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Newsletter of the Williamstown Lutheran Church
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Vacancy Pastor
Rev. Robert Fischer

www.wlcvermont.org

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(Vacancy) Pastor's Corner

Spiritual "Debriding"

My first job after college was working in the Hydraulics Research and Development Laboratory of an automotive supplier. Research and development involves doing things that have not been done before, and therefore involves some risks.

I experienced that "first-hand" when a problem developed with a research experiment and caused third-degree burns all over my right hand. The process of healing was slow and painful: The bandages had to be taken off my hand daily, and the dead skin "debrided" or removed.

Today, you cannot see any of the effects from the burns due to the grace of God, and the good medical care (especially from my RN wife!) which I received.

We *all* need debriding in life—not necessarily removing dead skin due to burns—but removing dead ways of life or bad habits that have been "burned into us." And, that debriding; that removal of the bad so that good may grow, is painful. We don't like to change our old, established, comfortable ways of doing things; even if they *are* dead, and hindering our spiritual growth.

For some people, the change may be attending worship services more often. For others, it may be attending *any* worship services. For some people, the change may be attending Adult Bible Class.

Change may include more (or any) daily time set aside for Scripture reading and prayer. Change may be taking more (or any) opportunities to help around the church. Change may involve using *less* of your income for your personal needs and using *more* of it to support the work of the church. Doing *any* of the above may seem uncomfortable (or even painful) at first, because they involve peeling off (debriding) old habits, removing ways of life stuck to you that are

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St. Paul wrote, "*So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus*" (Rom. 6:11). Jesus himself went through the painful process of death so that we might have new life. We are to *treasure* that new life in Christ, and to keep it *alive* and *healthy*.

We're reminded in the Book of Proverbs, "*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones*" (Prov. 3:5-8).

Trusting in the LORD with all our heart; and not leaning on our own understanding, or desires, or wants, or habits, isn't easy. It isn't easy, but it brings "*healing to your flesh.*" Everyone wants to be healthy, but most people don't make the uncomfortable or even painful changes they need to make to be healthy. Even *more* people won't make the changes necessary for true *spiritual* health and happiness. Don't be one of them. Make the changes, debride your old dead habits; and see the new spiritual growth, health, and happiness appear.

Blessings,
Pastor Fischer



News
from
the
Call
Committee

Dear WLC,

The Call Committee met after service on April 25th to establish a clear path forward as we begin our 3rd Divine Call. It was decided at the meeting that we would obtain candidate recommendations from district as well as request previous candidates that received high levels of support from a majority of the call committee. The two previously recommended pastors that the committee decided to re-instate as potential candidates are Pastor Auger (who was presented to the congregation as a candidate during the first call) and Pastor Crawford who was the call committee's runner up in the 2nd call. About a week after our meeting, we learned that Pastor Andy Watkins who has preached to our congregation in the past may now be available as a potential candidate to accept a call. After a unanimous vote from the committee Pastor Watkins was added to the list of candidates that we have requested from district. More recently Matt Chin and I spoke to the newly appointed President of our district: Pastor Robert Beinke. We had a very productive conversation and have sent him detailed information about our congregation so he can find qualified candidates.

I hope this message finds you all well and full of God's grace for it will be through his perfect timing that the next Shepard of WLC will be revealed to us.

In Christ,
Nick Moen



Sunday May 23 the annual church election meeting will be held after service. Anyone interested in running for an office or elder (2 openings), please contact Matt Chin.

Please keep Mike Schumacher in your prayers as he continues to recover from heart surgery. Also, pray for God's peace for Beverly and Eric.

*Thank You
For Your Prayers!*

Thanks for all the prayers for Paul he came though back surgery (laminectomy) great. We are praying this gives him relief from pain and able to get around better. We will be heading to VT on May 28, pray for safe travels.

Gods' blessings. Gail & Paul Andrews



I am going to miss this church and the people who I have meet along the way. This church family has made me feel welcome from the first time I came here many years ago. I thank Gail Andrews for bringing me to this church and how much I have grown in Christ since I started coming here. The many volunteer jobs I have done from cleaning, teaching Sunday School, Superintendent of Sunday School and Alter Guild have been a reward for me. I have seen people move away and never thought this would happen to me but the time has come to move on. Each and every one of you has a special place in my heart and I will never forget you. Richard and I are living our dream of retirement with summers in Vt on Lake Carmi and winters in North Carolina. I will keep in touch with everyone on Facebook and hope to visit at least once or twice a year when I return to VT. Until then.

God Bless All of You. Love Jayne



Operation Christmas Child

Let's keep on gathering items for this year's Operation Christmas Child.

May is hygiene month: soap, toothbrushes, comb, brush, wash cloth, towels, etc.

June is quality toys.

Keep your eye out for WOW items.

Hark! the voice of Jesus crying, "Who will go and work today"?

Who will answer, gladly saying, "Here am I, send me, send me"?

With your prayers and with your bounties, you can do what God demands;

Let none hear you idly saying, "There is nothing I can do,"

Take the task He gives you gladly, let His work your pleasure be; Answer quickly when He calleth, "Here am I, send me, send me!"

(Specially selected lines: Hymn 496, TLH)



Four women of Williamstown Lutheran Church have answered, "Here am I, send me, send me!"

Karen Bell

Katie Currier*

Kathy Laughlin

Janet Stone

This group will take on the work of re-organization of the Altar Guild—agreeing to pray, study, and organize the tasks required to care for the chancel in our Lord's house. They will see to the needs of the altar, the paraments, the Communion ware, the banners, and the art work in our church. They will work closely with the Pastor to see that the worship space continues to be kept beautiful and in good order, both to glorify God and to provide a setting which enables the congregation to worship in a meaningful way

In the next few weeks, during a worship service, you'll experience these women being installed and publicly state their intentions to serve in this special capacity. Re-organization of the Altar Guild is a very special experience for WLC. As the church has matured, we've seen the need to form a committee for these tasks. In years gone by, Kristin Belding and Jayne Hall lovingly filled the role along with other volunteers. We thank them for their love and dedication in performing this work for all these years. As this new committee takes on their duties, we ask for the prayers of WLC members—in thanksgiving for the women who have answered the call, and that the work they perform always be to the glory of God.

(*Katie Currier will be scheduled when she is available.)