

# Vermont Lutheran Church

9886 Vermont Church Road  
Black Earth, WI 53515



**Annual Meeting—January 24, 2010**

## **Mission Statement**

*Vermont Lutheran Church is a congregation that CARES*

**C**hristians

**A**ctively

**R**eaching out

**E**xperiencing Christ

**S**preeding the Word

## AGENDA

- Opening devotions
- Page 3-4 Reading & Approval of 2009 Minutes
- 5-6 Pastor's Report
  - 6a Pastor's Focus for 2010
- 7 President's Report
- 8 Proposed Budget for 2010
- 9 Anticipated Income for 2010
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- Elections
- Discussion of Future Ministry
- Approval of Budget for 2010
- Old Business
- New Business
- Motion to Adjourn
- Prayer (on back page)
- Lord's Prayer

# Vermont Lutheran Church—Annual Report—Jan 24, 2010

## VERMONT CHURCH 2009 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES—JANUARY 25, 2009

**The meeting called to order 10:30 AM at Vermont Lutheran Church** by Council President, Peter Antonie. Pastor Chad Christensen opened the meeting with devotions from Luke 11 (5-13).

**Minutes from the Annual Meeting of Jan 19, 2008** were handed out, read and opened for discussion. A motion was made (Don Parrell, Jill Brisky) and carried to unanimously accept the minutes on a voice vote.

### **Pastor Chad's Report:**

Pastor Chad greeted the congregation and expressed his enthusiasm for joining us in worship and mission at Vermont.

Since beginning his call Jan 15, 2009, Pastor Chad has met local pastors, visited shut-in Vermont members, and met with church staff, worship team members and confirmation leaders. He will do a "meet and greet" session with confirmation leaders, students/parents this month and will attend his first church council meeting in February.

Pastor Chad introduced himself to our congregation as an education driven, mission minded pastor who plans to begin his pastor ship at Vermont with emphases on stewardship, mission and youth ministry.

Believing strongly about living in a culture of prayer and providing ongoing adult education, Pastor Chad invited members to think about, fill in surveys he handed out and then return them in a week or 2 with preferences for times and subjects for adult study sessions. He plans to run both daytime and evening sessions.

Pastor Chad characterized his pastoral style as one that seeks to strengthen ministry initiated from within and will strongly encourage and support ideas for ministry generated by members of the congregation.

He expressed his concern for inactive members and outlined his intended approaches of calling inactive members, visiting with them in person, joining them in prayer and then trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit to complete Gods work in each of us.

He also feels it is imperative for our congregation to focus on un-churched people in our communities; starting with invitations to family, friends and neighbors and extending to people we do not know personally. It will be important to invite them to worship and to inform prospective visitors about who, where and what we are about at Vermont. He would like anyone who has invited guests to leave a note on his desk or to call him so that he can do follow-up contacts with individuals and families.

Pastor Chad's office hours and contact information will be routinely posted in the Sunday bulletins and the monthly Vermont Messenger.

### **Church Council Report:**

Peter reviewed Vermont's journey over the past year that culminated in our congregation's decision to become a stand-alone church with a full-time pastor. He then welcomed Pastor Chad on behalf of our entire congregation. Pastor Chad's call with Vermont began on January 15, 2009. He comes to us from his previous call of 8 years in Scandia, Michigan. He comes with a background in biology and social work and has recently completed his master's degree in divinity. He currently resides in Mount Horeb.

Peter thanked the council and call-committee members for their cooperative spirit and faithful work done over the past year by as we made adjustments and transitions from the initial "road map" adopted by our congregation at out last annual meeting to our present state as a stand-alone congregation with the services of a full-time pastor.

**Treasurer's Report:** In the treasurer's absence (Patty Herrling), Peter reviewed and expanded on highlights from the treasurer's report (please refer to written material in annual report booklet). Proposed/approved income for 2008 was \$133,598. Actual income was \$129,953.06, a shortfall of about \$3,550. This resulted in a carry over balance of \$8,324.27 for 2009. Proposed/approved giving for 2008 was 120,000 and actual giving was approximately \$112,000, about an \$8,000 shortfall. Peter entertained comments and questions before asking for a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Don Parrell moved and Harold Norslein seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report on unanimous voice vote. The motion was carried.

**Memorial Accounts:** Peter explained "designated" and "undesignated" donations. At the end of each fiscal year, 10% of all undesignated money over \$1000 is transferred to the Endowment Fund and can thereby be used for community outreach.

**Mission Budget:** Vermont continues to give approximately 10% of its total budget to mission. Mission money is earned through our special fund raising events including, but not limited to the lutefisk dinner, men's meatball dinner, the mission bazaar, Souper Bowl Lunch, Bicycle Breakfast and WELCA support (dues, women's tea, bake sales, fair-trade coffee sales, and other fund raisers and charitable projects).

**Lutefisk Report:** Again sold out our tickets. \$13,469.37 profit was made this year. \$11,450 went to meet our mission commitments, \$1,300 went to the Endowment Fund and \$118 went to the general operating fund.

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## Vermont Lutheran Church—Annual Meeting—Jan 24, 2010

*(continued from page 3)*

**Building Report:** Several projects were completed over the past year: Improving the balcony level small child area; placing safety barriers in the balcony; painting and replacing window coverings in the fellowship hall, office and nursery; doing an energy audit and following up on recommendations for increased insulation, installation of an “on-demand” water heater, modifying ductwork and replacing thermostats to zone heating areas during the week, Replacement of the church sign located east of the church parking lot is still pending.

**Cemetery Committee:** No report. New members are being solicited to replace those no longer on the committee. The cemetery committee operates independently from the governance of the Vermont Church congregation.

**Sunday School:** Please refer to detailed report in Annual Meeting Booklet. 37 children are currently enrolled in our weekly Sunday School program for preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Joanie Haugen noted that because bad weather has twice forced cancelation of the children’s Christmas program, they will be opting instead to do a spring/Easter presentation.

**WELCA:** Please refer to detailed report in the Annual Meeting Booklet. Women of Vermont participate in many church, local and global mission activities including: assembling layettes, midwife, and health kits for Africa and school kits for Mississippi, quilt and knitting missions, fund raisers, serving funerals, working with the Christians in Action Food Pantry in Mazomanie and doing Fair Trade Coffee Sales. Direct financial support is given to ELCA world hunger and Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Pennies for Poverty, Sugar Creek Bible Camp, Oakwood Service League and Samaritan Deeds Mission. There are currently 3 Bible study groups that meet monthly; the Joy and Hannah Circles (day meetings) and the Evening Circle (7:00 PM). The Joy and Hannah Circles discuss the monthly bible studies from “Lutheran Women Today”. The Evening Circle chooses a variety of books and films to discuss.

**Elections for Council and other Elected Positions:** Outgoing council member Julie Wright was thanked for her service. The following individuals were nominated to fill vacant church positions. Following the motion to accept the entire ballot as presented (Paul Skalet and Connie Goderstad) the ballot was approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Trustee: Peter Antonie (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

Trustee: Scott Berger (1<sup>st</sup> term)

Financial Secretary: Appointed by council. Joanne Skalet agreed to serve again.

Endowment Committee: Gaila Olsen (2<sup>nd</sup> term), Karsten Haugen (2<sup>nd</sup> term), Stan Morley (1<sup>st</sup> term)

Sunday School Superintendent: Elected by Sunday School Board Joanie Haugen and Lisa King are currently serving.

Synod Assembly Representatives: Dave and Joan Haugen

2010 Nominating Committee: Appointed by Church Council

2009 Christmas Tree Committee: Doris Hayes, Ludolph Family, Herring Family

**Discussion of Future Ministry:** 5 areas of emphasis were determined from surveys completed by our members:

Stewardship

Sunday School/Confirmation/Post Confirmation Youth Ministry

Adult Education and Bible Study.

Outreach to People in our Church and Communities

Mission

In our call to Pastor Chad (please refer to a copy of our call letter to Pastor Chad), we as individual members of our congregation have committed to participating actively in our faith and church life by attending worship, praying for our pastor and our congregation, assisting with the mentoring and education of our youth, ministering to those who are grieving or suffering, bringing the Good News to and inviting to worship people who are not currently members, attending Bible studies, and assisting with mission projects.

**2009 Budget:** Peter reviewed the 2009 budget and emphasized that a vote to approve the budget entailed making a personal commitment to help meet the budget. Without financially handicapping our budgets, it will be necessary for each of us to consider increasing our giving from past years to meet our financial commitment to God’s mission and our administrative and maintenance costs. The mission budget will continue to be funded primarily by special events. The floor was opened for discussion. Scott Berger suggested encouraging automatic checking debiting or mailing offering monthly or biweekly to the church rather than relying on weekly giving at worship. Motion was made (Don Parrell, Harold Norslein) and carried on unanimous voice vote to approve our proposed budget of \$142, 510 for 2009.

**There was no other Old or New Business brought to the floor.**

**Motion was made (Paul Skalet, Michael Dauck) and carried to adjourn the meeting at Noon. The meeting was concluded with the Lord’s Prayer.**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Bonnie Dauck*

Vermont Council Secretary

**2009 Pastor's Report - By Rev. Chad L. Christensen**

*"But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have; for 'Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.'" (Romans 10:18, NRSV).*



The year 2009 has been a big and rewarding year for our church, and for me personally, as your pastor. We have done much together out of the "starting gate" of being an independent parish and full-time pastoral ministry. From holding Lenten and summer Mid-week services to approving the building of a new outdoor facility; from hosting meal events to creating new Youth ministries and Adult education events, we have been active as God's church! As I mentioned in last year's report, you have taken the more challenging route, there is more ministry, more planning, more outreach to be done!

I am grateful for our partnership in the Gospel. Vermont Lutheran has a vision for the future. Your hands have been the hands of Christ, reaching out to others. Feeding people through the local food pantry, walking with the bereaved during the loss of a loved one, visiting the sick at their home or in the hospital, hosting speakers

at our worship to learn more about ministries taking place in the world... These were possible only by the Holy Spirit's work through you—the active people of God who drive Vermont's ministry. And I give thanks for your hospitality toward me, for opening up your homes to me, for showing me the ropes in this first year of my ministry among you. God is faithful with God's church—and this has been realized this past year.

I want to say a word about our Mission Statement. Our current Mission Statement is **Vermont CARES:**

**Christians Actively Reaching out Experiencing Christ and Spreading the Word**

I like it!! The statement was in place when I started my ministry here, and it inspired me when I considered interviewing for the position of pastor at our church.

What I like about the statement is that it:

- Tells us who we are, it claims our identity as Christians;
- Tells us what we are to be and to be about—namely, *actively* reaching out to others;
- It tells us that experiencing Christ and spreading God's Word is important.

I especially appreciate the last two lines "Experiencing Christ" and "Spreading the Word" as it emphasizes our ministry of being disciples (followers of Christ through experience) and also about witnessing to our faith (spreading God's Word).

The first page of Vermont's Congregational Mission profile (the first page of the binder of material I was given about the congregation when I interviewed for the position of pastor) states:

*"Today is an exciting time to be a member of Vermont Lutheran Church. On September 1, 2008, we became a stand-alone congregation. This decision was made with optimism, enthusiasm, and hope for what we might accomplish as an independent congregation. We are a vibrant, living, and soon-to-be growing congregation that is proud of its heritage but has an eye to the future for its membership and mission."*

This statement, as well as the content in our mission statement, conveys that Vermont desires to continue to embrace its traditions, as well as strike new pathways into its future mission with an openness to new ministries and approaches to mission.

Now, as we look ahead, I want to explore a bit about our current strengths and challenges (next page).

**Five of Vermont's current positives and strengths:** In my first year here as pastor, it has been easy for me to see the many strengths of our congregation, the primary strengths being:

- A core volunteer base, putting the "active" in *Actively*, as expressed in our Mission Statement;
- Intentional, independent laity that provide for the details in seeing through various ministry events, from meal fellowship to Sunday school, from property management to worship preparation;
- Financial strength and generosity in providing for general parish resources;
- A culture that is excited and has fun with its traditions, and people willing to vision for the future, in the realization of a "new day" for the parish;
- Unlike many rural churches, Vermont is geographically situated in a region that is growing demographically, with people willing to travel 15-20 miles to church—this expands the possibilities of our reach immensely.

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**Five of Vermont's current needs and challenges:** I have observed these current needs and challenges facing our congregation:

- Need for younger adults (outside of Sunday school) to become more pervasively involved in the life of the parish;
- While allowing for continued lay independence and creativity, there is need for some structure in the planning and carrying out of ministries, to increase better communications and more efficiently provide for ministry, given our human resources;
- Facility space needs are increasing as we create new ministries—the greatest need here is for more space for educational events;
- To meet the challenge of our society's culture of "busy-ness" with high quality ministry that attracts members and non-members alike who desire to come to Vermont and participate in programs/ministries out of interest rather than merely obligation;
- With new ministries forming, an increase in our administrative capacity is evident, e.g. expansion of committee work, increase of administrative assistant's hours.

### **An Area of Focus: Youth and Adult Christian Education—Pastor Chad's thoughts**

A good question to ask about Vermont's mission is: What will Vermont be known for by its mission and ministry? This question asks something about the evidence of our ministry as a church.

Our traditions are solid, and our culture is unique. From the comments that I hear from members and non-member alike, Vermont is known for its beautiful building and property, for its Lutefisk dinner, and for its mission participation in the community (e.g., food pantry, and Biker's Breakfast). Indeed, these are robust ministries and a key part of our visibility and vitality in the community.

I would like to encourage the congregation in one more area, as well: being open and participative in the ways that youth and adult Christian education can be formative in the faith, as well as interesting and fun (through prayer, Bible study, discussion and probing deeper into our spirituality) for the betterment of our personal faith, as well as for our witness and participation through our church. *One basic need, then, here at Vermont is: a lay people and pastor who are equipped in the Word to articulate their faith in order to minister within and outside the church, (in response to the apostle Paul's words in Romans 10:18, as noted at the beginning of this report).*

I look forward to this coming year in ministry together with you!!

God's peace and encouragement to you,

**Pastor Chad Christensen**

**2009 President's Report – Peter Antonie**

In the close of my 2008 report, I looked ahead to 2009 and said the following:

*We've only just begun our journey! 2009 will be a year of reaching out, further defining our ministry, adjusting to a new pastor and him to us, creating opportunities for members to live their faith and assuring that Vermont Church remains a vital and vibrant place of worship.*

*In addition, we will be challenged to meet our budget in tough economic times, to welcome new members and the gifts they bring, to work hard to assure that our strengths (Sunday school, hospitality, music, traditions, etc.) remain strengths and to encourage and empower members to be more involved in their congregation and community.*

So, how did we do? As the friendly church on the hill, we've often heard, "Here we stand, but we don't stand still." 2009 was our first full year as a stand-alone congregation and by most measures a glowing success. Here is a synopsis of just a little of what we accomplished together:

- Welcomed and adjusted to Pastor Chad, and he to us
- Created active Outreach, Stewardship, Worship and Facilities Use Committees
- Held a series of mid-week summer services that focused on outreach
- Sent Pastor Chad and Kim Jaworski on a mission VBS trip to Northwest Ontario
- Used our hospitality to raise mission outreach funds through the Souper Bowl, Men's Meatball and Lutefisk dinners
- Continued to use our Mission Bazaar to provide outreach opportunities
- Participated in 2 local parades to raise awareness in our community of who we are and where we are
- Implemented a "rotational" Sunday School curriculum
- Got our own Youth program started
- Voted to construct an outdoor facility

And, what did this activity translate into?

- An increase in giving that essentially covered our expenses – something that was a challenge the last few years!
- The largest group of new members in the last 25 years!
- An energized congregation!  
A bright future!

As we move into the next decade, we can say, "We are truly blessed!"

Many thanks for your continued support of the direction your Council is steering us in. Together we can say.

**"God's work...Our hands."**

Blessings,

*Peter Antonie*

**Proposed 2010 Expense Budget—Vermont Lutheran Church—Annual Report—Jan 24, 2010**

Vermont Church	<b>2009</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Mission Budget</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
LSS	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,300.00
South Central Synod of WI	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$9,000.00
Sugar Creek	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,200.00
Seminary Assistance	\$400.00	\$402.00	\$450.00
Luke's House	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$250.00
Undesignated	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>\$318.03</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>
<b>Total Missions</b>	<b>\$11,850.00</b>	<b>\$11,670.03</b>	<b>\$12,700.00</b>
<b>PROGRAMS</b>			
Program supplies	\$3,000.00	\$1,273.73	\$2,750.00
Office expenses	\$700.00	\$1,862.02	\$1,500.00
Vermont Copier	\$3,000.00	\$2,756.31	\$3,000.00
Postage/Bulk Mailings	\$1,700.00	\$2,478.77	\$2,200.00
CMS	\$320.00	\$320.00	\$320.00
Contribution Envelopes	\$550.00	\$652.80	\$500.00
The Lutheran	\$600.00	\$906.30	\$550.00
Sunday School	\$1,000.00		\$750.00
Sugar Creek Bible Camp			\$500.00
Confirmation	\$500.00	\$1,653.11	\$750.00
Education/worship	\$500.00	\$439.77	\$1,000.00
Music	\$250.00	\$231.60	\$250.00
Accompanist	\$2,500.00	\$2,525.00	\$2,500.00
Choir Director	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$600.00
Youth	\$500.00	\$307.91	\$600.00
Treas/Fin. Secry	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$520.00
Synod Assembly Meetings	\$500.00	\$1,052.00	\$1,000.00
Misc. Gifts	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>\$383.09</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>
<b>Total program budget</b>	<b>\$17,120.00</b>	<b>\$17,842.41</b>	<b>\$19,790.00</b>
<b>Properties</b>			
Pastoral Supplies	\$500.00	\$1,733.66	\$500.00
Supplies	\$600.00	\$637.48	\$650.00
Food Expenses	\$500.00	\$66.48	\$250.00
Signs	\$150.00	\$255.00	\$250.00
Storage Locker	\$440.00	\$440.00	\$440.00
Repair/Maintenance	\$3,000.00	\$2,311.24	\$2,000.00
Custodial	\$3,250.00	\$3,100.00	\$3,600.00
Building Improvements	\$400.00		
Organ Maintenance Agr.	\$750.00	\$757.13	\$775.00
Elevator Expense	\$750.00	\$359.96	\$600.00
Misc.	\$50.00	<u>\$104.00</u>	<u>\$75.00</u>
<b>Subtotal Property Costs</b>	<b>\$10,390.00</b>	<b>\$9,764.95</b>	<b>\$9,140.00</b>
<b>Administrative Costs</b>			
Pastor Chad's Salary	\$55,074.75	\$52,779.94	\$56,726.00
Pastor Chad's Pension	\$14,925.75	\$14,791.38	\$15,374.00
Pastor Chad's Mileage	\$2,500.00	\$2,085.48	\$2,100.00
Pastor's Chad Continuing Ed.	\$500.00	\$578.20	\$550.00
Pastor Chad's Moving Exp.		\$985.97	
Secretary's Wages	\$9,800.00	\$9,555.73	\$12,000.00
Secretary's FICA/Taxes(2008)	\$749.50	\$484.45	\$920.00
Supply Pastor	\$800.00	\$534.20	\$500.00
Vermont Insurance	\$5,000.00	\$4,846.00	\$5,500.00
Vermont Utilities	\$3,200.00	\$2,426.84	\$3,000.00
Vermont Phone	\$850.00	\$1,677.72	\$1,800.00
Vermont Fuel	<u>\$8,000.00</u>	\$4,500.00	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
2009 Miscellaneous		<u>\$221.65</u>	
<b>Subtotal Administrative Costs</b>	<b>\$102,500.00</b>	<b>\$95,467.56</b>	<b>\$103,470.00</b>
	<b>\$141,860.00</b>	<b>\$134,744.95</b>	<b>\$145,100.00</b>

<b>Anticipated 2010 Income—Vermont Lutheran Church—Annual Report—Jan 24, 2010</b>
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	Proposed 2009	Actual 2009	Anticipated 2010
Contributions	\$ 128,060.00	\$ 117,459.22	\$ 130,800.00
Missions—WELCA	300.00	300.00	300.00
Fund Raisers			
Super Sunday Soup Lunch	400.00	302.00	300.00
Men's Meatball Dinner	1,500.00	1,580.00	1,600.00
Lutefisk Dinner	12,000.00	10,000.00	11,000.00
Other			
Church Use		1,700.00	1,000.00
Miscellaneous			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 141,860.00</b>	<b>\$ 132,694.75</b>	<b>\$ 145,100.00</b>

### Memorial Account 2009

2008 Balance	<b>\$18,896.49</b>			
Memorials	2008	Contributions 2009	Distribution	Balance 2009
Undesignated	\$11,203.43	\$835.00		\$12,038.43
Fellowship chairs/tables	\$650.00			\$650.00
Stained Glass Window Fund	\$5,086.00	\$50.00		\$5,136.00
Library	\$220.00			\$220.00
Children's Library	\$25.00		(\$25.00)	\$0.00
Bell Choir	\$730.00			\$730.00
Choir	\$481.53			\$481.53
Red book Hymnals		\$2,983.00	(\$3,610.10)	(\$627.10)
"The Annex" Building		\$11,525.00		\$11,525.00
Interest	<u>\$500.53</u>	<u>\$260.35</u>		<u>\$760.88</u>
	\$18,896.49	\$14,484.79	(\$3,635.10)	\$30,914.74
				2009 Undesignated distribution to Endowment Fund
				<u>(\$1,200.00)</u>
<b>Memorial Balance 2009</b>				<b>\$29,714.74</b>

### Building Improvement Account 2009

2008 Balance				<b>\$9,165.47</b>
Income				
Contributions	\$5,066.00			
Designated Memorial "The Annex"	\$150.00			
Designated "The Annex"	\$600.00			
Designated "Solomon's Temple				
Cabinet doors	\$150.00			
Memorials	\$45.00			
Bank Interest	<u>\$26.42</u>			
Total	\$6,037.42			<u>\$6,037.42</u>
				<b>\$15,202.89</b>
Distributions				
Sanctuary Fans and Installation	(\$1,490.10)			
Surge Panel	(\$857.00)			
Bill Montelbano/ The Annex	(\$2,357.50)			
Building Permits/The Annex	(\$494.00)			
Logs for The Annex	(\$2,220.00)			
Building Permits/The Annex	(\$321.74)			
"Solomon's Temple"				
shelves	<u>(\$1,080.76)</u>			
	(\$8,821.10)			<u>(\$8,821.10)</u>
<b>2009 Balance</b>				<b>\$6,381.79</b>

### Endowment 2009

2008 Balances

12/31/2008	Vanguard Account	\$30,293.00
12/31/2008	Mission Select 3 yr	\$5,417.00
12/31/2008	Mission Select 1 yr	\$5,347.00
12/31/2008	Black Earth State Bank Balance	<u>\$1,268.77</u>
		\$42,325.77

2009 Endowment Black Earth Bank Activity

2008 Balance		\$1,268.77
2009 Memorials		
	Mary Webber	\$15.00
	Al Johnson	\$20.00
2009 Interest		<u>\$1.71</u>
		\$1,305.48

2009 Balances

12/16/2009	Vanguard Account	\$42,959.00
12/29/2009	Mission Select 3 yr	\$5,490.00
12/29/2009	Mission Select 1 yr	\$5,375.00
12/26/2009	Black Earth State Bank	<u>\$1,305.48</u>
		\$55,129.48

Black Earth State Bank Balance		\$1,305.48
Lutefisk Dinner Transfer		\$1,300.00
Undesignated Memorial Fund		<u>\$1,200.00</u>
		\$3,805.48

2009 Distributions

“Good Samaritan” donation	\$450.00	(\$450.00)
Pastor Shep - Orphans' Future	\$200.00	(\$200.00)
Habitat for Humanity	\$200.00	(\$200.00)
Good Samaritan	\$200.00	(\$200.00)
LAMP	\$200.00	(\$200.00)
Mazo Food Pantry	\$325.00	(\$325.00)
Salvation Army	\$325.00	(\$325.00)
Boscobel Free Clinic	\$325.00	(\$325.00)
A Family (From Mazo)	\$325.00	(\$325.00)
	<u>\$2,550.00</u>	
		\$1,255.48

### Lutefisk Dinner 2009

2008 Balance:		\$601.37
	Ticket Sales	\$15,689.00
	Donations	\$680.00
	Food Sales	\$705.60
	Cranberries	\$180.00
	Beans	\$150.00
	Kalscheur's Lutefisk	\$300.00
	Thrivent	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
Income:		\$19,305.97 \$19,305.97
	Postage/Mailings	\$144.48
	Lutefisk	\$3,765.50
	Groceries/Supplies	\$2,048.70
	Custodian	\$50.00
	Porta Pot	<u>\$80.00</u>
Expenses:		\$6,088.68 <u>(\$6,088.68)</u>
		\$13,217.29
Net Income:		
Disbursements:		
	Vermont Church Mission Budget	(\$10,000.00)
	Vermont Endowment	(\$1,300.00)
	Good Samaritan Fund (2009)	(\$200.00)
	Good Samaritan Fund (2010)	<u>(\$300.00)</u>
Bank Balance 2009:		\$1,417.29

## Annual Meeting Report—Sunday School 2009-10

### General:

There are 33 children registered for Sunday School, most of which attend regularly. This year we have changed our format to the rotational method of teaching. For each session, we offer 4 centers. The classes spend one week at each center. The centers all teach the same Bible story, but in different ways. For example, in January we are teaching Psalm 100, "Make A Joyful Noise". In the Art center, kids are making instruments. In Music, they are singing and playing instruments. In Temple they are reading the Psalm and creating a poster about it. In Large Motor, they are racing through an Obstacle Course acting out the key words of the Psalm – Make, Worship, Bless, etc. After 4 weeks, we have a wrap-up session, then we will start a new theme and all the centers will change.

Our themes for the 2009-10 Sunday School year are:

- The Good Samaritan
- The Christmas Story
- Psalm 100
- The Last Supper / Communion
- Joseph
- The Lord's Prayer \*\* (if time allows)

We were thrilled that the weather cooperated so we were able to perform our Christmas Program this year. We enjoyed hearing about Christmas Memories from our Vermont family and sharing them in our program.

Last year we joined with New Heights and Sugar Creek Counselors for Vacation Bible School. Over 120 kids attended this great program. We are planning on doing the same again this year. Thanks to WELCA for providing snacks to all the children and helpers.

### Staff:

Two of our long-term teachers, Esther Nelson and Joyce Howery retired this year. They had been teaching at Vermont for over 35 and 25 years, respectively. We greatly appreciate their service. Regular teachers this term are Liz Herrling, Lisa King, Heidi Lemke, Deb Krebs, Terry DeWitt and Joanie Haugen. Our subs include Jill Lynch, Jeff King and Kelly Kidd. Pastor Chad leads the closing time. Thank you all so much for your dedication to the children of Vermont.

### Finances:

Sunday School Checking Account

Beg Balance	\$456.05	
Disbursements	\$200.00	Donation to Heifer Int'l
	\$112.25	retirement plaques
Deposits	\$576.33	Includes weekly collection and memorial donations.
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>\$720.13</b>	

WELCA Budget—Vermont Lutheran Church—Annual Report—Jan 24, 2010

<b>Income</b>	2009 Budget	2009 Actual	2010 Budget
Bake Sale+ Bazaar	1200	1134.1	1200
Cookbooks	500	650	400
Contributions (dues/offerings)	400	1096	1000
Donations	25	100	25
Funeral Service	650	2123.93	1100
Memorials	25	300	100
Pennies for Poverty	200	117.8	200
Thankofferings	300	430	300
Miscellaneous	30	209.43	75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3330</b>	<b>6161.26</b>	<b>4400</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<u>Vermont Church</u>			
-Pastor Gift	50	50	50
-Program/Meeting Expenses	50	222.03	50
-Sugar Creek Camperships	400	400	400
-Vermont Church Library	50	0	50
-Vermont Church Memorials	50	20	50
Vermont Church Missions	300	300	0
-Vermont WELCA Expenses	400	674.9	400
-Miscellaneous		610.93	300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1300</b>	<b>2277.86</b>	<b>1300</b>
<u>Wisconsin Outreach</u>			
-Christians in Action Food Pantry		580.83	400
Hospice of Dane County	50	50	0
-Lutheran Campus Ministry	100	100	100
-Lutheran Social Services of WI/UP	100	100	100
Service League	50	50	0
-Samaritan Deeds Mission	150	150	150
-Sugar Creek Bible Camp	30	200	200
-Women Of The ELCA			
South Central Synod	200	300	300
- Biennial Synodical Convention	200	420	0
-Pennies for Poverty	200	238.79	200
-Seminarian Scholarship	0	200	200
-Miscellaneous	350	0	350
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1430</b>	<b>2389.62</b>	<b>2000</b>
<u>CHURCHWIDE</u>			
LAMP	0	200	200
Lutheran Women of the ELCA			
Blanket Fund	100	100	100
Project Comfort	0	250	250
Triennial Convention	0	0	0
Thankofferings	300	430	350
World Hunger	200	200	200
Miscellaneous	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>1180</b>	<b>1100</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>3330</b>	<b>5847.48</b>	<b>4400</b>

## Women of the WLCA—Vermont Lutheran Church—Annual Report—Jan 24, 2010

**PURPOSE:** *“We commit ourselves to GROW in faith, AFFIRM our gifts, SUPPORT one another in our callings, ENGAGE in ministry and action, and PROMOTE healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.”*

This year a decision was made to have full member quarterly meetings starting with March, then June, September, and December. We also agreed to continue our annual membership offering instead of taking offerings at each meeting.

### EVENTS:

- January - Our planned Community Holiday Dinner at Vermont was cancelled in December because of the weather and January's weather did not allow us to reschedule. We are considering a Spring Dinner for 2010.
- February - Assisted with the Men's Meatball Dinner by providing lefse and pies.
- March - World Day of Prayer at NHLC Mazomanie.
- April - Women of the ELCA Eastlake/Westlake Spring Conference was held at Bethel Lutheran in Madison. 'Spring Tea Celebration' was held with a free will offering going to our local Christians in Action Food Pantry. Maleah Moskoff, owner of Cha Cha Teas was our speaker.
- May - The Annual Spring Bake Sale was held and is a major source of income for us. Dates were set for making lefse, fry cakes, and rommegrot.
- June - Sponsored Rose Heathcote who spoke about her two months in Zambia, Africa during a Wednesday night evening service.  
South-Central Wisconsin Synodical Women's Organization of the ELCA 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention was held in Madison and their theme was "Finding Joy in the Journey". Marlene Ludolph was our representative. "Pennies for Poverty", in the amount of \$238.79, was taken to the convention.  
We were able to provide \$400 in Bible Camp scholarships this summer.  
The South-Central Synod Assembly collected 15 Midwife and 15 Hospice Kits from Vermont for Global Health Ministries.
- September - During the parades this summer, we thought if most of the people on the float wore an identical shirt, it would increase our recognition power. So we ordered polo and tee shirts in royal blue with a 'Vermont Cares' logo and they came in time for us to wear them for the Lutefisk Dinner.  
Lifetime Members Recognition Sunday: Every 5 years, we are privileged to honor lifetime members of the Vermont WELCA service organization. Honorees are 75 years of age or older and have faithfully served our congregation. They were presented with a pin and a rose. A reception followed the Sunday service. Thank you to Mary Johns and Kris Antonie for working on this WELCA recognition program.
- October - Provided paint for back entry hall.  
We were able to assemble and send the following to Lutheran World Relief: 38 health kits, 45 school kits (confirmants helped with assembly), 6 layettes, 10 lbs. of soap, and 50 quilts. Thank you to Shirley + Earl Brandt for taking them to be shipped.
- November - Presented the Thankoffering Service on November 22 under the leadership of Klover Schafer. Thankofferings were in the amount of \$430. This was sent to the national organization of the Women of the ELCA to support their work.  
We were able to provide a case of creamed corn and a case of instant mashed potatoes to Emry Brisky's service project.
- December - Provided the pastor's liturgy and organist's books for the new red hymnals through memorial funds given by the Stan Halverson family. A new Vt. WELCA constitution was drafted and this will be voted on in March 2010.  
Provided 2 – 2x4 folding tables for the church to use for various functions and approved the purchase of 8 folding chairs.

**Other Outreach**

Fair Trade : Thank you to Marlene Ludolph for providing us with Equal Exchange

Products such as coffee, chocolate bars, cocoa, and olive oil that promote farming around the world.

Wisconsin Heights Knit and Chat group meets monthly (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 6:30pm at St. John's, Mz. They provide prayer and baptismal shawls, chemo caps, and soldier's skull caps.

Vermont Library: Many thanks to Connie Goderstad and Joan Skalet for their dedicated service and upkeep of the library. Check out the Library table in the narthex.

Funeral Luncheons: This year we served the families of Pauline Taylor, Ervin D. Lee, Mary Urness Webber, Louis W. Schiller, Thora Gillette, Marjorie Schulenberg and Aldro Johnson.

Synodical Board: A big thank you to Marguerite Parrell for serving on the synodical board for the past 2 years. Her term ended in June.

EastLake-WestLake Conference: Thank you to Virginia Urness for being the recorder for this organization.

Thank you to all who have participated and served in 2009. Our organization plays a vital role in our Vermont Church community. We look forward to more opportunities to serve In 2010.

\*\* A very heartfelt thank you to Donna Dybdahl for her dedicated work with the WELCA organization. Her term as president has ended but we look forward to many more years working with her at WELCA and Vermont Church.

**Vermont Women of the ELCA Officers 2009**

Co-presidents: Donna Dybdahl and Kris Antonie

Secretary: Mary Johns

Treasurer: Shirley Brandt

### Stewardship Team

**Vermont's Stewardship Team members are: Jeff King, Jill Lynch, Melissa Hanson, Paul Skalet, Jill Stone-Brisky, and Pastor Christensen**

In 2009 we planned for a Year Round stewardship program, emphasizing the various projects and programs of the ELCA and the South-Central Synod. By exploring the ELCA stewardship website, and evaluating various Bible study materials there, we formed material for several Temple Talks done in worship in September through November. Our work in the area of stewardship is also connected to the Mission Bazaar display area in the narthex. We especially thank Jill Stone-Brisky for her work in this ministry! Pastor Chad gave "One Minute Workshops" during worship announcement times, focusing on member giving.

During the Temple Talks, we reviewed the ELCA resource *Stories of Faith in Action*. This publication included special interest stories throughout the Church where foreign and domestic ministries are done in Christ's name, and a chart breakdown of where our offering monies go in supporting our wider church's ministries. If you would like a *Stories of Faith in Action* magazine for your own keeping, please see Pastor Chad. We also explored the definition of stewardship, tithing as a spiritual practice, and talked about percentage-increase pledged giving.

November 15 was Pledge Sunday, and information was given about growth giving for individuals and families, giving as the 6<sup>th</sup> mark of discipleship (a key practice in following Christ), and filling out the Commitment Card for 2010 giving. November 29 and December 6 were "Commitment Sundays" and we are grateful for the superb pledge card response of over 40 pledges made for giving in 2010. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of your giving.

The synod's offering project "And God said 'It is Good'", of giving \$1.00 per baptized member in our southern Wisconsin church region, to the ELCA, was taken at Vermont, and \$385 was raised, (385 reflecting the number of members in our church). The Women of the ELCA from Vermont also took their annual "Thank Offering" in November, collecting \$430.

If you have any questions about Vermont's stewardship programs and goals, please contact one of the team members above.

### Outreach Team

**Vermont's Outreach Team members are: Terry DeWitt, Joan Haugen, Doris Hayes, Marcia Morley, Virginia Urness, Peter Antonie, and Pastor Christensen**

We call this group a "team" because we are active outside of our scheduled meetings and coordinate much of the business through e-mails and individual member contact, besides gathering to discuss our work. The team meetings are not regular, but rather held on an as-needed basis.

There were a number of important items addressed for the Outreach meeting agendas in 2009. Among these were ministries oriented to Vermont's visibility of our church in the community. Signage for our boulevard, as well as near highway 78, were considered and relayed to the property committee. A postcard advertizing our new summer Wednesday evening services was placed in the mail. This proved to be a very effective tool in reaching out to residents primarily in the Black Earth and Mt. Horeb zip codes, as prospective members attending Vermont mentioned the postcard. We thank Scott Berger for his design and project see-through for the post card! An enjoyable aspect of our "making Vermont known" came through the building of and riding two parade floats, for the Mt Horeb and Black Earth parades. These floats had a kind of Norwegian heritage theme, and coffee was handed out by our float riders.

Photography for Vermont events, providing baked goods for Pastor Chad to take on prospective member visits, creating visitor packets to hand out after worship, sending notes to guests who visit our worship services, baptismal preparation, maintaining Vermont's membership list, planning a new pictorial directory, the pastor's discretionary fund, and addressing general hospitality methods were other items for our consideration. We are grateful for Doris Hayes making the baptismal stoles for the parents and sponsors of baptismal candidates!

The most rewarding time of our work this year was preparing one of our largest new member classes for membership here at Vermont. Twenty-four people joined Vermont at the end of September. They are: Heidi Lemke, and

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children: Dylan, Brooklyn, and Lucas; Deb Krebs; Douglas Hayes; Christopher and Bridget Wolle, and children: Gus, Bert, and Sonja; James Festge and daughter, Emme; Christy Festge; James Erickson; Bill Meddings; Kelly Kidd, and daughter Addison; Tracy Jaworski, and daughter Kim; Dale Paddock; Bonnie Pribbenow; Sadie Barsness; and Wes Childs. Special thanks to Virginia Urness and Marlene Ludolph for assisting Pastor Chad with new member classes and baptismal preparation!

Received into the body of Christ and into Vermont's membership through the waters of Holy Baptism were: Everett Charles Heath, son of Mike and Jamie Heath; Kelly Brook Kidd, and Addison Jillaine Kidd, daughter of Kelly and Jaimon Kidd; Ryker James Aeschlimann, son of Adam Aeschlimann and Haley Hughes; Alexander Craig Severson, son of Lisa Morgan and the late Craig Severson; and Riley Joann Pappas, daughter of Jeremy and Jenny Pappas.

We look forward to another robust year of outreach ministries in 2010!! We need *your* help, as there are many details in this ministry. Please join us in this work, if you feel so called.

### Worship Committee

**The Worship Committee consists of: Marguerite Parrell, Ingerid Kvam, Doris Hayes, Jane Hanson, and Pastor Christensen**

We meet about monthly to take up the regular business of planning our public worship at Vermont. What a joy it has been for us to take up this sacred ministry, and the members of this group take great delight in the details contained in our planning! Vermont gives thanks to God for it's faithful gathered each Sunday morning, to hear God's holy word proclaimed in word, liturgy, and song!

Each meeting consists of regular items, they are: evangelism issues within the worship setting; planning the upcoming worship services, according to the seasonal propers; and addressing choir topics, children's worship ministry, and special music needs, especially for major services like Easter and Christmas. We also choose the hymns for the next month's worship services. Music is a wonderful gift at Vermont, and we appreciate the fine talents of the choir and all the time they put into practice. Special thanks to Marguerite and Ingerid for their ministry of coordinating and conducting the choir!!

Special services that were planned this past year were: Lenten Wednesday night services with the leadership by the confirmands; Easter Day and Holy Week services; coordinating a Memorial Day service; starting the new summer Wednesday night services; planning special recognition of the Veterans for the Sunday service before Veteran's Day; and Advent and Christmas themes for December worship.

Some new aspects for our worship in 2009 were:

Creating the Wednesday night summer services, many of which were held outside, on the east side of the building (where the new outdoor facility will be built). These more informal services had a blend of special music, a brief homily, included a few times for roasting marshmallows, and addressed social themes and ministries happening in our community and beyond. Tremendous thanks for our organists/pianists, Tee and Ingerid for their play. Much goes into worship preparation for musicians! We also thank Emory Brisky and Peter Antonie for their special guitar play for the outdoor services.

Transition to the new *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal. We began use of our new major hymnal source at the beginning of Advent. Every 30 years, or so, the church publishes a new hymnal. We retired the *Lutheran Book of Worship* green hymnal, but we will still use the *With One Voice* song book for special services, perhaps in our new outdoor facility.

Adding a second Christmas Eve service. In addition to our well established 11:00 p.m. service, a 4:00 afternoon service was held. The weather was cold and 'blizzardy' during Christmas this past year, but the services were a warm reminder of God's gift to the world in the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We believe the second service is merited as over 130 people attended the services, combined.

It was a busy year for this committee, and a very rewarding one! We thank the members of the congregation who gave to the new hymnal campaign! We look forward to the use of this very rich resource.

We are looking for new people to join the ministry of worship planning and preparation. Is this a ministry that intrigues you?? You are most welcome to come to our meetings—see the *Messenger* newsletter for the next time we meet!

## Youth Group and Confirmation

### Vermont Youth Group

Vermont's Youth group had several meetings in 2009. Early in the year, with Pastor Christensen's arrival, there were two important Meet and Greet sessions, where ideas were shared for Vermont youth activities. We thank the adult leaders who were specifically involved with many of our plans: Joan Haugen, Sara Herrling, Kim DeCock, Ingerid Kvam, Kim Haugen, and Pastor Chad.

In the summertime, we created a parade float with a Norwegian heritage theme, and several youth helped to construct the float at Shawn and Randy Page's garage. We thank Shawn and Randy for the use and storage space for the float!! The Mt Horeb and Black Earth parades were participated in, and we handed out coffee to parade goers.

In July we had a special planning meeting for the vision of the group, and in September, Sara and Jeff Herrling hosted our group at their home, where we explored upcoming youth and confirmation events for the 2009-10 school year. Lefse making, with Harold Norslien; Christmas decorating with 70 nativity scenes at the church; and playing Laser tag in Madison were a few of our events. Kim DeCock has been very helpful with our visioning, and leading the youth with a survey of activities and the Five Purposes inventory, and Joan Haugen's planning and calling has guided our group tremendously. The Youth group survey indicated that the kids:

- Desire attending youth group to hang out with other kids;
- Come because it's enjoyable; and
- Want to take field trips and take part in service projects.

Some of our youth serve in helping at the Mazo Food Pantry, and Kim Jaworski joined Pastor Chad in a 10-day mission trip to teach VBS in northern Ontario, through the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP) program.

In 2010, our events will continue, namely with an emphasis in world hunger concerns via a lock-in retreat, participating in local and congregational service projects, and taking field trips. Our South-Central Synod of Wisconsin provides many excellent retreats and programs for our regional youth—we look to take in at least one of these events in 2010.

### Confirmation

We had a very active year with Confirmation. We had 16 students in 2009, and covered course material on *Luther's Small Catechism* and on the Old Testament of the scriptures. Three students were confirmed on October 25, 2009, Reformation Sunday: Jensen (Jack) Doyle, Tyler Haugen, and Kyle Norslien. These three students attended Sugar Creek Confirmation camp with Pastor Chad in June. We give thanks to God for the faith of these young people in our congregation! The major service projects of the class were: Assisting with Lenten worship services, cleaning road ditches along hwy. 78, and serving at the Lutefisk Dinner. We also collected Pie Kits for the food pantry and organized school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Vermont's worship is also enhanced with each confirmand serving as acolyte on a rotational basis. We are grateful for the participation of our youth in worship services!!

Pastor Chad is thankful for the support of the parents who help with chaperoning and car pooling. Email communications are a very important method of informing families of Youth/Confirmation activities.

## Adult Education

We had good study and discussion during three Bible/book studies this past year. In February and March, and then again in May and June we read *Devotional Classics*, edited by Richard Foster and James Bryan Smith. From reading Martin Luther to John Calvin, Annie Dillard to Kathleen Norris, and C.S. Lewis to Dallas Willard, our time in study was greatly blessed as we read 16 authors from this book, and studied the accompanying scriptures.

Along the lines of our wider church's Book of Faith Initiative, where the goal is to strengthen biblical literacy in our churches, we provided the course, "Reading the Bible Through a Lutheran Lens" this past fall. This was a DVD led course by Dr. Mark Allen Powell, a Lutheran Bible scholar, and focused on reading the Bible in the Lutheran tradition and

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how the scriptures and spirituality can guide our daily lives. We had 12 people total attending these studies on Tuesday nights and Thursday mornings.

Ingerid Kvam led a book study on the topic of spirituality and death, on Wednesday nights in the fall, which received very strong interest. Upcoming book studies led by Ingerid in 2010 will also be held, a book on Norwegian heritage, will be explored, beginning January 27th.

These Bible and book studies have been held in the church fellowship hall, Solomon's Temple, and in the narthex. One important need is to be able to provide these studies in a quiet place, while other events are happening in the church building. Our new outdoor facility will greatly aid our future Adult and Youth Education events in this way. Please join us in 2010 as we continue to offer these educational events, and don't forget to bring your Bible!

### Library

**Connie Goderstad and Joan Skalet** have been managing the resources of our church library and were involved with the Facilities Use Committee discussions, throughout 2009, regarding space needs of the library. Their planning continues into this year, and they will be envisioning some new methods for the keeping of our library—thank you for overseeing this important ministry Connie and Joan!

### Parish Statistical Report

#### Baptisms

Everett Charles Heath  
Kelly Brook Kidd  
Addison Jillaine Kidd  
Ryker James Aeschlimann  
Alexander Craig Severson  
Riley Joann Pappas

#### Confirmation

Jensen Doyle  
Tyler Haugen  
Kyle Norslien

#### Funerals

Ervin D. Lee  
Pauline Taylor  
Mary Ellen Urness Webber  
Stanley I. Halverson  
Louis Schiller  
Thora Olijanna Gillette  
Aldro Johnson  
Marjorie Schulenberg

#### Weddings

Elizabeth Lauren Herrling & Wesley Daniel Childs  
Lori Jean Davis & Francis Otto Schobert  
Jamaica Sunshine Hix & Adam William Festge

New Members—See Outreach Team Report for the names of our new members

Number of Worship Services (excluding weddings & funeral services)—74

Average Worship Attendance—91

Vermont's Total Number of Members at end of 2009—358

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With remembrance of those who have gone before us, let us make solemn tribute to the deceased of our congregation (please stand). Let us pray:

***With reverence and affection, we remember before you, O everlasting God, all our departed friends in Christ (year 2009): Ervin D. Lee, Pauline Taylor, Mary Ellen Urness Webber, Stanley I. Halverson, Louis Schiller, Thora Olijanna Gillette, Aldro Johnson, Marjorie Schulenberg. Let your Holy Spirit lead us in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives, so that, when we have Completed our service to you in our generation, we may be gathered to our ancestors, having the Testimony of good conscience, in the communion of the church, in the confidence of a certain faith, in The comfort of a holy hope, in favor with you, O God, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.***