

The Petra Press

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

Vacancy Pastor
Rev. Robert Fischer

www.wlcvermont.org

October 2020

(Vacancy) Pastor's Corner

One of the "hot button" topics in any election year is health care. What few disagree about though is that affordable, reliable health care is a great benefit to society. The disagreements come about regarding the best way to achieve that goal. However, we need to keep in mind the *best* health care available.

Consider the inspired words of David in Psalm 103: *"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your sins, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagles."*

Nowhere in any of the candidates' plans is there talk about *"all our diseases"* being healed, and our *"youth being renewed like the eagles."* But, it isn't just David who is incredibly optimistic about God's health care plan. The prophet Jeremiah wrote the following words of God, *"For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal," declares the LORD*" (Jer. 30:17). No candidate is promising that!

However, the big concern about any health care plan is the enormous cost. *God's* health care plan promises *complete* healing and health. So, how much is *that* going to cost? Again, it's a much better deal than any Federal health plan because it doesn't cost *us* anything. But, that doesn't mean that it's *without* cost. No, the cost is very great indeed. *Our* perfect healing and life comes at the cost of the suffering and death of God's *Son*, Jesus Christ.

We face health problems, and even death, because of the sin which we inherited from our first parents and by our *own* sins. That's why David wrote in Psalm 38, *"There is no soundness in my flesh because of the LORD's indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin."* We will have *eternal health* because Jesus earned *forgiveness* of all our sins by taking them all to

the cross and paying for them completely there. Thus, the Lord is no longer indignant with us, but loves us as His children. And, the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the assurance that *we too* will rise from death with glorified—and perfectly *healthy*—bodies.

But, what about our health problems *between* now and our resurrection? Is earthly hope and help to be found only in Washington's health care regulations? No, again, we find even *better* help in God's Word. St. Paul wrote, *"So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison."* (2 Cor. 4:16-17)

Paul calls our *"outer self-wasting away"* a *"light momentary affliction"*! He can do this because our Christian faith strengthens us through the brief physical (and fiscal!) problems of this world, and helps us to look forward to the eternal, *trouble-free*, life we'll have in heaven. So, *"we do not lose heart."*

Worship Schedule

Adult Bible Class is at 9:00 each Sunday morning. Pastor Fischer is taking us through the Book of Job and he will be posting the weekly lesson the church website.

Please join us in person on Sunday mornings.

Worship services will continue to be held on Sundays at 10:15.



Goodbye send off for Pastor Cal & Lynette

In September on a beautiful Saturday afternoon we gathered (with proper social distancing) for a bittersweet send off for Pastor Cal & Lynette.

The choir sang and Elizabeth Singleton sang a solo piece. Ken Bailey spoke, and Gail Andrew's read a poem she prepared especially for this day.

On Sunday September 27 many stayed after church for a good ole' Lutheran potluck with plenty of brownies and pie for the Pastor.

If anyone has pictures from that day and you would like to share them, please send to me and I will publish in the November newsletter.

Contact Information for Pastor Cal & Lynette

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Your contributions to the newsletter are greatly appreciated. Please feel free to send me emails or text messages throughout the month. The deadline for the November newsletter is Tuesday November 10. Klaughlin64@gmail.com or text 802-793-0033

**Show me Your way O Lord
Teach me Your paths
Psalms 25:4**



**Get out and Vote!
Tuesday November 3.**



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Due to Covid we're not planning a packing party with the whole congregation this year. However, we are looking for a few volunteers to put together boxes with the collection we have, see Wendy Bailey if you can help. We will have individual boxes available for families to take home and fill and return for distribution. Between these two efforts we can exceed last year's boxes.

Not only are you blessing these children with Christmas presents, you are sharing the message of Christ too!

The final week is November 16 -23.

Check the website, Samaritan's Purse for more details.

September 2020 TREASURER'S UPDATE



A brief summary of the financial position of the congregation at the end of September 2020 shows that while our expenses exceeded income for the month of September, both our congregational spending and income for the year to date are below the budget, and income exceeds expenses for the year to date. Thank you for your faithful giving to support our church family.

	Sept. 2020	Year to Date	2020 Budget
INCOME	\$6,025.55	\$60,754.33	\$70,818.00
EXPENSES	\$6,873.20	\$56,997.95	\$67,214.44

"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