

The Petra Press

Newsletter of the Williamstown Lutheran Church

Graniteville, Vermont * * * 802-479-1164

Pastor Cal Kemp

www.wlcvermont.org

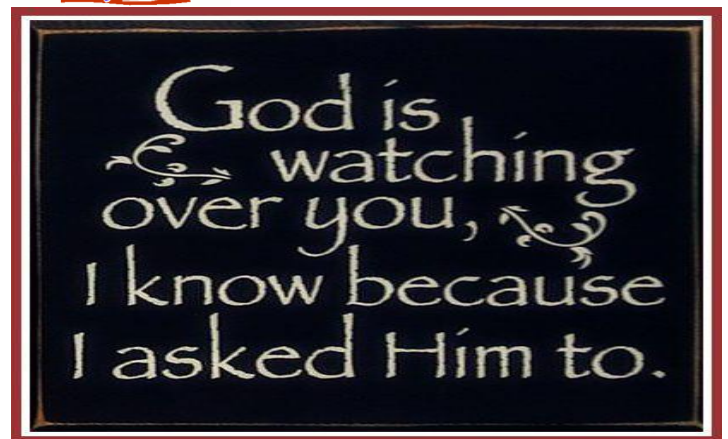
August 2017

Pastor's Corner



We live in a society possessed by what I'll call: *prudential self-love*. Prudence is considered good. According to the dictionary prudent means: shrewd in management of practical affairs, judicious, foresighted, and

sensible. The truth of the matter is that you can't really argue against prudence. It makes sense to manage practical affairs in a sensible and wise way, and so, prudence sells itself quite easily. Of course, prudence is good, but it can also be dangerous. Prudence becomes dangerous when it leads us into a life that collapses into prudential self-love. Prudential self-love is prudent, but only for the sake of self. Look at the variety of ways that people spend their time, money and energy in the name of preserving, improving, and advancing self. Oh, it's all good things and activities, but it's all about self. MY health, MY sanity, MY well-being, all MY, MY, MY, MY, until we're just a sea of islands floating around alone prudentially taking care of self. What a sad and spiritually precarious place to be. So, Jesus brings us away from all this by reminding us: "*Whoever loses his own life for my sake will find it.*" (Matt.10:39) Jesus was prudent but never about self. He calls us to a life that is founded in Him and therefore is in the spirit of losing self on behalf of others. Losing your life can be anything of your life that you sacrifice for the sake of another. And the beauty of this prudential sacrificial love is that we are brought in from the lonely floating around to instead being with those who give of their lives to us as we give of ours to them. How very prudent! Can you think of some places that this might be prudent for our society?



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Summer is winding down and the kiddos are preparing to return to the classroom.

That means we need to get ready for WLC Sunday School 2017-2018.

Sunday School is schedule to start Sunday September 10.

Please see Jayne Hall if you are interested in being a Sunday School teacher this year.

Thank you!
Jayne Hall



Operation Christmas Child

The theme for August is clothes. Check out the summer clearance racks for shorts, tee-shirts, baseball hats, sun hats, etc.

Don't forget toys! Balls, matchbox size cars, soccer balls that can be blown up.

It will be time to pack the boxes before we know it!

Tubing Enthusiasts!

Tubing was postponed! We are postponing our tubing adventure to Saturday August 19, at 10:00 a.m. The reason we postponed is the river water level is low (the tubes are supposed to carry us, not the other way around), and the forecast was rain.

So, mark your calendar for Aug. 19. If that doesn't work, then we will push it to August 26. If that doesn't work, then we give up and will try again next year.

Lynette Kemp



Treasurer's Update

A brief summary of the financial position of the congregation at the end July 2017 (posted by July 31, 2017) shows that our total congregational spending and income for the year are on track with the budget. Please note that because of my being away the last two weeks of July, end of month expenses for July will appear in the August 2017 expenses.

We are slightly behind in income compared to last year at this time (2016: \$48,766.12): however, our expenses are also lower compared to last year at this time (2016: \$43,068.21).

	Income	% '17 Budget	Expenses	% '17 Budget
Month July 2017	\$8,957.58		\$2,358.65	
Total for Year	\$47,399.60	55%	\$38,150.55	45%

To God be the glory!

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Currier

In the News

Zach Prestridge



Zac's surgery went well. He's in a Petrie cast so is quite immobile now, but he is learning how to scoot around with his arms. He's in good spirits! Thank you to everyone for all your prayers.

This picture is the day after surgery and Zac is now home.

Kim Prestridge
Terry Frye

Many of you will remember Terry Frye. He, and his wife, Lorrie, attended our church for a while after they moved to Garden Street in Williamstown. Terry was a talented musician, played the piano and had a wonderful voice. Terry was music director and taught at the Barre City school system. Terry has been ill for some time and has now passed away. Below, is a music video link which Terry wrote the lyrics to. Please continue to remember his wife, Lorrie and their family in prayer.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WiLq-OhziC4>

Sheila Walther

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On Saturday, August 6 Troy Laughlin asked his sweetheart Emma Lamson to marry him! They were at Disney World (Emma's favorite place) when he dropped to one knee and proposed!



Thank you

Dear Friends,

I am writing to thank you for praying for me. My doctor just told me that the latest tests show that the cancer has shrunk to where it is almost invisible. I have been off Chemo for over 6 weeks and I feel great!! There are no more treatments scheduled for now! I pray for each of you to receive God's Blessings as he has blessed me.

Love to you and God's Peace, Russ Gauslin

(p.s. Thanks from Judy also)

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday September is the deadline, please send your submissions to Kathy Laughlin. Klaughlin64@gmail.com.