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New Worship and Sunday school Schedule

Thanks to everyone who provided input to the Council on what our worship and Sunday school schedule should be to provide the opportunity for all members, young and old, to become better disciples. After much prayer and discernment, your Council agreed on the schedule below.

Starting Sunday, September 11, 2011, our schedule will be as follows:

9 – 9:30 AM	Adult and 6-12th grade youth Bible study in the sanctuary
church	
9:30 – 10:15 AM	Sunday school in the fellowship hall and Gathering Place (kids join worship service at 10:15 for “shoe box” time and stay until end of service)
10 – 11 AM	Worship
11 – 11:30 AM	Hospitality in the fellowship hall

Sunday school will continue with its 5-week rotational schedule. Under the 5 week rotation, the first 4 weeks of each rotation will match the schedule above. On the 5th Sunday of the rotation, our worship service will be specifically geared to having the kids involved – a kids’ worship – from 10 – 10:45. A portion of the Sunday school curriculum will be teaching the kids worship skills and why we do certain things in worship.

Our new schedule accomplishes several things:

- Continues Bible study prior to worship for adults and youth to discuss and learn from the scriptures for that Sunday’s worship service
- Retains adequate Sunday school time
- Provides Pastor Chad an opportunity to be with the Sunday school during their class time prior to worship service – something our prior schedules did not provide
- Retains the very effective rotational Sunday school curriculum
- Continues the popular “shoe box” children’s sermon time
- Provides a kid-centered worship service every 5 weeks (kids singing, acting as ushers, involved in readings, hymns and sermon geared to them, etc.)

We’re excited about the new schedule! As a Council, we believe this is what God is calling us to do.

Peter Antonie, Council President

Labor Day Weekend Worship—Sun., September 4!!

9:15 am Adult Education; 10:00 am Worship; No Sunday School

Then we start NEW schedule (see above).

Vermont LUTHERAN Church

9886 Vermont Church Road

Black Earth, WI 53515

Telephone (608) 767-3312

Office Hours at the Church:

T,W,Th—9:00am—2:00 pm

E-mail address: Vermont_Church@tds.net

Website: vermontlutheran.org

Pastor Rev. Chad L. Christensen
 767-3312 (office) 767-2341 (home)
 email: chchriste@yahoo.com
 cell: 906-250-6863 (emergency only)

Secretary Linda Watkins 795-4714
 Organist Marguerite Parrell 767-2427
 Choir Director Marguerite Parrell 767-2427
 Custodian Joyce Parrell 767-3982

Your Church Officers

President Peter Antonie 767-2641
 Vice President Stan Morley 767-2841
 Secretary Ingerid Kvam/ 437-2259
 (shared) Jill Lynch 813-1017
 Treasurer Patty Herrling 798-2268
 Council Members Virginia Johnson 437-8316
 Scott Berger 795-4547
 Ron Boehnen 225-0584
 Jill Stone-Brisky 643-8780

Who to Contact

Worship & Music Marguerite Parrell 767-2427
 Global Missions Jill Brisky 643-8780
 Building & Grds. Patty Herrling 798-2268
 Stewardship Jill Lynch 813-1017
 Worship Ingerid Kvam 437-2259
 Endowment Karsten Haugen 767-5586
 Education Ginny Johnson 437-8316
 Youth Scott Berger 795-4547
 Outreach Stan Morley 767-2841

Building & Grounds Committee

Jim Ludolph 767-2272
 Michael Dauck 798-4161
 Greg Herrling 798-2268

Women's Group & Activities

Co-presidents Kris Antonie 767-2641
 Jill Lynch 767-2012
 Secretary Mary Johns 795-4414
 Treasurer Shirley Brandt 767-3030

Activities

Library Connie Goderstad 767-3477
 Joan Skalet 767-2289
 Sunday School Joanie Haugen 767-3327
 Confirmation Pastor Chad 767-3312
 Service Volunteers Shirley Brandt 767-3030
 Newsletter Linda Watkins 795-4714
 Kitchen Virginia Urness 767-3493
 Janet Everson 588-3820
 (Cell)206-1805
 Cemetery Dave Haugen 767-3313
 Jon Urness 767-2471



Church Activities

New members received August 21:

Steve Holzhueter
 Ray Parish
 Martha "Marty" Roland



September

September	1	Kimberly Jaworski
	4	Brian Aeschlimann Michael Aeschlimann
	6	Noah Grenlie Sharon Lee Craig Mickelson
	8	Jill Dybdahl
	9	Monica Grenlie
	10	Julie Schultz
	11	Dale Tollefson
	13	Peter Antonie
	16	Sawyer Kennedy Joel Schultz
	19	Susan Meigs
	20	Patty Herrling
	21	Eric Haugen
	22	Karlee Adler Christopher Russell Kimberly Ann Russell
	23	Andrew Donalson Marlen Sale
	24	Cal Tollefson Amy (Olson) Zins
	26	Karen Wildt Duhr
	29	Jason Myers Joanne Skalet
	30	Karen Tollefson

If you have any corrections or additions, please call the church office at 767-3312. If your name does not appear in the month of your birthday, it means we do not have your birth date. Thank you!



The Wisconsin Heights Knitters meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 6:30 pm at New Heights Lutheran Church—Mazomanie.

**They will meet
September 20, 2011 at
6:30 pm.**

This group is made up of “master knitters” as well as “beginning knitters.” They will even be happy to teach you to knit or crochet.

Everyone is invited to come to make prayer shawls, baptismal blankets, hats for infants, chemo hats and much more.



If you do and haven't let the church office know about it, or if your email address has **CHANGED**, PLEASE send us an email at Vermont_Church@tds.net. Emails are the quickest way of communicating reminders or changes of events.

Also, if you have a change of your **physical** address, please let the church office know.



Check out the Vermont Church website at www.vermontlutheran.org to see *The Messenger* on line and in color as well as other pictures not in the *Messenger*!!



Pastor Chad's Office Hours

Tuesday — afternoon & evening off
Mon., Wed., Thurs., Sat., Sun. — 9 am-noon
Fri.— open for home/facility visitation
Other times by appointment.
Pastor Chad's home phone is 767-2341.



Please Note

Pastor Chad will work Monday hours this fall; with Tuesday afternoon and evenings off.



**COUNCIL MEMBERS
EMAILS**

Here are email addresses for the following council members:

- Peter Antonie (contact by phone)
- Patty Herrling pherr@aol.com
- Ginny Johnson amj@mhtc.net
- Ingerid Kvam imkvam@mhtc.net
- Stan Morley stanrm1@tds.net

2011 Treasurer's Summary—Contributions/Expenses

<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Contributions</u>	<u>Expenses (less Mission)</u>	<u>Balance (+)/Shortfall (-)</u>
Through July	\$70,232.25	\$74,926.52	- \$4,714..27

Thank You to all who contributed toward our total of \$12,485.27 for July! We cut our shortfall in half in one month!!

From Pastor Chad's Desk. . .



The Blessings of Giving...

[Excerpts of this piece were taken from materials published by the ELCA's Northern Great Lakes Synod.]

We are thankful, here at Vermont, for the dedication and labor that our members give to God in ministry. You do so by your prayers and contributions as well as the witness of your own life. The church (and its pastor!) are thankful to God for your faith! To be a witness to the Gospel is not easy. And yet God provides.

Giving, along with worship, study and prayer is one of our "marks of ministry." Sometimes this "mark" of giving can be confusing to people. Pastor Kate Schruha, a pastor in Skandia, Michigan, states that "Some of our confusion may come from trying to apply what the world teaches us about money and possessions to our Christian giving. But the Bible has a lot to say about how we should give. *And—it all begins with a grateful heart.*"

Give regularly – The Bible tells us that each individual Christian is responsible for giving on a regular basis... weekly or monthly, whenever you receive income. [Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-2]

Give off the top – God's word gives guidance about our priorities. Loving and thanking God with our financial offering should come first... before rent, the mortgage, the car payment, even food. Pastor Shep once preached on this at Vermont, call this "First fruits giving." Giving back to God, first, is a sign of trust that is much more important than the amount we give. [Read Matthew 6:24-34]

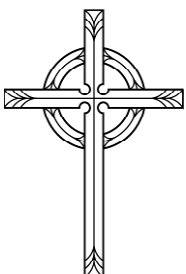
Commit to a Percentage – How much should one give? 5%? ... 10%?... 20%? Yes! The Biblical guideline is tithing (giving 10%), but the specific percentage is not as important as making a commitment. Start by committing any percentage of your income you feel comfortable with and gradually grow toward and beyond a tithe. Follow through on your commitment by setting aside this percentage every time you receive income and offer it to God with joy and thanksgiving! [Read Mark 12:41-44]

Our work together is built on God's love for us. We serve Christ and His people because he has provided for us in so many ways. We are extremely thankful!

Martin Luther writes, "God provides me daily and abundantly with all the necessities in life... for all of this I am bound to thank, praise, serve and obey him."

God is at work in our congregation! And God is at work throughout the world. How is God at work in your life?

Pastor Christensen



On August 15-19, Pastor Christensen was among the voting members from the South-Central Synod attending the Churchwide Assembly in Orlando, FL. From all 65 synods of the ELCA, about 1,000 voting members and another thousand visitors and guests worshiped, deliberated, prayed and fellowshiped together as the Church gathered.

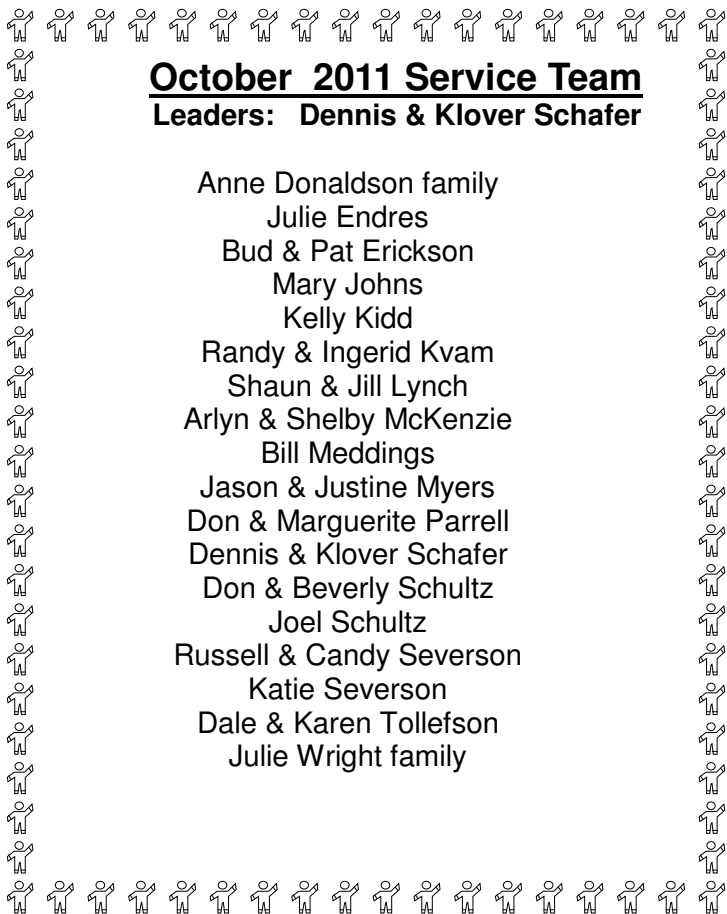
At this assembly, the Church elected the ELCA Church Council members, and members of churchwide committees, boards, and discussed resolutions and memorials from the synods. Also considered was the "Malaria Campaign" and the proposed Social Statement: "Genetics, Faith, and Responsibility." Discussion also focus on recommendations from the Churchwide Task Force called LIFT (Living Into the Future Together), re-shaping some of the ways we are the Church Together. Please keep the ELCA as a national church body in your prayers.

Service Volunteers for September, 2011

Team Leaders: Greg and Patty Herrling (Tel: 798-2268)

	<u>September 4</u>	<u>September 11</u>	<u>September 18</u>	<u>September 25</u>
<u>Assisting Minister</u>	Peter Antonie	Don Parrell	Emry Brisky	Ingerid Kvam
<u>Ushers</u>	Bo & Susan Olson	Greg & Patty Herrling	Paul & Joan Skalet	Stan & Marcia Morley
<u>Greeters</u>	Tom Wilkins	Scott Herrling family	Ericka Forseth & Brady Hurner	Tom Wilkins
<u>Readers</u>	Susan Olson	Marcia Morley	Debbie Krebs	Debbie Krebs
<u>Acolytes</u>	Galen Kennedy	Collin Kennedy	Quinn Lynch	Kent Norslien
<u>Communion*</u>	Susan Olson (intinction)	None	Greg & Patty Herrling (intinction)	None
<u>Hospitality</u>	Cindy Haberstroh Jane Mickelson	NONE (SS Picnic/Herrling's)	Paul & Joan Skalet Erika Forseth	Doris Hayes Donna Dybdahl

* We will be using the intinction method for Holy Communion in September.
We thank you for volunteering your service to Vermont Lutheran Church!



October 2011 Service Team Leaders: Dennis & Klover Schafer

- Anne Donaldson family
- Julie Endres
- Bud & Pat Erickson
- Mary Johns
- Kelly Kidd
- Randy & Ingerid Kvam
- Shaun & Jill Lynch
- Arlyn & Shelby McKenzie
- Bill Meddings
- Jason & Justine Myers
- Don & Marguerite Parrell
- Dennis & Klover Schafer
- Don & Beverly Schultz
- Joel Schultz
- Russell & Candy Severson
- Katie Severson
- Dale & Karen Tollefson
- Julie Wright family

Service Team Information

There are five service teams—with rotating leaders. Leaders will be notified prior to the month they are to organize the team and the list of team members is published in *The Messenger*.

When your team leader schedules you for a specific job, they will assume that you will be responsible for the time and duty assigned. If you are unable to serve during the month that your service team is assigned it is **your responsibility** to exchange with someone in your service team group.

After the assignments have been made for the month you will receive, in the mail, a description of the assignments and directions to follow for your responsibility. These are easy to follow instructions. If you have any questions concerning your duties you should call your team leader.

We so appreciate your willingness to see that our church services run smoothly and without interruption. Thank you!



Men's News

Men's Breakfast

On Wed., September 7, 2011

7:30 a.m.

at Grandma Mary's in Arena.

Everyone welcome!!



Fri., Sept. 9—
9:00 a.m. Brat Fry at the Shoe Box

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Did you know If you have a Thrivent product such as life insurance, health insurance, an annuity or other investments, you very likely have Thrivent Choice dollars that you can designate to Vermont Lutheran Church or to another charitable organization.

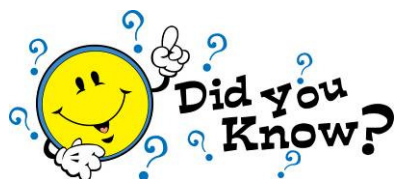
(Choice Dollars are funds that Thrivent, a non-profit organization, must donate to charity).

To find out if you have Choice Dollars available, you can call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice" or go to www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice and login to your account to view and direct your Choice Dollars. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact one of your Thrivent congregational advocates — Gary Olsen at 767-3988 or Myron Norslien at 767-2309.

Koats for Kids!!

Take your gently-worn coats, caps & mittens to any Klinke Cleaners. They'll be cleaned and donated to the Community Action Coalition.

September 12th—October 8th.



Electronic Offering is Available.

Electronic offering into the church treasury is available. Please note these instructions:

Step 1: Call the church office and Linda will give you Vermont's account number and routing number through our bank, State Bank of Cross Plains.

Step 2: Contact your banker to inquire how you may set up your electronic transaction with your own account, involving our routing number.

Please let us know if you have any questions, concerns, or problems.



Introducing Our Newest Members!

The following families joined Vermont on New Member Sunday, August 21. Please give a happy "hello" and extend your welcome to these fine folks. God's blessings be upon you as you join with the church to minister in God's love!

Steve Holzhuetter is a financial consultant in Madison and he and his wife Marjorie live at 4215 Dalby Rd. (in Vermont), Black Earth, WI 53515. Phone 767-2003. Steve's interests are hunting, fishing and biking.

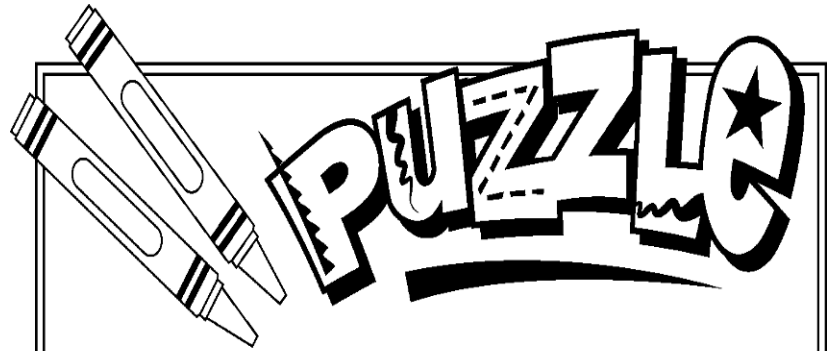
Ray Parish lives in Middleton and has been a friend of Vermont Lutheran for several years. We are happy that Ray has chosen to join us in ministry! Ray makes his home at 1204 Sweeney Drive, Apt. 1, Middleton, WI 53562. Phone 831-5560. Ray enjoys old Western movies, telephone visiting, and playing checkers.

Martha "Marty" Roland is retired and lives at 9370 Union Valley Rd, Black Earth, WI 53515. Postal box is 388, Black Earth. Phone 767-3038. Martha enjoys gardening, reading and homemaking.

We also wish to recognize Thom and Barbara Grenlie, son Noah, and daughter Alyssa Myer who joined Vermont back in March and were formally received then, but not on a New Member Sunday. Their home is at 9973 Greenwald Rd., (in Vermont), Mt. Horeb, WI 53572. Phone 437-5856. Thom is a land surveyor and Barbara is a farmer, homemaker and Vermont Town supervisor. Noah is entering 4th grade this fall; and Alyssa will be a sophomore at UW-Madison this fall.

Please greet our new families with a warm "hello"!

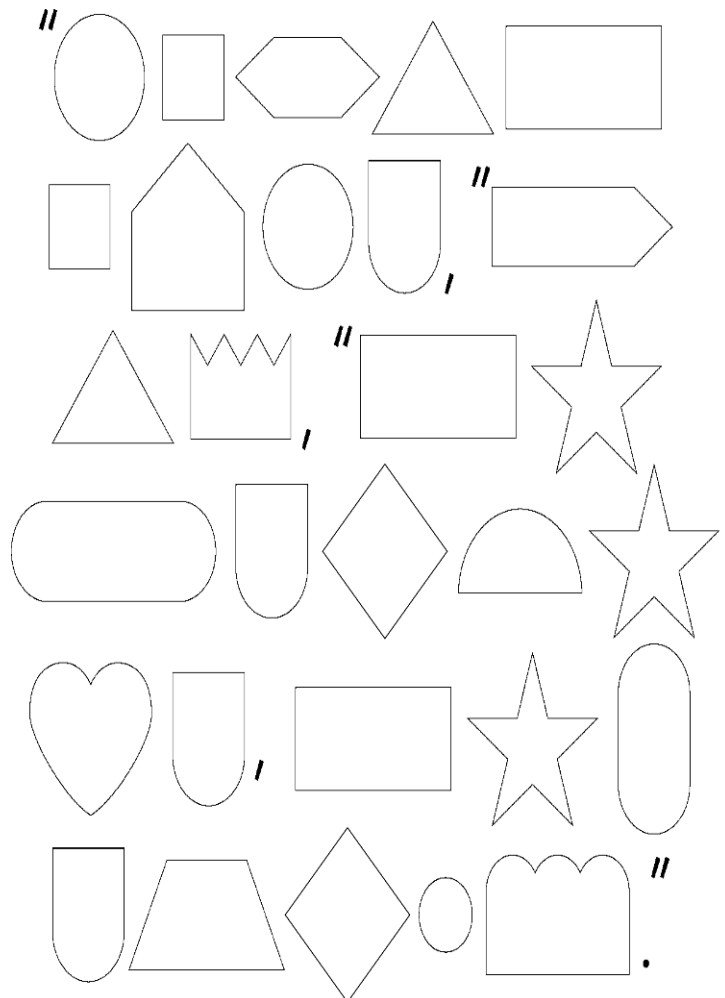
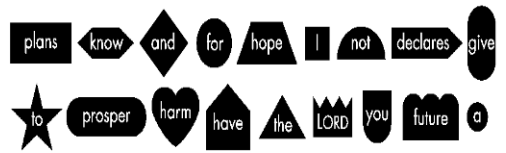
Welcome!



GOD'S PLAN

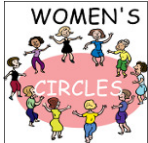
When we ask God for guidance, he will show us his perfect plan for our lives.

Directions: Use the shape code to the right to write out Jeremiah 29:11, NIV.



Answers: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV)

Women of the ELCA

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Joy Circle

Watch bulletins for time and location.

Hannah Circle

Watch bulletins for time and location.

Evening Circle

Tue., September 13, 2011

7:00 pm in The Gathering Place.

Tee Parrell in charge of refreshments. Bring your "Reclaiming the 'C' Word" book or just yourself and join in the discussion.

Altar Duty for September, 2011

Marlene Ludolph and Mary Johns



Officers' Meeting

There will be a Women of ELCA officers' meeting on Tuesday, September 20 if needed. Please contact an officer if you wish to put something on the agenda.

Quarterly Meeting

The next quarterly meeting for Women of ELCA will be held on Wednesday, September 28 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Joy Circle will present "Singing With the Lutherans" by Garrison Keillor and sing "I'm a Lutheran, I'm a Lutheran". Hopefully, we will have a special group that will help us sing. See you all there.

**PLAN TO HELP AT
THE LUTEFISK
DINNER—YOU ARE
NEEDED!**

One of the "givens" at Vermont Lutheran Church is the activity that begins in the fall preparing for our annual Lutefisk Dinner, this year on Saturday, October 15th.

At the end of August and through September begins the lefse preparation under the guidance of Virginia Johnson and Janet Castle (August 28, September 11, September 19, and September 26). On the following Mondays, Donna Dybdahl follows with her crew to roll, bake and package the lefse. If you would like to come and help with either part of this preparation please contact Virginia, Janet or Donna. Harald Norslien and his "Rookies" will be making lefse for the dinner evenings, afternoons, and Saturdays. If you would like to help, call him at 767-3994 to let him know you are interested.

In the October newsletter a schedule of the October duties will be listed with times and dates to prepare the church and food for the dinner. Please say "yes" when one of our committee chairs contacts you to help with this annual event.

All our members are encouraged to find a task they would like to help with. The choices are endless!! Do you want to help in the kitchen? How about being a waitress? Serving the food in the kitchen? Cooking some of the food? Helping with the clean-up crew? If you have not helped before please contact Patty Herrling at 798-2268 or Linda Watkins at 767-3312 (work) or 795-4714 (home) and we will find a position perfect for you.

Last year the proceeds went to meet our mission budget, helped to support the endowment fund, and also helps keep our Good Samaritan fund full.



Rev. Blake Rohrer to visit Vermont on Sunday, Sept. 25. Rev. Rohrer is the Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission for our synod territory. He will preach and lead Adult education time with us that day, exploring with us missional concepts and vision that relates to what our Missional Discovery Journey (MDJ) work here at Vermont has been doing.

Please note this date on your calendar and come hear Blake speak!



Planning Workshops

with Bill Meddings

Bill is continuing providing Planning Workshops on Tuesdays for families of the church to go over reviewing or establishing wills, consideration of trusts, and executing Living Wills, health care power of attorney, and financial power of attorney.

There is “no cost” but considerable value in participating. See the orange calendar workshop registration sheet located on the table under the main bulletin board in the narthex entry way. You may also call Bill at 798-1492 for more information.



Please try to read the scriptures before you come to worship, so that you may be more prepared for that day's worship

September 4, 2011

1st Reading	Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalm	Psalm 119:33-40
2nd Reading	Romans 13:8-14
Gospel	Matthew 18:15-20

September 11, 2011

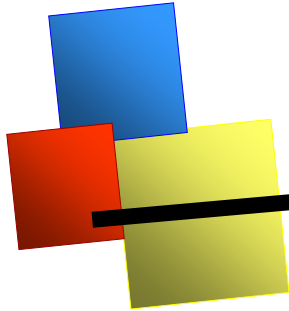
1st Reading	Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm	Psalm 103(1-7) 8-13
2nd Reading	Romans 14:1-12
Gospel	Matthew 18:21-35

September 18, 2011

1st Reading	Jonah 3:10—4:11
Psalm	Psalm 145:1-8
2nd Reading	Philippians 1:21-30
Gospel	Matthew 20:1-16

September 25, 2011

1st Reading	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm	Psalm 25:1-9
2nd Reading	Philippians 2:1-13
Gospel	Matthew 21:23-32



September 2011

NOTES FROM MISSION BAZAAR



We are a congregation that CARES!!

We will be collecting items for

School kits

through September.

Items Needed:

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- Five ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2½" eraser

You may also give money for items and Marlene will buy items needed.

Why school supplies? To the children who receive School Kits, these supplies mean the difference between getting an education or not. Public school is usually free, but in the places where LWR works, even a few required supplies, like pens and paper, may be more than many families can afford.

Give a Child the Opportunity to Go to School!

DROUGHT!!

(ELCA responds to African drought)

In the Horn of Africa, the lives and livelihoods of millions of people have been devastated by the worst drought in 60 years. Crops have failed and water is scarce. Desperate families are abandoning their homes seeking aid. Hundreds of thousands of people have already made their way to refugee camps in Kenya and Ethiopia. More than twelve million people are in need of help now.

For those who have made their way to the Dadaab Camp in Kenya and the Doolo Ado camp in Ethiopia, the ELCA is helping provide safe water and nutritious food.

Thanks to ELCA members like you, we have committed \$1.25 million for drought relief work in the Horn of Africa through ELCA disaster Response. In addition, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger provide more than \$1 million each year for drought prevention work in Central and East Africa — and that commitment will continue.

Thank you for your prayers and faithful witness to the Gospel.



Bags Need to be made for School Kits

These bags go to LWR, and this year they have requested that a different kind of bag be used — a drawstring backpack.

There are copies of the pattern on the WELCA bulletin board in the church entryway. If you can help please take a pattern, and let Marlene Ludolph (767-2272) know that you can help.

Thank You!!



After a well-deserved summer vacation, the choir will once again have choir practice on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., the first being September 15.

Everyone is invited to join the choir. If you've been a choir member for a long time, welcome back. If you want to join the choir now, just come to the Thursday evening practices or you may call Marguerite at 767-2427.

"Make a joyful noise!"

C.I.A. FOOD PANTRY

The next time Vermont helps with distribution is Saturday, November 19, 2011. We need 4-5 helpers from Vermont.

Items needed:

Toilet paper, canned pasta, baked beans, Hamburger Helper

Items NOT needed:

Green beans

Call Carol Parrell at 767-3413 if you can help!



Facility Use Requests

Avoid double booking! If your church group or non-church group desires to use the building, please make the building space use request to Linda Watkins, our administrative assistant, by calling her and clearing it with the church calendar. This will help avoid any confusion on space use needs.

Thank you!



What a great group of volunteers we had to help with the Mobile Pantry in August! It's wonderful to see such enthusiasm as we bring our faith communities together for this outreach mission. Thanks to each and everyone of you. Below is the report for August:

- 29 Faith-filled Volunteers
- 89 Grateful participants in line
- 245 Family members of participants
- 75 of 245 were children (17 & under)
- 23 of 245 were seniors (60 & over)

ZIP Code #'s

53560	Mazomanie	39
53515	Black Earth	18
53572	Mt. Horeb	12
53517	Blue Mounds	7
53530	Darlington	3
53593	Verona	2
53528	Cross Plains	2

Denise Boehnen is Vermont's volunteer coordinator for the Black Earth pantry. If you have not yet signed up to help with the pantry and would like to, please let Denise know and she will relay directions to you. Denise's phone: 843-2187 or email at: ronboehnen@gmail.com

Thank You!

**Council Announcement
Use of church furnishings**

At the April 2011 meeting of the council, a consensus was reached regarding the use of Vermont's church property, including tables, chairs, kitchenware and appliances — "All of these items are to stay on the church grounds for use at church functions or to be used for other authorized church functions only."

Thank you for observing this.



Budget Update

Last month, I wrote about “Tough Times Ahead” and discussion that your Council would be having about our ongoing budget shortfall. I and other Council members appreciate the input we received from several members with constructive ideas for direction we could take in the face of an ongoing shortfall.

As you may have noted when you reviewed the budget report, on page 3, our shortfall through July is over \$4,000. But, that is an improvement from the shortfall reported in June of almost \$9,000. Contributions in July were over \$12,000! Thank you to everyone who gave so generously and helped cut the shortfall in half.

That’s the good news. However, we’re not out of the woods. Your Council had a lengthy discussion at our August meeting about what contingency planning we can do in case we face a shortfall that continues to grow. We looked at several options, all of which would be workable. However, each of them would be a short-term fix for a potentially long-term problem. The bottom line is that our church relies on each of us to give what we can. We believe that with your prayerful consideration, our contributions for the remainder of the year will be sufficient that we can continue our vibrant ministry and not have to cut programs or take contingent action.

We will continue to keep you informed.

Peter Antonie, Council President



*Time
Talent
& Offerings*

Mission Discovery Journey

An Invitation to Serve . . .

We are looking for Vermonters of all ages who are interested in helping our local community’s children who are in need of extra help.

A Planning Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 2, following worship in the Gathering Place. Bring your coffee, goodies and ideas with you.

Please consider joining this important ministry!

Background: The Mission Discovery Journey Team met with the Council at their July meeting in order to assess some of the needs of the communities that Vermont serves. Prior to the meeting, the council members received a questionnaire about their communities. It was immediately obvious that our congregation represents several different local communities. We listed the strengths and weaknesses that each community has. There are many similarities in the communities in which we live, with some noted differences. Then, we talked generally about the assets that Vermont people can offer.

The MDJ Team met later to review the results and recommend a direction for local ministry. We met with the question,

“What would God have us (Vermont) do?”

After some discernment, the needs of local children kept surfacing. In this economy, families are struggling even more to make ends meet. With the skills and gifts of Vermonters, we know there is a ministry to be done out in the community with children.

Invitation:

Please Come, Join us on October 2, in the Gathering Place following worship to learn more, to offer up ideas, and to begin the process of helping children!

Your Presence is Important!





LUTHERAN HANDBOOK MOMENT

"How to Pass the Plate"

from The Lutheran Handbook

(Lessons necessarily involve humor!)

Passing the offering plate requires physical flexibility and an ability to adapt to differing practices. The offering is a practice that dates back to Old Testament times, linking money and personal finance directly to one's identity as a child of God. Giving of one's financial resources is an integral part of a healthy faith life.

1. Pay close attention to instructions, if any.

The presiding minister may announce the method of offering, or instructions may be printed in the worship bulletin or projected on an overhead screen.

2. Be alert for the plate's arrival at your row or pew.

Keep an eye on the ushers, if there are any. In most congregations, guiding and safeguarding the offering plate is their job, so wherever they are, so is the plate. As the plate approaches you, set aside other activity and prepare for passing.

3. Avoid watching your neighbor or making judgments about their offering.

Many people contribute once a month by mail and some by automatic withdrawal from a bank account. If your neighbor passes the plate to you without placing an envelope, check, or cash in it, do not assume they didn't contribute.

4. Do not attempt to make change from the plate if your offering is in cash. Avoid letting the plate rest in your lap as you finish writing a check. Simply pass it on and hand your check to an usher as you leave at the end of worship.

5. Be sensitive to idiosyncrasies in plate types.

Some congregations use traditional, wide-rimmed, felt lined, brass-plated offering plates. Some use baskets of varying types. Some use cloth bags hung at the ends of long wooden poles that the ushers extend inward from the ends of the pews.

Be Aware:

- Some congregations place the offering plate or basket at the rear of the worship space.
- Your church offering may be tax deductible, as provided by law. Consider making your offering by check or automatic withdrawal; you will receive a statement from your church in the first quarter of the next year.
- Churches often depend entirely up the money that comes in through the congregational offerings. If you are a member, resolve to work yourself toward tithing as a putting-your-money-where-your-mouth is expression of faith. (The term *tithing* means "one-

tenth: and refers to the practice of giving 10 percent of one's gross income to support the church's work.)

- Everyone, regardless of their age, has something to offer.
- Offerings are not fees or dues given out of obligation. They are gifts of thanksgiving returned to God from the heart.

Lutheran Marriage Encounter

Weekend dates are listed below, in Illinois. Check out their website (listed below) for more information on these marriage retreat weekends.

Comments from couples who have attended past retreats:

"The weekend was like a new beginning for our marriage. We are talking to each other in a brand new way."

"It was a wonderful & special weekend. My relationship with my wife improved greatly. It was a spiritual journey that I'll never forget."

"After our marriage encounter, [my husband] and I have been able to talk in a way we never did before. I really look forward to growing in our relationship together. I hope more couples can experience this."

Weekend Dates: **October 14-16, 2011;**
and **April 20 - 22, 2012**

For Information, or to apply, see:
www.NorthernIllinoisLME.org, or

Phone: Dave & Jean Dobbstein, **1-847-839-3546**

Rally Sunday Picnic

for the Entire Church—all members welcome!!

September 11th, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

(following the 10:00 am worship)



at the
The Herrling Farm
4035 Barlow Rd.
Cross Plains

Grilled to order hamburgers, chips, watermelon
and s'mores

A \$3.00/person donation to the church will cover
the cost of the food

Family activities will include:

Catch and Release fishing

Golfing

Shuffle board

Horse shoes

Hiking in the woods and prairie

Carriage rides in the Prairie



Take part in a take off of the
Amazing Race sponsored by the Sunday School.

Bring fishing equipment
Golf clubs and old golf balls
Portable chairs

**Come, relax and enjoy the start of a new
Sunday School Year!!**



Sunday School News

Welcome Back!! We are excited to be starting a new year of Sunday School! Meet at 9:30 am on September 11th, then come to the Herrling Farm (after worship) to celebrate Rally Day!

There are several changes in Sunday School this year.

1. Sunday School will be for ages 3 through 5th grade. 6th graders will be starting a confirmation class and are also invited to the adult education class at 9am. We have found that since 6th graders had already transitioned to Middle School, Sunday School was not a good fit for them. We are hoping the 6th confirmation class will better meet the needs of this age group.
2. On the 5th Sunday of each rotation, the children will be assisting in the worship service. It will be a 45 minute service with the children helping as greeters, ushers, readers, etc. The children will also sing in worship. We will work with the kids to prepare them for their responsibilities.
3. There is a letter from the Council in this newsletter regarding the new worship service schedule. Sunday School will be starting at 9:30. Your children will be joining you in the worship service between 10:15 and 10:20. Children will come to sit with their parents at this time. If you will not be in the worship service, please make arrangements with another adult who will be responsible for your child.

Our first rotation...

Our first rotation this year will focus on the Order of Worship. In order for children to get the most out of worship we will be helping them to understand what is being said and done during the service.

Sunday School teachers for this year include Amber Christensen, Terry DeWitt, Joanie Haugen, Liz Herrling, Patty Herrling, Lisa King, Deb Krebs and Jill Lynch. We are always looking for adults who are interested in teaching a 4-week session. Please contact Joanie Haugen jlhcb@tds.net or 767-3327.

Youth Page

**Confirmation classes
begin Wednesday, September 7th
at 4:00 p.m.**

We have 13 students in Confirmation classes this fall.

Rachael Haukoos and Travis Berger are the 2nd year students.

First year students are: Haylee Adler, Quinn Doyle, Sophia Elworthy, Tyler Johnson, Noah King, Dylan Lemke, and Taylor Statz (as well as the 6th grade students listed below).

The 6th grade class will also have Confirmation instruction: Karlee Adler, Lauren Berger, Bryce Duhr, and Isabelle Wright. Please keep these students in your prayers as they learn the faith and pursue the Rite of Confirmation in the life of our church. We thank Ginny Johnson for teaching the 6th grade class!



Youth
Fellowship

YOUTH EVENTS COMING UP!

Low Ropes Course Outing for Confirmation Students at Bethel Horizons Camp, rural Dodgeville, will be the morning of Friday, October 28th (Wisconsin Heights students do not have school that day.) Interested students can ride the bus departing from New Heights Lutheran-Black Earth parking lot. Confirmands from New Heights and Berry/Marxville churches also attending. This is not a required Confirmation event.

9-12th Grade Church Youth Fest at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, Sat., November 12. Energized worship, interactive workshops, and a chance to meet great people and tour one of our ELCA Lutheran church colleges. The Peter Mayer Group will be performing; they have been the house band for the last two ELCA National Youth Gatherings. Let Pastor know if you are interested!! Cost is \$30 per student to attend.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Youth Lock-in Retreat
at Vermont**

for 6-12th graders.

November 18-19, 2011

Theme:

"Teens, Faith, and Money"



Middle School Students!!

Overnight Lock-in at New Heights Lutheran Church-Black Earth, September 16-17 (starts at 10:00 p.m. on September 16).

All are welcome!!

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF
Vermont Lutheran Church
9886 Vermont Church Road
Black Earth, WI 53515

**PRESORTED
STANDARD
PERMIT NO. 5**
Black Earth, WI 53515

Change Service Requested



You Are Invited!

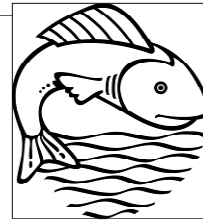
*Rev. John and Naomi Shep
cordially invite members of Vermont
Lutheran Church to the wedding of their
daughter*

Mary KimLee Shep

and

Andrew Paul Scharf on

*Saturday, September 10, 2011 at 2:30 p.m.
at Vermont Lutheran Church.*



OUR LUTEFISK DINNER is Saturday, October 15, 2011!

Preparations will be starting for making lefse,
rommegrot, meatballs, etc.

Please be thinking about what YOU would like
to do at this year's dinner. People are needed
in the kitchen, dining room, preparation in the
Gathering Place, and more

"Many hands make light work!"