

Vermont Lutheran Church

9886 Vermont Church Road
Black Earth, WI 53515



Annual Meeting—January 23, 2011

Mission Statement

Vermont Lutheran Church is a congregation that CARES

Christians

Actively

Reaching out

Experiencing Christ

Spreading the Word

AGENDA

- Opening devotions—MDJ Team
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- 8 Proposed Budget for 2011
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- 19-20 Adult Education
- 20 Parish Statistical Report
- Ivory insert Vermont Cemetery Association Report
- Blue insert Contribution Analysis
- Elections
- Discussion of Future Ministry
- Approval of Budget for 2011
- Old Business
- New Business
- Motion to Adjourn
- Prayer (on back page)
- Lord's Prayer

Vermont Lutheran Church—Annual Report—Jan 23, 2011

VERMONT CHURCH 2010 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES—JANUARY 24, 2010

Vermont Lutheran Church is a Congregation that CARES. We are:

Christians
Actively
Reaching Out
Experiencing Christ and
Spreading the Word

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 John 10 (7-10).

Minutes from the Annual Meeting of Jan 25, 2009 were handed out / reviewed. A motion was made (Ginny Johnson, Ingerid Kvam) to accept the minutes. Motion was carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Introduction and Opening Comments made by Peter Antonie. We have had a very active and productive year with the involvement of many individuals from our congregation. This year (2009) we also had the largest number of new members in 25 years. We have an energized congregation and bright future. Annual Report and Ballets distributed. Next year we will try to make the annual report available a week before the annual meeting to give the congregation time to review it and prepare questions/comments for the meeting.

Pastor Chad's Report: (please refer to statement in Annual Report) Theme: "How will Vermont be known (by ourselves and our community) in its mission and ministry?"

5 Areas of Need/Challenge in 2010

Young Adult involvement in the life of the church

Optimizing structure, organization and communication with respect to planning and carrying out Mission/Ministry at Vermont

Facility Space/Use, especially for educational events

Inspiring congregants to actively participate in programs and ministries out of interest vs. obligation.

To meet the needs of new ministries, we need to address expansion of committee and administrative work

Church Council Report: Presented by council president, Peter Antonie. Sincere thanks were made to outgoing council members Klover Schafer, Gary Olsen, and Jon Urness for thoughtful and faithful service to our congregation. We have now completed our first year as a stand-alone congregation. We have grown in members, ideas and enthusiasm. Our thanks to Pastor Chad for his leadership and pastoral care. We look forward to coming year with faith, energy and optimism.

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). A summary of budget information to date will be published each month in the Messenger and on the Vermont web site. We are in the process of simplifying how the financial information is formatted to optimize clarity. Our proposed budget for the last year was \$141,860. Actual spending was \$134,744.95. We had less than projected expenses for fuel costs, property costs, pastoral salary (Pastor Chad started in mid-January, not January 1). Regular giving covers operating expenses. Dinners and other fundraising events cover most of our mission work. We came close to meeting our operating expenses, but still had to cover some of our budget using reserve funds. Don Parrell moved and Harald Norslein seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report on unanimous voice vote. The motion was carried.

Committee Reports were presented by representatives from each group (see summaries in Annual Report). We have had a very active year at Vermont with involvement of a large number of our members.

<u>Endowment Fund</u>	Karsten Haugen
<u>Lutefisk Report</u>	Peter Antonie
<u>Sunday School</u>	Joanie Haugen
<u>WELCA</u>	Kris Antonie
<u>Stewardship Team</u>	Jill Stone-Brisky
<u>Mission Bazaar</u>	Jill Stone-Brisky
<u>Outreach</u>	Pastor Chad Christensen
<u>Worship Team</u>	Ingerid Kvam
<u>Youth</u>	Joan Haugen
<u>Adult Education/Bible Study</u>	Pastor Chad Christensen

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Vermont Lutheran Church—Annual Meeting— Jan 23, 2011

Elections for Council and other Elected Positions: The following individuals were nominated to fill vacant church positions. Following the motion to accept the entire ballot as presented (Don Parrell, Marsha Morley) the ballot was approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Trustee:	Patty Herrling (1 st term)
Trustee:	Ingerid Kvam (1 st term)
Deacon:	Virginia Johnson (1 st Term)
Deacon:	Stan Morley (1 st term)
Financial Secretary:	Appointed by council. Joanne Skalet agreed to serve again.
Endowment Committee:	Karsten Haugen (2 nd term), Greg Herrling (2 nd term), William Meddings (1 st term)
SS Superintendent:	Elected by SS Board: Joanie Haugen/Lisa King currently serving.
Synod Assembly Reps:	Marlene Ludolph and Klover Schafer
2011 Nominating Committee:	Appointed by Church Council
2010 Christmas Tree:	Doris Hayes, Ludolph Family, Herrling Family

2010 Budget: Peter reviewed the **proposed 2010 budget of \$145,100**. This is our most ambitious budget in the history of our church. It is a 3% increase from last year's budget, but an 11% increase from our actual spending last year. Peter emphasized that a vote to approve the budget entailed making a personal commitment to help meet the budget. The mission budget will continue to be funded primarily by special events. Peter discussed the council proposal to implement a variety of contribution options to insure continuous giving independent of Sunday to Sunday attendance. This might include monthly or bimonthly giving that could be mailed to the church office or debited from individual bank accounts. The floor was opened for discussion. Motion was made (Virginia Urness, Don Parrell) and carried on unanimous voice vote to approve our proposed budget.

There was no other Old Business brought to the floor.

New Business

Outdoor Facility

Ground breaking/construction will start in March or April. It will be completed by summer so that we can hold mid-week summer services there.

We still need a good name for it.

Fundraising Team needed. Total cost is estimated at \$70,000. All but \$44,000 is in hand.

Back Steps from the kitchen to the outside will also be remodeled for safety and energy conservation.

Sign Replacement

The large outside sign needs replacement.

We also need sandwich board style signs to announce special events that can be placed at the intersection of Hwy 78 and Vermont Church Rd.

Sign designs done by Terry Dewitt were passed around the congregation.

A congregational meeting to approve funding will be convened later this year.

Concluding remarks were made. A motion was made (Dave Dybdahl, Bill Meddings) and carried to adjourn the meeting at Noon. The meeting was concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie Dauck

Vermont Council Secretary

2010 Pastor's Report - By Rev. Chad L. Christensen



"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect."

(Romans 12:1-2, NRSV).

The year 2010 has been another big and rewarding year for our church! God has been faithful with God's church, to be sure. And His glory has shown through your participation—you, the members of Vermont Lutheran Church, have been the "face of Christ" to each other and to the larger community through your ministry. I am grateful for our partnership in the Gospel.

The following pages will go into depth about the specifics of our various ministries and there are many of them. They indicate a growing and vital church. I thank all those who have been active in some shape or form this past year, and I also thank those who have been unable to participate but have upheld Vermont's ministries in their prayers. Our church is grateful for a dedicated staff and Council. Peter Antonie leads our Council in deliberate thought and vision regarding our ministries. Bonnie Dauck has served faithfully as a Council member and "faithful scribe" as Council secretary; her thoughtful nature and attention to detail will be missed as her term ends. Linda Watkins, as our administrative assistant, oversees a lot of details, many of which are behind the scenes and not easily seen, but her duties are plentiful and necessary for our ongoing smooth operation. Bill and Joyce Parrell, and Bo Olson on janitorial, and Greg Herrling are all capable and very helpful as they tend to our general building needs. Joanne Skalet, Patty Herrling, and Liz Herrling are dedicated to seeing that our finances, handling of money, and financial reporting are properly managed. And I am ever appreciative of the important ministry of our musical leaders, Marguerite Parrell and Ingerid Kvam—we are a fortunate congregation because of their leadership and talents.

In last year's Annual report, I stated the following five needs and challenges facing our congregation. I write now, a year later, *very pleased* that we have made good headway in addressing these areas, and we are a stronger church and mission because of this.

- 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.

Again my thanks to you, the faithful members of Vermont, for your participation and interest in Vermont Lutheran's ongoing ministries and meeting these needs and challenges.

Regarding being in single-point parish mode, we have now been an independent church with a full-time pastor for two years. A good balance has developed as Vermont has an independent style of action through its lay leadership, and our church has gained some good structure with our established committees and teams. There are two areas where we may still be in "multiple-point parish mode" that I want to mention, just by way of observation.

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Pastors Report—continued

- I believe there is room and opportunity for Vermont to have a 2-hour program on Sunday mornings—having Sunday school take place outside of the worship time. As Lutherans, we emphasize Word and Sacrament ministry. This is our primary mission as God's church. Therefore, our children and Sunday school teachers need to be in worship in its entirety. I can easily see why worship and Sunday school have taken place during the same hour, when there was a multiple-parish system in place, because of the logistics involved. But it is a new day at Vermont: we have more building space, a growing volunteer base, and increased pastoral availability which makes it evident that more can happen on Sunday morning than before. Discipleship formation through adult education can also be advanced further if we have an extra hour for this on Sunday morning, outside of worship.
- As I am fully present at Vermont as a full-time pastor, I ask that the lay leaders of the church continue to help me “stay in the know” regarding ministries that I am not directly involved with. Good strides were made in our communications in 2010 in this way. This will help me to be on the same page as you and to possibly give pastoral input to the particular ministry. Copying me in on an e-mail or giving me a call about the particular ministry will continue to be helpful. I am also available for counseling, private confession, prayer and pastoral visits. Please keep this in mind, should you need these pastoral services.

God *is* active in our midst, and as we move ahead into 2011, we will try to be more intentional about seeing God active in our midst, as well as discerning where God is leading us. You will hear from our Missional Discovery Journey (MDJ) team as the year progresses, and will be invited in on exploring this work with us. The Bible passage above, from the apostle Paul to the Romans, is a key guiding passage for such continued discernment of where God is leading us. This is fascinating and exciting work!

You and I are the church. And being God's church is a blessing and a gift. The ministry we share has an exciting future. I am glad to be a pastor and to have the privilege to serve with you as we continue in mission. We have witnessed good things and good things lie ahead.

God's peace and encouragement to you,

Pastor Chad Christensen

2010 President’s Report – Peter Antonie

Thankful.....Blessed.....Vibrant

To the members of Vermont Lutheran Church:

What words come to your mind when you think about Vermont Lutheran Church, what our congregation means to you and where God led us in 2010?

For me, the words thankful, blessed and vibrant aptly describe our mission and ministry in 2010. How so? We have a lot going on at Vermont that requires everyone to contribute of their time, talents and possessions. We are truly blessed to have so many opportunities to do God’s work with our hands. The fact that so many members are involved and that there are so many things going on makes us a vibrant congregation. For that, we can all be thankful.

While watching a Packers game, it took only a couple of minutes to come up with this list of our mission and ministry in 2010. See what you can add:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| WELCA | the Gathering Place | New members | Parade floats |
| Men’s Dinner | Uplifting Sermons | Confirmation Program | Sunday school |
| Hi-way Pickup | Can-do project | School/Hospice kits | Lutefisk dinner |
| Food Pantry | Mission support | Choir | Service teams |
| Prayer chain | Ecumenical services | Canada mission trip | Mission Discovery Journey |
| Quilting group | Prayer shawls | Bible studies | Gingerbread houses |
| Youth group | Wine, women & word | Lefse 101 | Endowment fund |
| Summer Wednesday services | | Walk-a-thon team | Mutual ministry committee |
| Vermontlutheran.org | Mission bazaar | Fair trade coffee | |

On top of that, attendance has increased for Sunday worship; we’re almost out of room in the choir loft; the Gathering Place is used 3-4 times a week; shut-ins are being visited; and, membership contributions have allowed us to maintain all programming.

For all of that, I’m thankful. Thankful for your support as we continue to move forward. Thankful for a Council that has wonderful vision for our future. Thankful that our members continue to ask, “Where is God leading us?” Thankful that 2011 will provide us with challenges and opportunities to do God’s work with our hands. Thankful for members who have created a loving and accepting place where we all feel that Vermont is our ‘Home.’”

Peter Antonie

Council President

Proposed 2011 Expense Budget—Vermont Lutheran Church—Annual Report—Jan 23, 2011

Vermont Church 2010	2010	2010	% over 2010	2011
Mission Budget	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Proposed
LSS	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00		\$1,300.00
South Central Synod of WI	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00		\$9,500.00
Sugar Creek	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00		\$1,200.00
Seminary Assistance	\$450.00	\$450.00		\$450.00
Luke's House	\$250.00	\$250.00		\$250.00
Undesignated	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>\$519.18</u>		<u>\$500.00</u>
Total Missions	\$12,700.00	\$12,719.18	3.90%	\$13,200.00
PROGRAMS				
Program supplies	\$2,750.00	\$1,479.30		\$1,200.00
Office expenses	\$1,500.00	\$3,369.26		\$3,000.00
Vermont Copier	\$3,000.00	\$3,097.96		\$3,000.00
Postage/Bulk Mailings	\$2,200.00	\$2,263.87		\$2,200.00
CMS	\$320.00	\$320.00		\$320.00
Contribution Envelopes	\$500.00	\$501.48		\$500.00
The Lutheran	\$550.00	\$453.15		\$450.00
Sunday School	\$750.00	\$750.00		\$500.00
Sugar Creek Bible Camp	\$500.00	\$200.00		\$500.00
Confirmation	\$750.00	\$880.87		\$1,000.00
Education/Worship	\$1,000.00	\$1,520.83		\$1,000.00
Music	\$250.00	\$250.00		\$200.00
Accompanist	\$2,500.00	\$2,485.00		\$2,500.00
Choir Director	\$600.00	\$600.00		\$600.00
Youth	\$750.00	\$583.90		\$750.00
Treas./Financial Secry	\$520.00	\$520.00		\$520.00
Synod Assembly Meetings	\$1,000.00	\$987.00		\$1,000.00
Misc. Gifts	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>\$216.65</u>		<u>\$500.00</u>
Total program budget	\$19,790.00	\$20,479.27	-1%	\$19,740.00
Properties				
Pastoral Supplies	\$500.00	\$177.56		\$500.00
Supplies	\$650.00	\$570.41		\$300.00
Food Expenses	\$250.00	\$591.19		\$500.00
Signs	\$250.00	\$660.00		\$0.00
Storage Locker	\$440.00			\$0.00
Repair/Maintenance	\$2,000.00	\$4,201.78		\$2,000.00
Custodial	\$3,600.00	\$2,850.00		\$3,600.00
Organ Maintenance Agr.	\$775.00	\$669.00		\$700.00
Elevator Expense	\$600.00	\$723.48		\$600.00
Misc.	<u>\$75.00</u>	<u>\$20.00</u>		<u>\$0.00</u>
Subtotal Property Costs	\$9,140.00	\$10,463.42	-10.30%	\$8,200.00
Administrative costs				
Pastor's Salary	\$56,726.00	\$56,725.92		\$57,461.00
Pastor Chad's Pension/Benefits	\$15,374.00	\$17,625.26		\$21,778.00
Pastor Chad's Mileage	\$2,100.00	\$1,834.94		\$2,100.00
Pastor Continuing Ed	\$550.00	\$550.83		\$550.00
Pastor Chad's Moving Exp.	\$0.00			\$0.00
Pastor John(Misc Expense)				\$0.00
Secretary's Wages	\$12,000.00	\$9,244.69		\$12,000.00
Secretary's FICA/Taxes(2008)		\$1,691.01		
Secretary's FICA/Taxes		\$965.64		\$918.00
Supply Pastor	\$500.00	\$640.00		\$250.00
Vermont Insurance	\$5,500.00	\$5,636.00		\$5,500.00
Vermont Utilities	\$3,000.00			\$2,000.00
Vermont Phone	\$1,800.00	\$1,919.99		\$2,000.00
Vermont Fuel	<u>\$5,000.00</u>	<u>\$2,750.00</u>		<u>\$4,000.00</u>
Misc.costs		\$34.75		\$0.00
Subtotal Administrative Costs	\$103,470.00	\$99,619.03	4.90%	\$108,557.00
Total Budget	\$145,100.00	\$143,280.90	3.20%	\$149,697.00

Anticipated 2011 Income—Vermont Lutheran Church—Annual Report—Jan 23, 2011

	Proposed 2010	Actual 2010	Anticipated 2011
Contributions	\$ 130,800.00	\$ 129,113.41	\$ 135,600.00
Missions—WELCA	300.00		
Fund Raisers			
Spaghetti Dinner	0.00	0.00	400.00
Super Sunday Soup Lunch	300.00	389.00	0.00
Men's Meatball Dinner	1,600.00	1,815.00	1,700.00
Lutefisk Dinner	11,000.00	11,790.00	11,500.00
Other			
Church Use	1,000.00	520.00	500.00
Miscellaneous			
Total	\$ 145,100.00	\$ 143,627.41	\$ 149,700.00

Building Fund Report

2009 Balance		\$6,381.79
Income		
Contributions	\$7,173.50	
Memorials	\$6,215.00	
Contributions	\$15,000.00	
Gift	\$51,000.00	
Pledges	\$20,668.00	
Fundraisers	\$2,337.00	
Sunday School	\$750.00	
Building refunds	\$971.26	
Interest	<u>\$87.53</u>	
Total	\$104,202.29	\$104,202.29
		\$30,000.00
		<u>\$1,500.00</u>
		\$142,084.08
Distributions		
Building Improvement	\$125,042.16	
L.P. Gas Prepay	\$2,750.50	
Cemetery Loan payment	<u>\$9,374.82</u>	
	\$137,167.48	<u>(\$137,167.48)</u>
2010 Balance		\$4,916.60
Cemetery Loan	\$30,000.00	
Cemetery Assn Gift	(\$2,500.00)	
Loan payment	(\$5,000.00)	
Loan payment	(\$2,000.00)	
Stock redemption gift	(\$4,000.00)	
Loan payment	<u>(\$2,000.00)</u>	
	\$14,500.00	

Following Gathering Cost contributed within the Building Fund:

Ceiling boards, Driveway, Education, Fireplace, Pavers, Refrigerator, Stove/Burners for Coffee (Lutefisk), Tables.
80 members and friends of Vermont volunteered their time to build The Gathering Place.

Memorial Account 2010

	Contributions		Distribution	Balance
Memorials	2009	2010		2010
Undesignated	\$10,283.43	\$25.00	(\$9,417.93)	\$890.50
Fellowship chairs/tables	\$650.00			\$650.00
Stained Glass Window Fund	\$5,136.00	\$775.00		\$5,911.00
Library	\$220.00			\$220.00
Children's Library	\$25.00		(\$25.00)	\$0.00
Bell Choir	\$730.00			\$730.00
Choir	\$481.53	\$250.00	(\$670.45)	\$61.08
Red book Hymnals	(\$627.10)	\$470.00	(\$3,610.10)	(\$157.10)
The Gathering Place	\$12,080.00	\$5,413.43	(\$17,493.43)	\$0.00
Interest	<u>\$760.88</u>	<u>\$99.98</u>		<u>\$860.86</u>
	\$29,714.74		(\$3,635.10)	\$ 9,166.34
				<u>(\$175.00)</u>
				\$8,991.34

Memorial Balance 2009	
The Gathering Place	
Memorials	\$17,493.43
Choir	531.53
Undesignated	<u>4,004.50</u>
	\$22,029.25

Endowment 2010

2009 Balances

12/31/2009	Vanguard Account	\$ 39,719.00
12/31/2009	Mission Select 3year	\$ 5,490.00
12/31/2009	Mission Select 1 year	\$ 5,375.00
12/31/2009	Black Earth Bank Balance	<u>\$ 1,255.48</u>
		\$ 51,839.48

2010 Black Earth Bank Activity

2010 Balance	\$1,255.48
Vanguard Account	\$2,500.00
Contribution	\$ 40.00
Memorial deposit	\$ 175.00
Interest	<u>\$.63</u>
	\$3,971.11

Disbursements for 2010

Social Need (individual)	(\$450.00)
South Central Synod (Haiti)	(\$400.00)
Lamp Ministry	(\$500.00)
Church family in need	(\$500.00)
Social Need (individual)	(\$500.00)
Mission Journey	(\$600.00)
Food Pantry	(\$500.00)
	\$3,450.00

Memorial Transfer 10% of undesignated funds	\$ 175.00
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Balances at end of the year

12/30/2010	Vanguard Account	\$ 35,549.40
	Mission Select 3 year	\$ 5,553.24
	Mission Select 1 year	\$ 5,396.00
	Bank Balance	<u>\$ 621.19</u>
		\$47,119.83

Lutefisk Dinner 2010

2009 Balance:		\$ 1,417.29
	Ticket Sales	\$15,728.00
	Donations	\$460.00
	Food Sales	\$645.00
	Harald's lefse	<u>\$ 330.00</u>
		\$17,163.00 \$17,163.00
Income:		\$18,180.29
	Postage/Mailings	\$ 137.00
	Advertising	\$ 38.60
	Lutefisk	\$ 3,066.00
	Groceries/Supplies	\$ 1,775.75
	Lutefisk Kettles	\$ 260.00
	Custodian	\$50.00
	Porta Pot	\$85.00
	Coffee Stove	<u>\$ 428.69</u>
	Ticket refund	\$ 168.00
Expenses:		\$ 6,009.08 <u>(\$6,009.04)</u>
		\$12,171.25
Net Income:		
Disbursements:		
	Vermont Church Mission Budget	(\$11,750.00)
Bank Balance 2010		\$ 421.25

Annual Meeting Report—Sunday School 2010-11

General:

There are 32 children registered for Sunday School, most of which attend regularly. We continue to use 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. After 4 weeks, we have a wrap-up session, then we start a new theme and all the centers change.

This year we are using curriculum from the Synod called “Taking Root”. This curriculum focuses on the causes of world hunger and potential solutions. Our Christmas Donation to Heifer International fit in nicely with this curriculum. The students learned about their options and voted on which animals to purchase.

We had great participation in our Christmas program this year. In the program “Christmas Letters”, the children read letters and received responses from key figures in the Nativity Story. We would love to see everyone in the congregation attend the program that the children work so hard to put together.

We again joined with New Heights and Sugar Creek Counselors for Vacation Bible School. Over 130 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. WELCA’s assistance makes the VBS program possible. We would not be able to give our kids this opportunity without them. To give Vermont a larger presence in VBS, we plan to have the Sunday Kick-off here at Vermont in 2011.

Staff:

Our returning teachers this term are Liz Herrling, Lisa King, Deb Krebs, Terry DeWitt and Joanie Haugen. Heidi Lemke resigned in November, 2010. We are thrilled to have Amber Christensen as a teacher beginning in December 2010. Our subs include Jill Lynch, Jeff King and Kelly Kidd. Thank you all so much for your dedication to the children of Vermont.

Finances:

Sunday School Checking Account

Beg Balance	\$720.13	
Disbursements	\$200.00	Donation to Heifer Int’l
	\$ 94.16	Supplies
Deposits	\$202.88	Includes weekly collection and memorial donations.
BALANCE	\$628.85	

WELCA Financial/Budget—Vermont Lutheran Church—Annual Report—Jan 23, 2011

Income	2010 Budget	2010 Actual	2011 Budget
Bake Sale+ Bazaar	1200	1202.75	1200
Cookbooks	400	562	400
Contributions (dues/offerings)	1000	675	700
Donations	25	0	0
Funeral Service	1100	525	1000
Memorials	100	0	100
Pennies for Poverty	200	106.77	200
Thankofferings	300	460	400
Miscellaneous	75	0	100
TOTAL	4400	3531.52	4100
Expenses			
<u>Vermont Church</u>			
-Pastor Gift	50	50	50
-Program/Meeting Expenses	50	0	50
-Sugar Creek Camperships	400	100	400
-Vermont Church Library	50	0	50
-Vermont Church Memorials	50	20	50
-Vermont Church Good Samaritan Fund	300	300	300
-Vermont Women of ELCA Expenses	400	88.41	300
-Miscellaneous	200	1214.33	0
TOTAL	1500	1772.74	1200
<u>Wisconsin Outreach</u>			
-Christians in Action Food Pantry	400	500	400
-Lutheran Campus Ministry	100	100	100
-Lutheran Social Services of WI/UP	100	100	100
Samaritan Deeds Mission	150	150	0
-Sugar Creek Bible Camp	200	230	200
-Women Of The ELCA			
South Central Synod	300	300	300
-Biennial Synodical Convention	0	0	200
-Pennies for Poverty	200	0	200
-Seminarian Scholarship	200	200	0
-Miscellaneous	350	0	0
TOTAL	2000	1580	1500
<u>CHURCHWIDE</u>			
LAMP	200	500	100
Lutheran Women of the ELCA			
Blanket Fund	100	100	100
Project Comfort	250	250	250
Triennial Convention	0	0	300
Thankofferings	350	460	350
World Hunger	200	200	200
Miscellaneous	0	200	0
TOTAL	1100	1710	1300
TOTAL EXPENSES	4400	5062.74	4000

Women of the ELCA—Vermont Lutheran Church—Annual Report—Jan 23, 2011

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.’

Quarterly Meetings

Four quarterly meetings are held yearly (March, June, September, and December) with approximately 20+ women in attendance.

March: Mary Johns presented “Is This The Greatest Hymn Ever Written” by Issac Watts

June: Business meeting

September: Tee Parrell presented the new keyboard in the Gathering Place.

December: The officers presented “The Colors of Christmas”.

Bible Study Groups

There are three groups, two circles meeting in the daytime and one in the evening. Studies were taken from The Lutheran Woman Today publication titled “The People of God: Unity in The Midst of Diversity”. A new circle may be emerging named ‘Wine, Women, and Word’ and we wish them much success in learning about God in their lives.

Serving Vermont Church

We are privileged to support our church monetarily and with service. We contribute to Sugar Creek campers, the library, memorials, the Samaritan Fund, and going to Sandy Lake, Canada. We provided a dinner in January for Pastor Chad’s synod meeting, made pies for the Men’s Meatball Dinner, and provided snacks and helpers for vacation bible school. We bought 4 arm chairs and 6 folding chairs for the church and supported the choir with a gift of \$300. One of our greatest services is to provide support for our families at funerals.

Wisconsin Outreach

This year we contributed to our local food pantry, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Lutheran Social Services, Samaritan Deeds Mission, Sugar Creek Bible Camp, and the Woman of the ELCA – South Central Synod. We helped with the World Day of Prayer, hosted the East/West Lake Spring Conference. Our main Speaker was Pastor Mary Pharmer who spoke on “Haiti Friends and Family”. Our offering contributed over \$200 to Haiti. Hospitality for the Ecumenical Thanksgiving service held here at Vermont was provided by WELCA.

Churchwide

For our global outreach, we contribute to the LAMP Ministry in Canada, global mission needs, and World Hunger. This year we added the Haiti Disaster Fund. We also partner with our congregation in providing goods to Lutheran World Relief: 61 school kits, 4 layettes, 30 health kits, 22 lbs. of soap, 55 quilts. Our Thankoffering in November provided over \$400. for the ELCA missions. Thank you everyone!

A thank you to all who have served this past year, making our organization a meaningful addition to the Vermont Church in action.

Kristin Antonie, President
Jill Lynch, Vice President
Shirley Brandt, Treasurer
Mary Johns, Secretary

Growth Mission: Marlene Ludolph
Community Mission: Marie Severson
Action Mission: Connie Goderstad
Funeral Service: Janet Everson, Virginia Urness

Sugar Creek Bible Camp

2010 was another great year at Sugar Creek! One of the best things we can announce is that it was a SAFE summer. We are always thankful when everyone goes home alive and well. This is truly an answer to prayer, many prayers. Thank you for your prayers.

Once again we can report we had 1291 residential campers and over 1300 day campers. This does not include the 40 family campers, 17 grandparent/child families, 14 mother/daughter, 5 father/son, and 8 for parent-child horse camp. Yes, there is a lot of activity in the summer. There is also a lot of activity in the Fall, Winter, and Spring. Over three thousand people come to use the retreat facilities or programs. Most congregations never realize the extent of ministry they provide by supporting the Sugar Creek's ministry.

There are other programs offered to our congregations such as: Women's retreats, crafters' retreats, Fly fishing retreat, couples' retreat, voyageur trips on the Mississippi, Boundary Waters canoe trip for adults, youth retreats, and many work groups and Yester Youth events for our senior adults. There are also adult bus trips: Over 175 adults went on bus trips. There were also 18 people who traveled to Norway with Dick and Inga Gerber from Bethel Home.

Some other accomplishments: the Health Care Center was finished. This includes a first aid station with sleeping for four and a bedroom for the volunteer nurse/family. What a blessing to have this located in the center of camp.

A beautiful fireplace was added to the outdoor eating area. Disc golf was installed for people to enjoy. The stables were used for the first summer (what a blessing). The old tobacco barn was removed (a sad thing). Some forestry was done as we harvested some trees and added trails.

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR 2011?

Please check out the brochure either in booklet form or on the web (www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org). We hope to serve over 1400 youth at camp. We would like to have over 50 families and over 25 grandparent/child families.

***SUGAR CREEK IS HERE FOR YOU, AS INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND CONGREGATIONS!
HOW WILL YOU PARTICIPATE IN ONE OF THE MANY PROGRAMS BEING OFFERED?***

VOLUNTEERISM: a great way to be involved in an exciting ministry that serves people of all ages!

STAFFING: Our basic summer staff is college age young adults. However, older couples are encouraged to consider coming for a period of time too! Your life may be enriched too.

Registration is happening now. NOW is the time to get registered for camp. If you don't have a child or grandchild going to camp, would you consider sponsoring someone else's child to go to camp. As a congregation, we ask you to consider sending a child to camp who may never have this opportunity. This is great evangelism.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS SPECIAL MINISTRY THAT MEANS SO MUCH TO SO
MANY PEOPLE! THANK GOD FOR ALL HE HAS DONE!
AND THANK GOD FOR WHAT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN!!**

Check out the website for more programs and opportunities to serve.

www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org

Stewardship Team

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

Stewardship at Vermont, favorably makes us a very busy church. Stewardship is collectively at its best during Lutefisk Dinner time. Many hands doing God's work. The dinner continues to generate our largest yearly donation to missions. **We continued our year round stewardship program of highlighting various ELCA and synod ministries during temple talks.**

News from The Mission Bazaar reveals that we support our neighbors, both near and far:

Lutheran World Relief — Thanks to all who contributed items and assisted in assembling each kit.

Vermont sent: 61 School kits
 4 Layette kits
 30 Health kits
 22 lbs. soap
 55 Quilts

Please follow the Mission Bazaar schedule for kit collection in 2011.

Food Pantry. Vermont's caring congregation actively supports the CIA Food Pantry in Mazomanie, with time and hundreds of pounds of food donations each year. Vermont built a "wall of cheer" in sanctuary, with 129 boxes of Cheerio cereal. All were graciously received the Mazo Food Pantry. New Goal (Winter 2011) *From our heart and our HOME* (please donate)

- H** Hamburger Helper
- O** Oatmeal (Instant)
- M** Macaroni & Cheese
- E** Every kind of canned fruit that you wish to donate

Habitat for Humanity. Aluminum cans were collected and recycled throughout the year. \$60.00 total. New goal (ongoing) "Can Do" drives will be done periodically. Feb. 13th, 2011 is *Bring your cans to church day!* Recycled proceeds will benefit Habitat For Humanity. Please remember to pull off the pop tabs for The Ronald McDonald House as well.

Highway Clean-Up. Highway clean up is done in the fall and spring of the year. It has become a service project for Vermont's confirmation kids. Thanks for sprucing up our beautiful countryside. New Goal — Stewardship will steer towards an environmental focus in 2011. *"Clean Water"* in the world.

New Addition. The Gathering Place! What a fine place for Christians to collaborate and meet! What a blessing! Thanks to all the dedicated stewards that worked day after day, until it was finished. Thanks for the financial support in 2010 and in advance for 2011.

Special Speaker/Events. Connie Kilmark speaking on financial planning and bequests to the church; Financial Planning/Wills: workshops by Bill Meddings. Thanks Bill.

Outreach Team

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

2010 was a very busy year for the newly formed Outreach Team. Guest packets were prepared throughout the year to welcome visitors and acquaint them with what Vermont Lutheran Church has to offer, and notes were written to guests who signed the guest book. The church was decorated for various special occasions and baptismal stoles were made for our "newest members".

19 new members were welcomed into our congregation throughout the year including:

Jason, Justine, and Ethan Myers
Doug Sveum
Diane Rose
Matthew, Sheri, Ashton and Violet Laznicka
Ron and Denise Boehnen
Mark, Karen, Sophia and Maddie Elworthy
Shelley Festge
Jorgen Goderstad
Marlin and Cindy Haberstroh

(Outreach Report—continued.)

In conjunction with the completion of The Gathering Place, Outreach was involved in planning the new signage for the (continued from page 17) church including the portable sign for special events located at the Hwy 78 intersection; the fixed signs on Hwy 78 and at our church boulevard entrance. We thank Terry DeWitt for making and helping design these signs. The team also worked on sign-up boards displayed in the church entrance to enlist volunteers for various church needs, and worked to increase awareness of Vermont Church by submitting newspaper advertising and special interest articles to various publications, as well as sending out postcards to the Black Earth and Mt Horeb zip codes for the Lenten/Easter services.

Team members, along with Shirley Brandt, worked on Service Team instruction revisions; and Joan Haugen was faithful in designing posters, printing new brochures, and taking photographs of special Vermont events for website display. The Christians in Action Food Pantry in Mazomanie is a big focus of outreach and much food (half a ton to be exact), along with monetary donations have been supplied by our church. The dedication to this ministry by Dave and Donna Dybdahl has been strong for over a decade, and they handed the leadership over to Dave and Carol Parrell this past year, with Janet Castle and Mary Johns assisting.

Additionally, we participated in the Black Earth parade. Thanks to Greg Herrling for providing the carriage for the riders. Once again, coffee packets were handed out displaying our worship times.

Each member of the Outreach team played an important role in helping make this a productive year, as did the many members of the congregation who thankfully joined in to help make the various outreach methods possible. We thank everyone for their help and support. Of course, this being said, outreach is not merely the work of a team of a few people, but rather each member of Vermont Church being part of the ministry to our members, our neighbors and the world.

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee consists of: Marguerite Parrell, Ingerid Kvam, Doris Hayes, Patty Herrling, and Pastor Christensen

We meet 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 its 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 a growing choir and all the time they put into practice. A special Christmas Choir presentation was given by our 17-member choir on December 19th. 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 soup suppers; Easter Day and Holy Week services; continuing the summer Wednesday night services, several of them held outdoors and in the Gathering Place; and Advent and Christmas themes for December worship.

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!

Onward & Upward—Youth Group/Confirmation Report

Objectives: Confirmation & High School Age: dealing with character, compassion, contentment, diligence, faithfulness, friendships, generosity, love, gratitude, kindness, respect, heritage, servant hood, prayer, understanding, unity and wisdom; and also with such negative and adverse teenage feelings such as anger, death, dishonesty, doubt, fear, gossip, hypocrisy, rebellion, temptation and worry.

Mission: To promote understanding and keep a balanced perspective on the trials and tribulations of the teen years; listening and learning; taking care of yourself and others. Through the soul of stewardship comes the service events in which we dedicate ourselves to helping others. Through the spirit of fun we make it a Christ-centered event to promote friendships and character.

Many of the events planned this past year were service events, helping others who do not have the means. Through events such as collecting food for the food pantry (Trick N' Treat So Others Can Eat), making pie kits for the food pantry, collecting mittens for those less fortunate, making College Exam Care Packages, and the fasting for hunger event in the spring highlighted helping others. Each of these events had a direct impact on the youth at Vermont instilling in them the generosity towards others. Movie discussion with 'walking tacos' was the most recent event. Some of the students attended Bible Camp and other leadership camps. The LAMP Ontario Mission trip was made again to provide VBS at Sandy Lake. A fasting lock-in was held on the theme of World Hunger. We most certainly thank the church as a whole for supporting these events monetarily for our youth.

Through intensive confirmation study each student understands the importance of their faith in their daily lives and how they can impact those in the world around them. On Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd, confirmed were Isabel Brisky, Jenna Endres, Karsten Kvam and Bailey Lynch. Those confirmed on Reformation Sunday were: Collin Kennedy, Galen Kennedy, Shaye Doyle, Nathan Haugen, Quinn Lynch, Cole Rickey and Curtis Johnson. Those enrolled in the confirmation class this year are: Rachael Haukoos and Travis Berger.

Through several meetings of the youth it was planned for the 2011 year to have a set date for monthly meetings. Some of these meetings will include learning events and more involvement with Synod activities. Bible Camps, leadership camps will again be available to our youth and every encouragement relayed for attendance. Just recently a tour of the News Sickle Arrow Office in Black Earth was well attended by our youth; reflection: learning how events in Biblical times relate to events in our times.

We are looking forward to an eventful coming year with more involvement with our youth. We are hoping that each confirmation and high school youth will be more involved with the weekly worship services and current events of our church and Synod.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Haugen & Pastor Chad

Adult Education

We have experienced a blend of educational Bible and book studies throughout this past year that have stimulated our thinking about the faith and driven us to newer understandings of discipleship. The following Bible/book studies were offered: *The Centered Life* (a DVD study series through Luther Seminary); *Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith* (an ELCA resource describing and comparing the similarities and differences of other denominations and world religions to Lutheranism); *Sharing Faith in Daily Life* (an ELCA resource pointing us to life giving faith sharing and outreach); *The Book of God by Walt Wangerin, Jr.* (a Biblical narrative study led by Ingerid Kvam); The Women, Wine and Word has been a fine relationship building time, looking into developing a deeper prayer life and looking to the scriptures to answer difficult problems. Of course, the women's Circle groups have been steady in their pursuit of richer understanding in God's Word, too. We have three Circle groups that meet, and the women invite you to join them!

(cont. on page 20)

Adult Education Report—cont.

Missional Discovery Journey (MDJ) began during the fall, a Vermont team participating with other congregational teams from around our Synod, exploring new ideas and approaches to being a “missional church” and about discipleship and discernment practices. We have a coach from outside our congregation, Judy Nolde of Madison, and she is taking part with our team as we attend seminars at area churches studying the scriptures, doing spiritual exercises, and “rubbing elbows” with members of other churches, seeking new missional approaches to ministry in our communities. We will be bringing these important learnings to the congregation throughout 2011! Our team consists of: Virginia Johnson, Virginia Urness, Kelly Kidd, Jim Festge, Klover Schafer, and Pastor Christensen.

Please join Vermont’s Bible and book studies, and other adult educational pursuits in this new year—we invite you!

Parish Statistical Report –2010

Baptisms

Natalie Marie Evanson
Carter Joseph Childs
Caitlin Lee Nancy Barsness
Jack Anthony Zeimet
Michelle Margaret Festge

Confirmation

Isabel Camille Brisky
Jenna Leigh Endres
Karsten Abner Kvam
Bailey Thomas Lynch
Shaye Christine Doyle
Nathaniel David Haugen
Curtis James Johnson
Collin Samuel Kennedy
Galen Maxwell Kennedy
Quinn Robert Lynch
Cole Alan Rickey

Funerals

James Gilbert Erickson
Marlin J. Barsness
Betty Antonie

Wedding:

Frannie Marie Schultz and Michael John Parrell.

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

Number of Worship Services (excluding weddings & funeral services) — 75

Average Worship Attendance — 92

Vermont’s Total Number of Members at end of 2010 — 375

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 2010): James Gilbert Erickson, Marlin J. Barsness, and Betty Antonie. 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.

The Lord’s Prayer