

# The Petra Press

Newsletter of the Williamstown Lutheran Church

Graniteville, Vermont \* \* \* 802-479-1164

Pastor Cal Kemp

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

May 2017

## Pastor's Corner

There's a common annoyance that we all suffer. We try to avoid it, but it still finds us and brings a relentless and nagging discomfort. Waiting! Who enjoys waiting? No matter what we might be waiting for, time spent waiting is, well, simply, a pain. A rational mind can step back in consideration and easily determine that waiting is worthless, a waste of time. Nothing is happening. Nothing is being accomplished. And certainly, things are not going according to our "have-it-now" mindsets and planning. So, what to do with waiting? We might as well address it. It's pretty apparent that from time to time we're going to be forced to wait so how might we see waiting in terms of God. The Old Testament prophet Isaiah said: ***"I will wait for the Lord, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob, I will hope in Him."*** Isaiah used his waiting time and he used his waiting time for something besides fidgeting, fretting, frustration or anger. He spent the time waiting for the Lord. His focus was not on himself or his own plans and or his desires, instead, he looked to the Lord. And what was the Lord doing? Waiting! The house of Jacob, that is God's own people, had turned away from God because they were tired of waiting, but also during this time God was waiting for them to come back to Him. Waiting is not a waste of time it's a gift from God that offers us marvelous way of life as we are united in heart and mind with God. God's will for people becomes our will. As God waits for people to come back to Him we are given waiting time for the same. Considering that our Lord's greatest desire is that all people would have salvation and life, waiting might be the most precious time of all.



## Operation Christmas Child

Please help make Operation Christmas Child 2017 a success by continuing to collect items for this year's shoeboxes. The theme for May is hygiene items: combs, brushes, wash clothes and bar soap.

We cannot collect any liquid items or tooth paste. Toothbrushes can be collected. Thank you!



CARDS\*\*\*\*CARDS\*\*\*\*CARDS

Do you have a mother? Or possibly someone graduating? Well, consider supporting the General Mission Fund. All you need is \$2.00 for a card. If you wish to personalize a card, see me. You may want a name on the card, or a special quote. Cards are not moving fast as I hoped and this is your chance to give suggestions.

Thank you, Carolyn Baker

## SPRING CLEANING DAY!



We will be holding a spring cleaning day for the church on Saturday May 20 at 9:00 a.m.

Gail called dibs on the windows and there are plenty of other jobs to do. Please join us as many hands will make this go quick!

A Big Thank You to Jim Stone for cleaning up the yard!



## Last Day of Sunday School

May 21<sup>st</sup> is the last day of Sunday School. There will be a small get together after church with light snacks along with a scavenger hunt and games.

Jayne Hall





## Treasurer's Update

I am honored and humbled to have been chosen to take over the role of Treasurer of the Congregation. Many thanks to Russ Gauslin who served our church family so faithfully as Treasurer.

A brief summary of the financial position of the congregation at the end of the first quarter 2017 shows that our congregational spending and giving are on track with the budget.

The April income reflects the receipt of Thrivent Choice Dollars designated to our congregation. Thank you to those members who have chosen to support our congregation in this way.

	Income	% 2017 Budget	Expense	% 2017 Budget
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	\$24,047.56	27.6%	\$21,496.00	25.2%
April 2017	\$10,873.32		\$6,279.74	
Total for Year	\$34,920.88	40.1%	\$27,775.74	32.6%

To God be the glory!

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Currier



This is the beginning  
of a new day.  
God has given me  
this day to use as I will.  
I can waste it or use it for some  
good purpose.  
But what I can do with this day is  
Important because  
I have exchanged a day of my life for it.  
When tomorrow comes,  
today will be gone forever  
I hope I will not regret  
the price I paid for it.

Unknown

Submitted by Carolyn Baker



## 2017 GRADUATES

Connor Bell will graduate from High School in June. Congratulations Connor!

Billy Whaley will receive a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from Norwich University on May 13. He will be working at Commonwealth Financial Group in Colchester, Vermont after graduation. Congratulations Billy!



## Mentors Needed

Journey Mentoring is looking for mentors.

For those who are not familiar, Journey Mentoring is a Christian Faith, community based mentoring non-profit organization dedicated to working in the community, making time to build mentoring relationships into trusted friendships.

Here is an excerpt from their most recent newsletter:

*'Mentoring gives the Christian, Faith-community a door to walk into our schools and share the Hope, Joy and Peace we profess. Mentoring also gives us the opportunity to live life, and share life with those growing up with many insecurities and uncertainties.'*

Here is their web address if anyone is interested in more information, and I would be happy to discuss becoming a mentor with anyone who is interested.

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

Karen Bell



**June 13 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
Submit your news, articles etc to:  
[klaughlin64@gmail.com](mailto:klaughlin64@gmail.com)