

# The Petra Press

Newsletter of the Williamstown Lutheran Church  
Graniteville, Vermont \* \* \* 207-370-0355

Vacancy Pastor  
Rev. Robert Fischer

[www.wlcvermont.org](http://www.wlcvermont.org)

November 2020

## (Vacancy) Pastor's Corner

*"Give thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."* (Eph. 5:20)

The first Thanksgiving was celebrated in very difficult circumstances. Many of the early American settlers died from illness or starvation. Those who survived were living in primitive conditions. Their future was uncertain. Yet, they were moved to give thanks for what they *had* rather than grumble about what they *didn't* have. We live in times which are difficult for many; yet, we're blessed in material ways *far beyond* what the Pilgrims experienced. For my wife and I, this is brought especially to my mind during trips to South Africa to visit our daughter and her family. Americans tend to link South Africa with diamond and gold mining; and there are certainly some prosperous parts of the country. Yet, there also exists high rates of crime, unemployment, AIDS; and vast poverty-stricken regions beyond what most Americans can imagine. In terms of crime, almost every house there has bars on the windows and doors to try to keep out burglars.

Regarding poverty, millions in South Africa live in what is euphemistically called "Informal Housing"—tightly packed settlements of crudely built shacks; each about half the size of one of our single-car garages (but much less sturdy or weather-tight). In some of these settlements the government has provided some electrical access. Thus, those who can afford a television can glimpse what life is like in the United States.

Your lifestyle may not match that of what's portrayed on television, but it's far better than the lives of those living amid the crime, AIDS, and crushing poverty in places like South Africa.

There are many reasons for crime, disease, and poverty but the fundamental reason is sin—our sin, the sin of all those who have lived before us; and especially of Adam

and Eve who caused the Fall into sin. God didn't create a world which included crime, disease, and poverty; but He's granted us material blessings *in spite of*, and *in the midst of*, these things. Furthermore, God has provided the Means of Grace whereby we can be strengthened while living with these problems, and eternally delivered from them.

No matter what our circumstances, we still have much to be thankful for. Our celebration of Thanksgiving started out as being thankful to God for conditions which were even worse than the shanty towns of today. And consider that we have *much more* in material blessings than what most of the rest of the world has. Yet, we still have the temptation to focus on what we *don't* have, rather than on what we *do* have.

Certainly, we have genuine needs, and there is genuine poverty. But consider that our Lord left the riches of His heavenly throne, took upon Himself poverty-stricken flesh and blood, that thereby He might also take all of our sins upon Himself on the cross so that we might have the riches of eternal life in heaven. *"Give thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

## Worship Schedule

There will not be a Thanksgiving Eve worship service this year.

We will have a Christmas Eve service, there will be no service on Christmas Day.



Sunday Morning Service is 10:15 and Adult Bible Study is held at 9:00 on Sundays.



## October 2020 TREASURER'S UPDATE

A brief summary of the financial position of the congregation at the end of October 2020 shows that our expenses exceeded income for the month of October.

Our giving as a congregation is well below our budget for the year to date. Although many of us are not able to meet in person on a weekly basis, the expenses of our congregation continue. Whether we are able to be together in person or not, please prayerfully consider continuing to support our church family through your tithes and offerings.

	Oct 2020	Year to Date	2020 Budget
INCOME	\$4,717.09	\$67,552.40	\$78,686.67
EXPENSES	\$5,950.80	\$67,038.15	\$74,686.04

“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.” Malachi 3:10

To God be the glory!

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Currier

### New Baby!

Congratulations to Rachael & Ronnie Hayduk on the birth of their first child! Abner Ronan Hayduk came into the world 3 weeks early on October 28. He weighed 6 lbs 1 oz.



Wendy & Ken Bailey are Abner's proud grandparents!



### Operation Christmas Child

Boxes are available for you to take home. Downstairs you will find items that have been collected throughout the year that you can use to fill your box and then add a WOW item.

All boxes must be returned no later than 11/22/2020.

Donations for mailing the boxes are also needed.

### Prayers and Cards

**Ture Nelson** – please pray for Ture, his other leg needed to be removed and he is currently in rehab at Berlin Heath and Rehab in Berlin Vermont.

The address is:  
98 Hospitality Drive  
Barre VT 05641

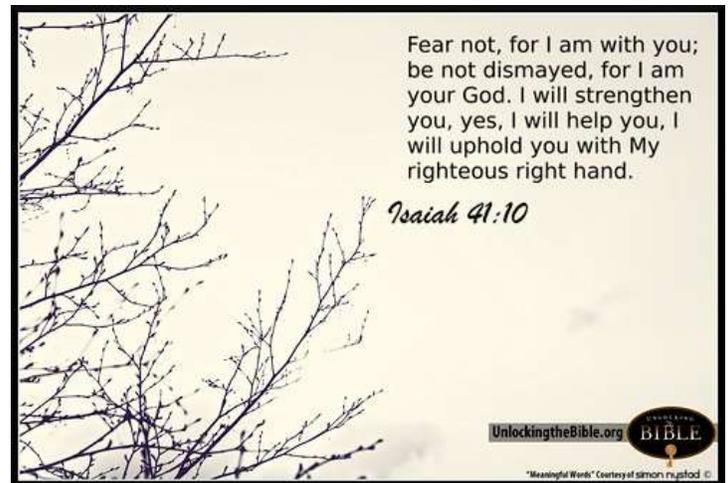
**Marsha Prestridge** – please continue to pray for Marsha as she recovers from a knee infection and surgery. She would enjoy receiving cards. Keep Lloyd and the entire Prestridge family in prayer.

The address:  
PO Box 305  
Bethel VT 05032

Please pray for all our church family members not attending service due to Covid.

### The Call

Please pray for unity in our church family while we embark on this challenging time of finding a new Pastor. Keep this process in your prayers.



December Newsletter deadline is Tuesday December 8.