

*From the*  
**PASTOR'S DESK**



*"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*      John 13:34-35

*Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?  
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?  
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.  
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say,  
"Here I am."  
Isaiah 58:6-9a*

We celebrate Valentine's Day this month, a day when we're told that to show our love for our significant others & family means flowers, chocolates, an expensive dinner out, and a mushy, romantic card. When Christian love and compassion for others takes root in us, it is expressed not on one day, but throughout the year and in actions, not just in words or feelings. You cannot gradually and cautiously feel your way toward Christian love. Love is action. Grace is God's unconditional love for us. Christian love trusts God and goes for it without hesitating or pondering "what's in it for me?"

Continued on page 2.....



## Continued from page 1.....

Jesus' new commandment to his disciples was simply this: Show your love. Love one another. By your loving actions, people will know more about you than by anything else you could do. Love each other as I have loved you. Jesus didn't love us by simply feeling loving toward us. Jesus lived a life that embodied love. He healed the sick. He fed the hungry. He comforted the confused. He taught the ignorant. He hugged the little children. Jesus' love was so great that he went to the cross, suffered torture and death as his greatest demonstration of action-packed love. The love Jesus wants his disciples to enter into -- not just to "feel" but to do -- is action-packed. And love in action is sometimes embodied by the simplest of compassionate & merciful responses. Jesus urged his disciples to have love for one another so that "everyone will know that you are my disciples." The ability to love everyone -- even the most unlovable of sorts, has always been the test of the discipleship of love.

After the crowds had stoned him, mocked him, spit upon him, screamed "crucify him," Jesus could still cry out in love, "Forgive them, they know not what they do." How can we seek to imitate this love in our own lives? Certainly it comes through our words, but our actions speak so much louder. An action-packed faith is the power of love in action, it is the power of Christ within each one of us, shining forth through the all actions of our lives.

The Isaiah passage above reminds us that our faith must find its way into every part of our lives. Is Christianity just for Sunday mornings, church potlucks and Bible studies? Or should we tear down the walls of our weekly schedule and use our faith in Christ to meet those in need with love and action to help with their needs, whenever, whatever and wherever they are?

Blessings and see you in church!

Pastor Joyce <><



## Texting FOR Seniors

**BFF** - best friend fell  
**BTW** - bring the wheelchair  
**TTYL** - talk to you louder  
**BYOT** - bring your own teeth  
**LMDO** - laughing my dentures out  
**FWIW** - forgot where I was  
**IMHAO** - is my hearing aid on?  
**OMMR** - on my massage recliner  
**ROFLACGU** - rolling on the floor laughing and can't get up

## WEATHER FORECAST

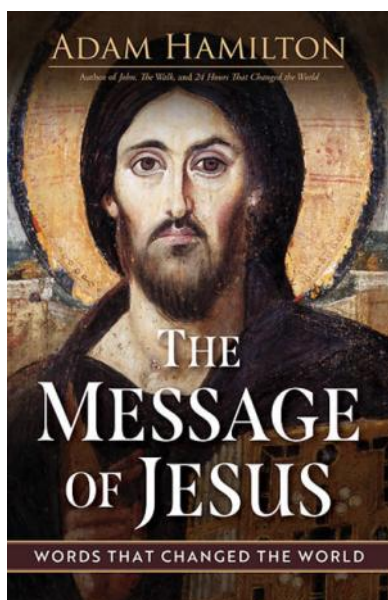
**GOD REIGNS**  
and the  
**SON SHINES**  
**EXPECT**  
**SHOWERS**  
**OF**  
**BLESSINGS!**



✓ Every day  
GOD is good!

*The LORD is my Shepherd Ministries*

## A New Bible Study Opportunity beginning in March 2025



We'll experience a fresh encounter with the words of Jesus. More than 3 billion people claim to follow Jesus. But aside from a few verses, how many of us actually know what he taught? In fact, much of what people think Jesus taught, he never said.

In this six-week study, pastor and best-selling author Adam Hamilton explores six of the most important themes in Jesus's teachings, why they matter, and how they speak to us today. The book will explore Jesus's preaching on the Kingdom of God, the Sermon on the Mount, the parables, the "I am" sayings in John, and more. Jesus' message is not only life-changing, but world-changing.

**Signup sheets will be made available in mid-February.**

Dent – In-person on Tuesdays at 10:30 beginning March 11<sup>th</sup>

Online via Zoom Workplace – Tuesdays at 6:30 beginning March 11<sup>th</sup>

Vergas – In-person on Thursdays at 10:30 beginning March 13<sup>th</sup>

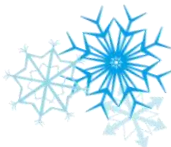


### Joint Service ~ March 5<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m. at Dent UMC

Worship with imposition of ashes, communion, and this service begins the season of Lent for Christians around the world.



[www.catholiccartoonblog.blogspot.com](http://www.catholiccartoonblog.blogspot.com)



## SAVE YOUR RECIEPTS FROM **central market**

Each church is asking everyone to save their receipts from Central Market (be sure the cashier stamps them with the red **"We Care"** stamp). These are turned in for rebates and the money has been used for mission work as well as helping to pay for things around the church. Place your receipts and codes in the labeled box – that's all you have to do. We have earned many dollars through this program.



### **Feb 2nd "The Stare Scare" Jeremiah 1:4-10**

When God calls on you, claiming the dog ate your homework is not an option.

Hymns: Take My Life; Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult; You Are the Seed; Sent Forth by God's Blessing, **Video: Do Something by Matthew West**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=quE8iM-x3fo>

### **Feb 9th "The Funnel of Misbelief" 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

There's plenty of misinformation circulating on the internet. But there's one story you can believe. Hymns: Lord I Lift Your Name on High; O How I Love Jesus ; He Lives; Sent Forth by God's Blessing.

### **Feb 16th "Dorito Theory and the Deceptive Heart" Jeremiah 17:5-10**

"Just one more chip ..." How can we explain the unhealthy things we choose to do?

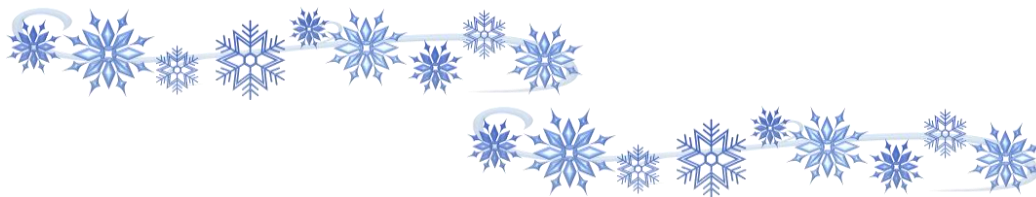
Hymns: My Life Is In You, Lord; Marching to Zion; Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart; Sent Forth by God's Blessing.

### **Feb 23rd "In Each Other's Shadows" Luke 6:27-38**

What's so golden about the golden rule? Hymns: Freely, Freely; Help Us Accept Each Other; The Gift of Love; Sent Forth by God's Blessing

**Video: Find Us Faithful by Steve Green**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKT5BCmvmqo>





## The Vergas Church Ladies

The Church Ladies met in January and received thank-you notes from the various charities that they sponsored this year. We are working on new ideas to raise money for charity this year.

We will try to work with the community events in Vergas. All ideas and new members are always welcome!



Our next meeting will be **February 18th, 12:30pm at the church.**



## Dent Breakfast Club



Meets at Mysteries Café at 9am on the first Wednesday of the month



The needs of God's ministry are constant, please be sure your giving is current, especially over this last month of the year. If you are not able to be in church, please mail in your tithes and offerings to the addresses listed below. Make your offerings in advance of Sundays you will be gone.

**Dent mail to:** Karen Johnson, 33875 Downey Dr, Dent MN 56528

**Vergas mail to :** Sheri Schoenberger, 36755 Hungry Lake Ln, Frazee MN 56544 or Tithe online at [dentvergasumc.org](http://dentvergasumc.org)



## AD COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, February 19th

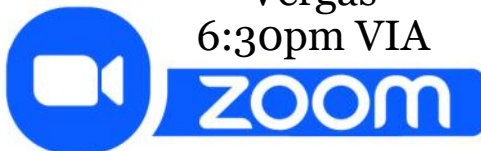


Dent 3pm



Vergas

6:30pm VIA



# BOOK CLUB

### Next Meeting

Tues, Feb 4th 12:30pm at The Loon's Nest in Vergas

### Book:

"The God of the Woods" by Liz Moore

# Church Missions January / February / March



## Vergas 1st Quarter Mission ~ UMCOR

The Mission of the Quarter (January, February, and March) is UMCOR. This is the United Methodist Committee on Relief helping all around the world currently working in the LA area. The Ad Council is looking to help a Methodist church damaged by the fires to start again. More information will come later.

The Missions of the Quarter for 2025.

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, UMCOR

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, Relay for Life

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, Churches United Homeless Mission

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, Local Food Shelves, Perham, Pelican Rapids, and Detroit Lakes

## Vergas Local Outreach

The Local Mission dollars (\$300) for January will be sent to the Frazee bank for Cassie Debord, who is being treated at Mayo Clinic for cancer. Her mother needs to be with her and can't work during her treatment.

Please let the Ad Council know of any local needs. Thank you for your continued support of missions.



## Dent Mission of the Quarter

The Bridge is a nonprofit agency that provides food to families and individuals during a time of need. They provide good quality food that has been either donated, purchased from North Country Food Bank or locally. Their goal is to meet the basic needs of the clients while improving their nutritional well-being. For them to meet their goals, they need your support. The mobile pantry was created to give more individuals access to the benefits of a community pantry.



<b>VERGAS</b>	<b>DENT</b>
St. John's Lutheran 410 E Scharf Ave 9:30-11:30AM	Methodist Church 301 Main Street 9:30- 11:30AM

<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>
1/15/25	1/16/25
2/12/25	2/13/25
3/12/25	3/13/25
4/9/25	4/10/25
5/14/25	5/15/25
6/11/25	6/12/25
7/9/25	7/10/25
8/13/25	8/14/25
9/10/25	9/11/25
10/15/25	10/16/25
11/12/25	11/13/25
12/10/25	12/11/25

### 2025 MOBILE PANTRY SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 16th

**CABIN FEVER?**  
 Lets have a **Picnic** **Food**  
**Fellowship**

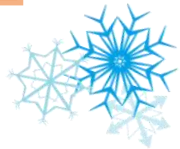
Save the Date!  
 Sunday, Feb 16th  
 after services

Family Fun

**MENU**  
 Hot Dogs  
 Chips  
 Baked Beans  
 Smores and  
 More

All are welcome from both churches, no need to contribute to the meal, unless you want to, just come and enjoy the picnic and the fellowship!

Come on let's blow those winter blues away

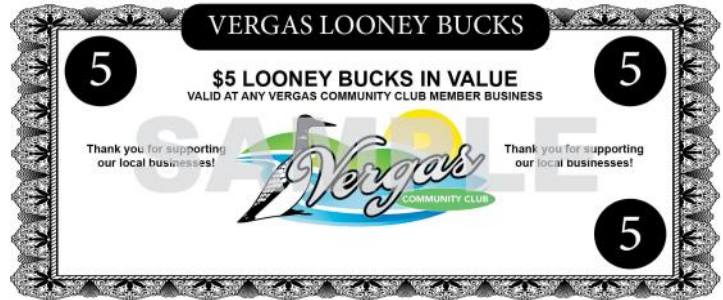


Did you know Looney Bucks are available all year long and make great gifts!

They can be used at any Vergas Community Club member business and are available at Vergas State Bank.

They come in \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$50 denominations and keep dollars in our community

It's always a great day in Vergas



**EVENTS**

**2025**  
*Vergas, Minnesota*

- MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL - APRIL 12
- VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION - APRIL 30
- SHOPS & HOPS - JUNE 7
- KIDS ART CAMP - JUNE 14
- LOONEY DAYS - JULY 31-AUGUST 3
- BACK ROADS ART CRAWL - SEPTEMBER 20
- HAIRYMAN FESTIVAL - SEPTEMBER 27
- WINE WALK - OCTOBER 18
- HOLIDAY TOUR OF HOMES - NOVEMBER 22
- SMALL TOWN CHRISTMAS - NOVEMBER 29

It's always a great day in Vergas!

2025

**Vergas**  
 COMMUNITY CLUB

Find us on facebook

TAMMY KUSSELLA

[www.vergascommunityclub.com](http://www.vergascommunityclub.com)

# FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS LISTS

<b>February Ushers</b>	
Robbie & Ivy M.	
<b>Feb. Liturgist</b>	
Pastor Joyce	
<b>Feb</b>	<b>Fellowship</b>
<b>2nd</b>	Doris C.
<b>9th</b>	Gretchen & Roger D.
<b>16th</b>	Toni & Lowell L.
<b>23rd</b>	Dorothy W / Ivy M.

Feb	Vergas Liturgist	Vergas Ushers	Fellowship
<b>2nd</b>	Carla R.	David & Carla R.	Eileen G.
<b>9th</b>	Bev F.	Byron & Connie Z.	Connie Z.
<b>16th</b>	Tonya J.	Faye & Tonya	Cabin Fever Pic.
<b>23rd</b>	Bryan G.	Bryan & Eileen G	NEEDED



If you are unable to be there on a Sunday, please find a substitute to fill in for you. Thank You!



We don't have any birthdays listed for February. If anyone has a February birthday please let Sheri know so that we can celebrate it

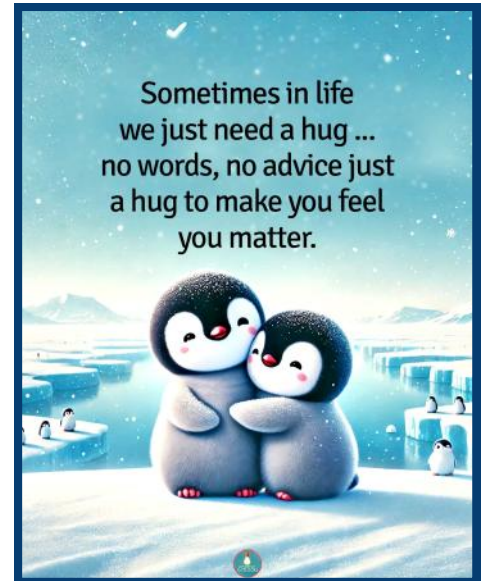
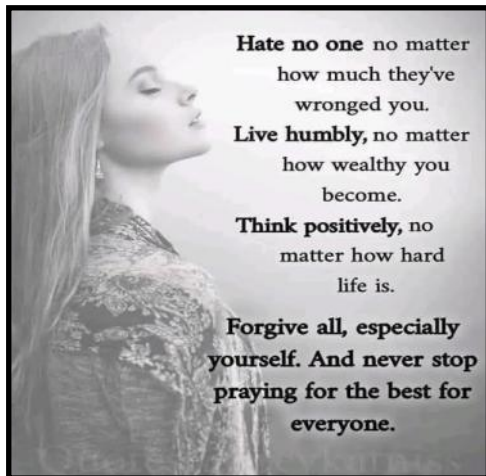


1-7  
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www.familycircus.com  
"Conscience is when God sends a text to your head."





## A Thought for The Day



Let us  
**WORSHIP**  
Together

## “Worship Times”

### Dent UMC

8:30am Pre Fellowship  
9am Worship Service

### Vergas UMC

9:30am Adult Sunday School (Sep thru May)  
10:30am Worship Service  
11:30am Coffee Fellowship



*Livestream Service begins at 10:30am on the [Vergas Facebook page](#)*



*Recorded Service will be posted on YouTube and [dentvergasumc.org](#)*

Click on the icon or link to go to the site

Are there things you would like to see each month in your newsletter? Would you like to write an article? Submit photographs? Share a recipe? Please let us know and we will do our best to include it here. Also, If you want your Newsletter delivered by email. Please let Sheri Schoenberger know at [sheri.Lschoenberger@gmail.com](mailto:sheri.Lschoenberger@gmail.com) or call her at 218-329-7465

Additions to the newsletter, **deadline for March is February, 2025.**

We will be sending out the newsletter on the first or second Sunday of each month, if possible. To defray costs the newsletter will be offered in the following formats:

**Email - Website - In person pick up** at church - 1st or 2nd Sunday of the month.

**US Mail** - Remaining newsletters will be mailed on the 1st or 2nd Monday of the month.

### Church Secretary / Newsletter editor

Sheri Schoenberger

Phone or text: 218-329-7465

email: [sheri.lschoenberger@gmail.com](mailto:sheri.lschoenberger@gmail.com)



**Ad Council Minutes**  
**Vergas United Methodist Church**  
**January 15, 2024, 6:30 pm on Zoom**

Present: Joyce Slostad, Jane Wasvick, Sheri Schoenberger, Tonya Johnson, Faye Courneya, David Reiten, and Doreen Schwarzrock

Absent: Lisa Wrabek

Joyce opened the meeting with prayer.

**Review of Church Attendance**

Sheri stated that attendance has remained steady. Online and in person are close to the same. Christmas was a little down from last year.

**Secretary Report**

The minutes from December 18th were approved. Clarification was noted that it is not necessary for a signature on a CD to be a board member, but a regular member.

**Treasurer Report**

- The Treasurer report was accepted as handed out pending audit.
- The CD was purchased by Faye with signature by Margaret Nelson. \$5000 was sent to Churches United as a donation from the inheritance dollars.
- Faye moved to approve the signature sheet for accounts at the bank, seconded by Doreen and passed. The bank would also like to have a list of the Board members and their role in their records. Jane will develop this list, which could be updated on an annual basis.
- There was discussion on sending dollars to California with a strong feeling that dollars should be sent to support the building of a Methodist church in one of the communities. The current quarterly mission is UMCOR. Joyce will ask if there is a church that will be rebuilt and if we could add dollars to the quarterly amount sent after March. A decision will be made prior to sending the UMCOR dollars.

**Trustee Report**

The thermostats are installed. Jane is working on the thermostats but having difficulty due to email addresses and Wi-Fi passwords in the church. Jane will check with Jody. This will be discussed after church this coming Sunday.

**Pastor Report:**

- Pastor Joyce was invited to a rural ministry group that is forming to provide support for rural ministry. They will meet in Brainerd on January 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Joyce will reconsider in-person prayer in May when weather is not a factor.
- The study on Radical Methodism is starting. A link to join is in the newsletter.
- Pastor Joyce is working to fill the member at large position on the Ad Council. Suggestions from the group were to ask Renee Sonnenberg to see if she would rejoin the group and if she can't, to ask Julie Bruhn. Joyce will follow-up. Jane moved that Lisa Wrabek be removed from Member at large due to her work conflict, seconded by Sheri and passed.

- Joyce reported that Connie Zitzow has agreed to be on SPPRC and Joyce is still working on someone from Dent. The chair position is open. Carla and Jody are longer-term members. Jane will talk to Carla about serving as the chair and will offer to mentor her if she is willing.
- An evaluation for Sheri needs to be completed. Jane will work with Joyce to complete.

## **Mission**

The Missions of the Quarter for 2025.

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, UMCOR

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, Relay for Life

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, Churches United Homeless Mission

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, Local Food Shelves, Perham, Pelican Rapids, and Detroit Lakes

The Local Mission dollars (\$300) for January will be sent to the Frazee bank for Cassie Debord, who is being treated in Mayo for cancer. Her mother needs to be with her and can't work during her treatment. Motion by Doreen, seconded by David and passed. The mission report on Form 13 will be completed by Jane and sent to Sheri. Form 13 was completed January 16<sup>th</sup> and submitted. Other forms will be completed by Sheri.

## **Unresponsive Members**

Ad Council needs to address the number of unresponsive members and reach out to them. Sheri reviewed this list. Joyce will reach out to the Gjerde's to talk with them about membership. Sheri will talk to her family members who are on the list. Drew and Sidney Dahlgren will be sent letters. Darren and Michelle Blanck will be removed from the Associate Members list. No Members passed away this year. This information needs to be sent to the Conference.

## **Leadership List**

Sheri sent the Leadership List. David moved to accept the list, seconded by Sheri and passed.

## **Budget**

Tonya sent out the budget for 2025 with changes. Jane brought up that the Mission dollars should be \$500 per month instead of \$350. Motion by David to approve the budget with changes, seconded by Sheri and passed unanimously. Tonya will send out corrections after the meeting.

There was agreement that the Zoom method is working well for the winter, and we should continue to use this for meetings.

Pastor Joyce closed with prayer.

**The next meeting will be on February 19th on Zoom.**