub, Susan
- 14 Johnson, Richard
- 16 Boebel, Cara
- 20 Haugen, Joanie
- 22 Adler, Ashlee
- 23 Cowan, Janice
- 23 Humphrey, Angela
- 23 Severson, Candy
- 25 Duhr, Bob
- 26 Adler, Reed
- 27 Field, Jane
- 28 Herrling, Gregory
- 31 Antonie, Kristin



# 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, January 13<sup>th</sup> – The Magic and Mystery of Maui



Peter and Kris Antonie will present a travelogue of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary trip to Maui. You'll marvel at the geologic history of the Hawaiian Islands, go snorkeling, take a tour of the sacred Iao Valley, take in the thrill of a helicopter ride over the Haleakala volcanic crater, bask in the wonders of the road to Hana and swim with sea turtles.

### 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.

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



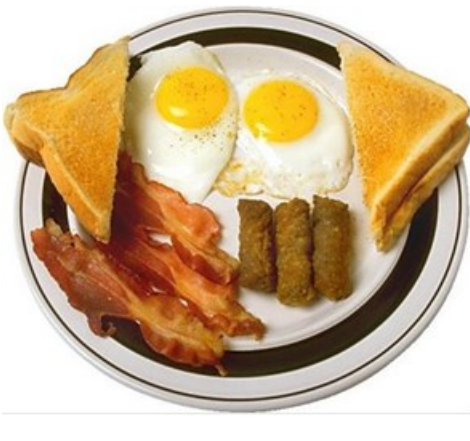
# UPCOMING EVENTS

## MEN'S MEATBALL DINNER

**Mark your calendar!** Everyone is invited to attend the annual Men's Meatball Dinner at Vermont Lutheran Church, **Sunday February 17, 2019**. This is a fund raiser for the ongoing mission of the congregation. There is one seating, at 11:30 AM, for 120 diners. The \$14 price 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. Hi Vermonters,



## 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!



# CHRISTMAS CONCERT





## **Vermont Lutheran Church** **Council Minutes December 20,2018**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Peter Antonie

**Attendance:** All Present

**Devotions:** Pastor Barry led us in Devotions. We are the only world wide religion that worships a Baby. This says a lot for our Faith that we recognize and celebrate God's Son beginning when He is a Baby. Remembering that we also from babies on are God's creation and are special in His eyes!

We wish as a Council to give special recognition and a HUGE THANK YOU to Liz Herrling who organized this years Church Christmas Program presented on Dec 16<sup>th</sup>. The Children and Youth portion was well done and warmly received. The rest of the Christmas Service was also exceptional with a Thank You to all the participants who provided Special Music and Talent to the Service!

**Pastor's Report:** Approved online

**Secretary's Report:** Approved online along with report from the Dec 9<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting

**Treasurer's Report:** To be approved as part of the Spending Plan discussion

**Vision and Mission:** Expectations have been discussed for Youth, Participation and Visibility Teams for 2019. Going forward in the New Year with Cabin fever Relievers, Youth activities and Pictorial and Time and Talent being completed.

### **Old Business:**

Pastor Barry's Expectations and Evaluation has been completed and presented for signing  
Liz H, Administrative Assistant Evaluation has been completed and presented for signing

2019 Council & Committee representatives – Carol Johnson to replace Missy Danz who has served Faithfully for 6 years. A huge Thank You to Missy for all the good work she has done on the Council and her and her family have done in the Community! Peter A stated that he would be willing to continue to serve as a Council member to help oversee the continuity of the future of VL in a non presidential position.

Finalize Spending Plan – Steve H presented a recap of previous yrs., (2015-17) when we did not meet our budgeted contributions but our expenses also did not meet projections. In 2018 our contributions are lagging but our expenses are meeting projections which is causing a shortfall of dollars. The first step in attempting to balance the Spending Plan is the current call to the Congregation for additional contributions beyond their regular giving.

The next step is a serious look at our Mission Contributions for 2019. We are anticipating diverting a large portion of this income such as The Lutefisk Dinner towards our operational expenses in 2019. With this diversion of Mission Expense to income we are budgeting \$15,000 less on our expense side. 2019 will be a pivotal year for Vermont as we attempt to balance our Spending Plan. These changes currently are for one year and results will be evaluated in 2019.

Spending Plan will be presented at the Annual Meeting for discussion.

Aaron T. made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and the 2019 Spending plan, Paul D. seconded, approved unanimously.

### **New Business:**

Committee Reports: Steve H made a motion to approve, Ellie B seconded, passed unanimously

Annual Meeting: date set for January 27, 2019 following the Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall

Online Giving: ELCA has a Credit Union that has a plan available for Church Members who wish to do online giving. This plan will be explored further and if it appears feasible will be presented to the Congregation.

Connor D made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45, Aaron T seconded, passed unanimously

We closed with The Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting – Thursday, January 17, 7 PM

Submitted by Larry Ziemer, Secretary

### **Pastor's Report**

Baptisms: 1; 11/25/18: Grace Powers, daughter of Gary and Angie Powers

Weddings: 0

Funerals: 1; 12/15/18: Norman "Doug" Sveum

Home Visits: 5

West Dane Text Study: 4 Area Narrative Study Group: 0

Nursing Home Worship: 1 at Milestone in Cross Plains

It's that wonderful time of the year again! The middle of November to the end of December are a flurry of activities. Getting ready for Christmas, the Christmas Program, and all that goes along with them! But the weather gods have smiled on us so far this year, so we are thankful.

The Thanksgiving Ecumenical Worship Service at Mt. Horeb United Methodist was once again a strong indication of the unity we share in our belief in Jesus. We came together in thanksgiving for all that we have been blessed with and to bring our thanks together in that same unity to our common Father.

The low-key Stewardship Program in November went well as we kicked off a year-long Stewardship emphasis for the whole year. Paul Ohlrogge spoke as our first monthly speaker to address our Gratitude and all that we have to be thankful for, as we support common missions and this church's ministry. I'm looking forward to hearing more from our membership each month.

Confirmation seems to go quite well as we continue to search and refine new ways to encourage our youth to grow in their faith. Jill Dybdahl has a great presence with the 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders, and keeps their interest with new ideas.

With all of the talk about the budget this time of year, I am so pleased with the steps this congregation takes to keep costs down to a minimum. I know that it takes a commitment for this congregation to thrive as it does, and it does that well! Of course, we can all do a bit to help spread the news of this "church on the hill", so don't be afraid to brag once in a while about the great things we have going here in Vermont!

As we look toward closing out the year of 2019, I want to say a special thank you to all who have served in leadership positions here at Vermont Lutheran. Not just people on the Church Council, though for them we are greatly indebted, but also for all who come to set up chairs and tables, prepare food for funerals, wash dishes and keep the kitchen glorious, for those who have taught our children in Sunday School (and at home!), for Bo, our tireless Custodian, and certainly for Liz our Administrator who keeps things going smoothly and efficiently, and last but not least our organist/musicians – Tee and Ingerid.

***Pastor Barry***



**VERMONT LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Special Meeting December 9,2018**

Meeting was called to order at 11:45 AM by President Peter A

**Attendance:** Peter A, Aaron T, Ellie B, Missy D, Connor D, Klover S, Larry Z, Pastor Barry  
Absent: Steve H, Paul D

**Devotions:** Pastor Barry led us in Devotions about the meaning of Advent. Advent is about waiting and patience. It is a lesson for us about patience. We await the celebration once again of Christ's birth at Christmas and we wait with patience Christ's second coming to Earth. He has [promised that He will come again!

**Old Business**

PB's and Council's Support Expectations for 2019: We reviewed PB's summary of the joint expectations for 2019. One addition is for a year long stewardship program spearheaded by PB with the focus on gratitude with the goal of increasing member contributions to meet projected income.  
We agreed to add the word "will" to each of the expectations for both PB and the Council to project the desire to accomplish them in the coming year.

Preliminary Spending Plan for 2019: 50% of the Spending Plan is administrative costs which are predetermined costs. The financial team will focus on the other half of the Plan to evaluate the proposed expenses. The Council will evaluate VL Mission Goals and decide if we can maintain our future commitments in light of our potential financial deficit.

**New Business**

End of Year Donation Request: Peter presented the letter composed by Peter, Carol J, and Steve H which will be sent the week of 12/09 to all VL Members. It is a special year end donation request. If successful it would allow us to end 2018 with a balanced budget. A few modest changes were made and we agreed it should be sent with a return self addressed stamped envelope.

Executive Session: We adjourned the Special Meeting at 11:15 AM and opened the Executive Session. The purpose was for the discussion of staff compensation.

At 12:15 PM Aaron T made a motion to adjourn, Ellie B seconded the motion, approved unanimously

We closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next meeting December 20,2018, 7:PM

Submitted by Larry Ziemer, Secretary

# MERRY CHRISTMAS &



# A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



# ELCA World Hunger

## Weaving a new fabric of home

TUCSON, ARIZ.  
[ELCA.org/hunger](http://ELCA.org/hunger)

When conflict broke out in Darfur, Sudan, in the early 2000s, Souad, her parents and 11 siblings were forced to flee.

After 13 years living in a refugee camp in Chad, Souad and her family moved to Tucson, Ariz. It wasn't long before Souad's father took her and her siblings to the Iskashitaa Refugee Network (IRN), where the whole family began volunteering.

IRN is an intergenerational network of Tucson volunteers and refugees from Africa, Asia and the Middle East that harvests and redistributes locally grown fruits and vegetables that would otherwise go to waste. The group's work is supported in part by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger.

IRN founder and director Barbara Eiswerth calls the program a "multicultural exchange" that's unique in its format. The network addresses several needs at once: reducing food waste, breaking down barriers between



people and helping refugees resettle.

In addition to taking home food that has been gleaned, refugees are also connected with other services through the network. At food preservation workshops, participants can practice their English skills and share recipes and techniques from their home countries. It's a perfect example of ELCA World Hunger's integrated philosophy in action – integrating food security, agriculture, education and more.

"It's not going to be home, but we can help refugees weave a new fabric of a new home," Eiswerth says.

Today, Souad is 27, and while she works most weekdays, she still spends her Saturdays volunteering, picking and sorting produce. To her, volunteering is part of the fabric of her life.

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 Your Synod and Ministry Partners . . .



Join the Movement...

**STOP  
HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING**

Call Emergency Hotline:  
**888-373-7888**  
[www.jtme-inc.org](http://www.jtme-inc.org)

Join the Movement Events, Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit

**Join the Movement!**

We will welcome our local community leaders to discuss human trafficking, sexual assault, dating safety, and internet safety. We will then welcome a panel of those that are actively working to stop human trafficking and eliminate sexual assault in our community for a question and answer forum. Local agencies will be available to discuss resources.

**Thursday, January 10, 2019 6 —9 pm**  
**Elkhorn High School Auditorium**

**Stop Human Trafficking**  
**Eliminate Sexual Assault**

**Join the Movement!**

**Stop Human Trafficking**

**Join Sugar Creek Lutheran Church and several local agencies for this event!**

**Thursday, January 10**

**6:00 - 9:00 pm**

**Elkhorn High School**

**Auditorium**

**FREE event!**

**For more information:**

**Dawn Heath**

**(262) 374-1491**

**or email: [dtheath16@gmail.com](mailto:dtheath16@gmail.com)**

**Register for this FREE event:**

**<http://bit.ly/JTMElkhorn19>**

### SCSW DIAKONIA CLASS SIGN UP for Teachers & Students



**FEATURED INSTRUCTOR THIS WEEK:**

**REV. MARK WILLIAMSON**

**INSTRUCTOR FOR: LUTHERAN CREEDS AND CONFESSIONS**

**Dates: Jan 24, 31 and Feb. 7, 14, 21**

*I am pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Dodgeville. I believe teaching to be one of my spiritual gifts. Diakonia is a great way to offer this gift for the building up of God's church. Also, having a local synod-based program like Diakonia allows learners from around the area who want to engage core resources of the faith at a deeper level to do so, while helping*





# SAMARITAN'S PURSE

View top moments this year from projects around the world.

*"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10).*

Chainsaw work was a major need after Hurricane Michael slammed into the Florida Panhandle and toppled trees onto many homes.



Our Nehemiah Project has rebuilt nearly 800 homes for persecuted Christians on the Nineveh Plains during this year.

Our DC-8 cargo jet made three flights to the Pacific island of Saipan to deliver emergency relief supplies to hurting people devastated by powerful Typhoon Yutu.



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

# PRAYER REQUEST

Jan Cowan - 767-4616 - [jancowan@tds.net](mailto:jancowan@tds.net)  
Kay Rettenmund - 767-2328 - [rett@tds.net](mailto:rett@tds.net).  
and the prayer chain will be activated.



## STEWARDSHIP

*Managing God's Gifts To Us*

### Financials: For December 2018

|             |    |           |
|-------------|----|-----------|
| Income:     | \$ | 37,117.17 |
| Expenses:   | \$ | 12,542.96 |
| Difference: | \$ | 24,574.21 |

### Attendance Matters

#### December 2018

|      |     |
|------|-----|
| 2nd  | 50  |
| 9th  | 69  |
| 16th | 120 |
| 23rd | 56  |
| 24th | 106 |
| 30th | 44  |

**February Newsletter**  
**articles are due**  
**January 25th**

to Elizabeth Herrling at  
[vermont\\_church@tds.net](mailto: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](mailto:Vermont_Church@tds.net)  
Website: [vermontlutheran.org](http://vermontlutheran.org)

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news and pictures!**



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at [Smartchurch.com](http://Smartchurch.com)