

### From the PASTOR'S DESK

This Advent season and through Christmas Day we are experiencing a new worship series based on Charles Dickens's classic *A Christmas Carol*. The resources I am using are from a book called The Redemption of Scrooge by Matt Rawle



In the story of *A Christmas Carol* as Scrooge is sleeping, the servant's bells over the door chaotically chime, and his dead partner Jacob Marley's ghost appears through the door, weighed down by heavy chains that have been forged with his miserly wealth. Marley says, that he is restless, always traveling with an "incessant torture of remorse."

Part of Marley's punishment is the inability to find peace, and his restlessness is one we know too well during the holidays. There are seemingly countless parties, decorations, concerts, gifts to wrap, stockings to hang (or threaten to take down depending on one's behavior), and meals to prepare.

On the other hand there is loneliness as well – memories of loved ones no longer with us, the numbing silence of an empty house, the sadness of seeing giggling children you could never have yourself.

Advent is to be a time of waiting, a spiritual discipline of slowing down to notice God's presence in the still small voice within a violent and hurried world. **"Be still, and know that I am God!"** the Psalmist reminds us in Psalm 46:10.

We can get so caught up in the hustle and bustle of Christmas that we forget the reason we are celebrating. Waiting for something that has already happened is a curious practice. The Advent season plays with our notion of time. **The church gathers in the present, to ponder the past, for a future hope.** *A Christmas Carol* is a beautiful story for Advent because it is a tale in which the past, present, and future all come together on one transformative night.

Blessings and See You in Church!

Pastor Joyce <><





**12/7 Advent 2**

**“Wait, Brace, Let It Go” James 5:7-10**

The “Fasten Seatbelts” sign just came on and you know you’re in for a bumpy ride. Hymns: Advent Song vs 2; O Come All Ye Faithful; What Child Is This; O Come, O Come, Emmanuel v 2; Video: *My Savior Loves* by Aaron Shust

**12/14 Advent 3 “1,700 Years of the Nicene Creed” Romans 15:4-13 Communion**

You have received a 1,700-year-old invitation, but it’s not too late to RSVP. Hymns: Advent Song vs 3; There’s a Song in the Air; Hark! the Herald Angels Sing; O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vs 3

**12/21 Advent 4 “The Quiet Saint” Matthew 1:18-25**

Joseph of Nazareth is spectacularly ordinary, but there’s something special about this “average Joe.” Hymns: Advent Song vs. 4; Angels from the Realms of Glory; It Came upon the Midnight Clear; O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vs. 4

**12/24 Christmas Eve Dent 3:30 Vergas 5:30**

**“Waking Up to Jesus” Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)**

Don’t hit the snooze button. This is an awakening you don’t want to miss. Hymns: O Come, All Ye Faithful; Away in a Manger; Angels We Have Heard on High; The First Noel; Joy to the World; Silent Night

**12/28 Christmas Hymn Sing & History Led by Don Garber or Rick Nelson**

Hymns: Advent Song vs. 5; Infant Holy, Infant Lowly; Hark! the Herald Angels Sing; Joy to the World; Good Christian Friends, Rejoice; Go, Tell It on the Mountain.

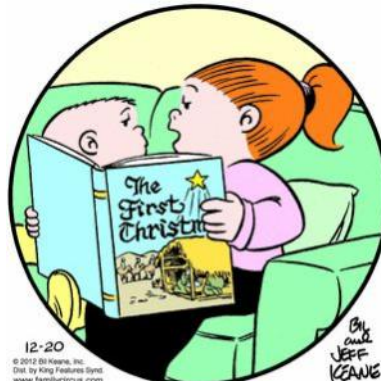


**Shop Local Save Bucks!**

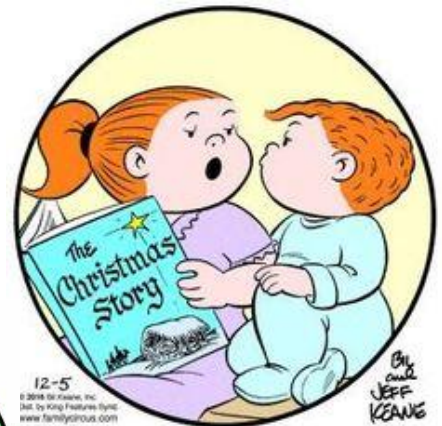
Get Your  
**Holiday Bucks**  
Purchase \$100 in Holiday Bucks for \$80

Holiday Bucks will be available on Main Street for Small Town Christmas Festival on Saturday on Nov. 29th.  
They can also be purchased at Vergas State Bank December 1st thru December 23rd.  
Use them at any Vergas Community Club member business.

Holiday Bucks must be used by 1-2-26  
Not valid on gas, tobacco or gambling  
Limit \$500 per family



**“Then the three wise men came to baby-sit Jesus so Mary and Joseph could finish Christmas shopping.”**



**“Putting Baby Jesus in swaddling clothes was the first Christmas present wrapping.”**





## Vergas Looney's Relay for Life Team A Christmas Gathering

~ Concert and Bake Sale ~



Sunday, December 7th  
2:00pm – 4pm

St John's Fellowship Hall  
410 E Scharf



Admission \$10 ea / \$25 Family  
*All Proceeds will go to  
American Cancer Society*



Enjoy an afternoon of  
Christmas Music

Laura Hagen & Renee Fuchs  
Leona Rogers on Piano  
Half Gap Musical Group

Refreshments will be served  
Baked Goods for Sale,  
(Free Will Donation)



JOIN US FOR  
**Santa DAY**

- MEET SANTA
- SLEIGH RIDES
- COOKIES & HOT COCOA
- FREE GOODIE BAG
- WIN PRIZES
- COLORING CONTEST
- CHRISTMAS CRAFT

**DECEMBER 13TH**  
10 AM - 1 PM  
DENT  
COMMUNITY  
CENTER



**Rudolph's Closet**  
Dent United Methodist Church

**Saturday,  
December 13th  
8am to Noon**

Kids can shop for  
gifts for their family  
and we will wrap their  
selections up for them

Enjoy  
Coffee & Goodies

While they shop

Oh Yeah! It's  
**FREE**



**Sunday, Dec 14th** wear  
your Ugly Christmas  
sweater to church, or a  
nice Christmas sweater if  
you want.





A big thank you to all that helped with our sale and bought items! We made \$800 so we were very grateful.

We collected items and filled the Operation Christmas Child boxes and took 53 boxes to the Distribution Center in Detroit Lakes. Again, thank you to everyone who helped. The job went fast with so many helping! We sent a check for \$530 to

cover the expenses of handling the boxes.

Remember all donations raised by Church Ladies are given to charities in our area, we love our November meeting when we decide where the money should go. This year our total of \$3630 went to; Vergas Looneys, Hospice, Lakes Crisis Center, The Boys and Girls Club, Young Life, Dough for Joe, Lend a Hand,

**Our next meeting will be Dec. 16th 12:30pm Potluck at Pastor Joyce's, 901 Jenny Ave SW #212, Perham.**



**Sunday, Dec 7th** we will be randomly

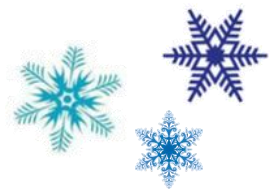


*Buy an Angel in memory or Honor of Loved Ones*



*Angel's are \$5 each, they will be available Sunday's Dec. 7th, 14th & 21st ~ See Sheri to get an Angel for the tree*

*On Sunday, Dec 21st we will hang the Angels on the tree with a special dedication. You may take your Angel(s) on Christmas Eve*



**Next Meeting**  
Tues, Dec 2nd 12:30pm at The Loon's Nest in Vergas  
**Book:**  
"The Girls With No Name"  
By Serena Burdick



# Church Missions October / November / December

## Vergas - Local Food Shelves



**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, UMCOR**, a total of \$10,000 was sent to the Los Angeles Fire Recovery Fund.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, Relay for Life**, a total of \$800 was sent to Vergas Looneys Relay for Life. The Women's Group and Men's Group also donate to this cause.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, Churches United Mission** \$5000 sent earlier and \$740 sent as Mission of the Quarter

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

Minnesota is a leader in agriculture. Yet every day in Minnesota, over 9,000 people visit a food shelf to get help meeting their daily food needs. Let's work together to advance solutions that tackle hunger on a large scale.

## Vergas Local Outreach

The Local Mission dollars for December will be handed out at church in envelopes to pay it forward.



Thank you for your  
continued generosity

## Dent Mission of the Quarter ~ Salvation Army



The Salvation Army has been helping people in need for more than 150 years. We have seen many changes since then, but one thing remains constant: God calls us to serve those who are most vulnerable. Today, The Salvation Army provides emergency services, including food, clothing, shelter, a safe space, and a hopeful word to everyone who needs it regardless of religion, race, gender, sexual orientation, or political affiliation. For many, making ends meet is a daily challenge, forcing people to choose between things like heating their homes and putting food on the table. We understand the stress these situations put on families and are here to help.

With utility assistance, our goal is to provide resources that will help families stay in their homes.



# DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

<b>December Ushers</b>	
Lyndon & Peggy M	
<b>Dec. Liturgist</b>	
<b>Dec</b>	<b>Fellowship</b>
07	Dorothy W / Ivy M
14	Michelle & Kelvin S
21	Peggy & Lyndon M
28	Karen & Richard J

Dec	Vergas Liturgist	Vergas Ushers	Fellowship
07	Carla R	David & Carla R.	Donna & Neil
14	Tonya J	Faye & Tonya	Faye C.
21	Bev F	Rick & Margy	Christmas Goodies
24	xxxxxxx	Byron & Connie Z.	No Fellowship
28	<b>NEEDED</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>



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

Happy Anniversary

*Vergas: Dec 2nd Byron & Connie Zitzow  
 Dec 4th Loren & Diane Menz  
 Dec 27th Rick & Margy Nelson*

*Dent: Dec 18th Mike & Trisha Satter  
 Dec 26th Lowell & Toni Larson*

BORN IN DECEMBER

BirthDay greetings

**Vergas Birthdays**

18th Neil Strawhorn  
 21st Tonya Johnson  
 28th Ken Schwarzrock

**Dent Birthday's**

15th Gretchen Dorenbush  
 17th Austin Holtz  
 28th Ivy Mickelson  
 30th Lyndon Maasjo



## A Thought for The Day



## "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](http://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 January is December 26, 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)

# December 2025 / January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 12:30 pm Book Club Byron & Connie Z. (V)	2 9am Dent Breakfast Club	3 9am Dent	4 Loren & Diane M. (V)	5 9 - 11am DUMC Love, inc Clothing Distribution	6	6
7 Pay It Forward 2pm Relay for Life Christmas Gathering	8 9am Set Up Rudolph's Closet	9 9am Set Up Rudolph's Closet	10 10	11 11	12 12	13 8am - Noon Rudolph's Closet DUMC
14 Communion	15 15	16 12:30pm Vergas Church Ladies	17 Ad Council 3pm Dent 6:30pm Vergas	18 Neil S. (V)	19 19	20 20
21 Ugly / Nice Christmas Sweater Sunday	22 22	23 12:30pm Vergas Church Ladies	24 Austin H. (D)	25 Mike & Trisha S. (D)	26 26	27 27
28 Ken S. (V) Ivy M. (D)	29 29	30 30	31 31	1 1 	2 2 Lowell & Tomi L. (D)	3 3 Rick & Margy N. (V)
4 4	5 5	6 6 12:30pm Book Club	7 7 9am Dent Breakfast Club	8 8	9 9	10 10

## **DENT UMC LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**November 19, 2025**

The regular meeting of the DUMC Leadership Team was held on Wednesday at 3:00 at the church. Members present were Doris Champlin, Austin Holtz, Lyndon Maasjo, Ivy Mickelson, Peggy Meissner, and pastor Joyce Slostad.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order with Joyce reading a passage from II Chroninrhains.

**MINUTES:** Minutes from last meeting were presented and approved with a motion from Austin and second from Peggy.

**FINANCE:** Apportionments have been paid to the end of the year and all bills are paid. Bank CD in the amount of \$30,000 was reinvested and the balance of 7,730 was put in savings. \$500 was received from the American Legion and the Auxiliary for Rudolph's Closet. Report was approved with a motion from Peggy to accept subject to audit and a second from Austin. We will give our cleaning lady a gift of \$50 for Christmas.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Halloween party went well. Had plenty of good volunteers. There were 45 children along with parents. Fun was had by all. Thank you to all the volunteers.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Rudolph's Closet- Set-up will be Tuesday December 9 starting at 9:00 AM. There is a need for small boxes and cookies. Volunteers are also needed. Love, inc, a non-profit, contacted Joyce about a mission they are doing. They are giving winter clothing to those in need. They provide all the clothing and we will volunteer the church and help with the distribution. We have this set up for Saturday December 6 from 9-11

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Lyndon will lead worship on December 7 and communion will be the next Sunday December 14, which will also be our Christmas sweater day. Sunday December 28 Don Garber will lead a hymn sing and history service. Joyce will be taking a needed Sabbatical next June. Christmas Eve Service will be at 3:30 and scripture readers are needed.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** The lights outside have been replaced and the furnace filters have been replaced. The state has tested our water and found that is very good.

**OTHER:** A defibulator for the church was discussed. A motion was made by Ivy to get one and use funds from the Memorial fund to pay for it, a second was made by Austin and motion passed. Lyndon will check with somebody to find one. Our newsletter recipient list needs to be update, and it was also decided not to list the weekly jobs. Doris has volunteered to buy flowers for the altar and the organists.

**NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT:** Next meeting is scheduled for December 17. Meeting adjourned.

**Ad Council Minutes Vergas United Methodist Church  
November 16, 2025, After church in person at church**

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

Absent: Renee Sonnenberg and Doreen Schwarzrock

The Ad Council decided to meet briefly after church to finalize Pastor Joyce's salary and benefits which were proposed by the SPPRC. Jody Schoenberger was present to represent the SPPRC. The vote was unanimous to increase Pastor Joyce's salary by 5%.

Pastor Joyce will work with Sheri to set dates for events in December, ie. Beautiful Sweater Day, Angel Tree, and Pay it Forward handouts. These will then be in the announcements and the bulletins.

The Budget also needs to be approved. Tonya will update the \*\*budget and send it to the members for their review and approval this week. If all agree, there will be no meeting in November as no further business was needed.

No other business was conducted at this meeting.

**The next meeting will be announced by email and whether it is in person or by Zoom for the winter.**

**\*\* Budget was sent by email to all the ad council members and they voted unanimously to Approve the 2026 Budget and it has been submitted to the conference.**