

From the PASTOR'S DESK

The Way of Love

1 Corinthians 13 from The Message

If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.

If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing.

If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others
than for self.
Love doesn't want what it
doesn't have.
Love doesn't strut,

Doesn't have a swelled head,
Doesn't force itself on others,
Isn't always "me first,"
Doesn't fly off the handle,
Doesn't keep score of the sins
of others,

Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled. When I was an infant at my mother's breast, I gurgled and cooed like any infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good. We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.

Continued on Page 2...



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 or undeserved favor for us. Christian love trusts God and goes for it without hesitating or pondering "what's in it for me?"

In the above Corinthians passage, Paul is not writing about romantic love, even though this passage is frequently heard read aloud at weddings. Paul is talking about filial love, the kind we are supposed to show everyone in our world, our spouse, our family, our neighbors, and even strangers. What would our world look like if we actually lived out this passage in our daily lives? I think the world would be a much better place, with more respect for those who might be different from us in looks, in speech, in beliefs, in whatever. If we saw every person as a blessed and created by God, child of God, how might our behavior toward them change?

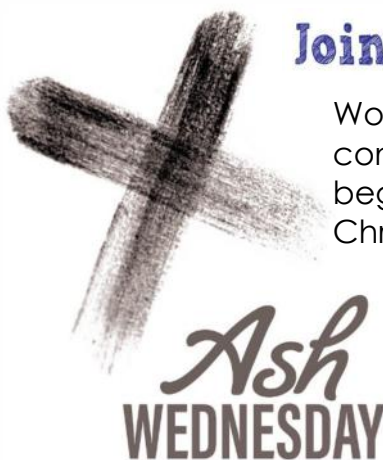
How can we seek to imitate this love in our own lives? Certainly it comes through our words, but our actions speak so much louder. An action-packed faith is the power of love in action, it is the power of Christ within each one of us, shining forth through all the actions of our lives.

The 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? Lots of questions about ourselves that I invite you to spend some time pondering.

Blessings and see you in church!
Pastor Joyce <><



"Ash Wednesday is full
of joy... The source of
all sorrow is the illusion
that of ourselves we are
anything but dust."
— Thomas Merton



Joint Worship Service

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

February 18th
7pm at Vergas

WORSHIP *with* US

February Schedule

2/1 "So Blessed" Matthew 5:1-12 (Beatitudes) Communion
Blessings aren't door prizes handed out by God. Hymns: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing; Blessed Assurance; Blest Be the Tie That Binds

2/8 "Lit for the Long Run" Matthew 5:13-20

You are the light of the world, and it's no accident. The world needs your presence, grace, truth and endurance. Hymn: This Little Light of Mine; Pass It On; We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

2/15 "Star Quality" 2 Peter 1:16-21

It's not enough to simply show up on Valentine's Day with a heart-shaped box of chocolates ... although it surely doesn't hurt! Hymns: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light; Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies; Lord of All Hopefulness

2/18 Ash Wednesday @ Vergas 7 pm

Hymns: Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes; Just As I Am; Lord, I Want to be a Christian

2/22 "When Guilt Is Good" Matthew 4:1-11

Guilt gets a bad wrap. There are times when a little proactive guilt can help us make the right choice. Hymns: Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days; Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley; Spirit of the Living God

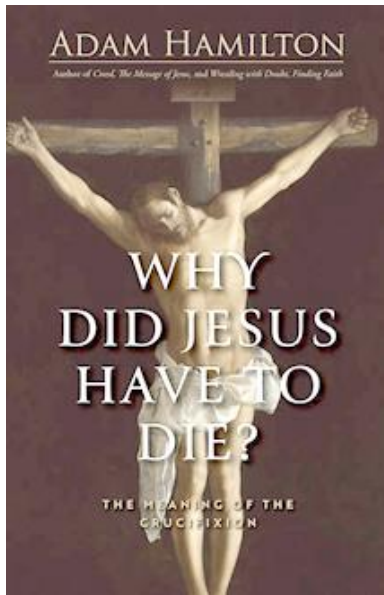
SAVE YOUR RECIEPTS FROM

central market

Each church is asking everyone to save their receipts from Central Market in Perham & Detroit Lakes (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



We have a meaningful worship opportunity each week, sharing our God Moments. These are not necessarily our stories about how we became a Christian – some of us have been one all our lives, and they aren't just big event stories – most of us will never experience talking to a burning bush. These are stories of how we have seen or experienced God during the past week



A NEW BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY BEGINNING IN FEBRUARY 2026

When words fall short, the cross still speaks.

Despite the crucifixion's central place in Christian faith, the New Testament offers few clear answers about how Jesus' death saves, or why, exactly, he had to die. The New Testament writers use a host of metaphors—ransom, sacrifice, reconciliation, victory—but never explain exactly how it works or why it had to happen this way. What if that's because we've been asking the wrong question? What if the cross isn't a transaction to be explained, but a living Word from God meant to transform who we are and how we live? A six week study – thru April 1st. A sign-up sheet will be available.

Dent - In Person Tuesdays at 10am; beginning Feb 24th
Online via Zoom - Wednesdays at 6:30pm; beginning Feb 25th



LENT

Pray + Fast + Give



What is LENT?

Lent is a period of **40 days** during which many Christians remember the events leading up to and including the death of Jesus Christ, whose life and teachings are the foundation of Christianity.

Palm Sunday
March 29th



Maunder
Thursday

April 2nd
Joint Service at Dent
6pm Soup Supper 7pm Worship Service

He is
Risen
Easter Sunday
April 5th



The Vergas Church Ladies

Church ladies ended the year with a Christmas gathering at Joyce's apartment.

There will be no meetings in February, and March to avoid winter driving and the group will resume in April with plans for raising money for charities,

Dent Breakfast Club



Meets at The Doug Out
9am on the first
Wednesday of the month

AD COUNCIL MEETING

Wed. Mar 18th



Dent 3pm



Vergas
6:00pm before
Ash Wed Service



BOOK CLUB



Next Meeting
Tues, **March 3rd** 12:30pm



BREAST CANCER

Benefit for
Katie Galbrecht

February 7, 2026 3pm - 7pm Frazee Event Center



On November 17th, Katie was diagnosed with Stage 3B Invasive Ductal Carcinoma. She has 20 weeks of chemo, followed up with surgery, and then radiation.

As she goes through this long and challenging journey, we're raising funds to help ease the financial strain cancer inevitably brings, medical costs, time away from work, child care, and the everyday needs that don't pause. Any support means the world to her and our family as she focuses on healing.

Spanky's Pulled Pork & Mac Dinner
Free Will Donation

Horse Races Raffles Silent Auction
Raffle and Horse Races by TIP (LIC: 05574)

CABIN FEVER? Sunday, Feb 8th

Lets have a **Picnic** **Food**

Save the Date!
Sunday, Feb 18th
after services

Fellowship

MSNJ
Hot Dogs
Chips
Baked Beans
Desserts
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

JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

February Ushers

Robbie & Ivy M.

Feb. Liturgist

Peggy Meissner

Feb	Fellowship
01	Toni & Lowell L
08	Dorothy W / Ivy M
15	Michelle & Kelvin
22	Peggy & Lyndon M.

Feb	Vergas Liturgist	Vergas Ushers	Fellowship
01	Bev F	Byron & Connie Z	Margy N
08	Carla R	David & Carla	Cabin Fever Pic
15	Tonya J	Faye & Tonya	Faye
22	Bryan G	Bryan & Eileen G	
		Communion Setup ~	Tonya Johnson

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

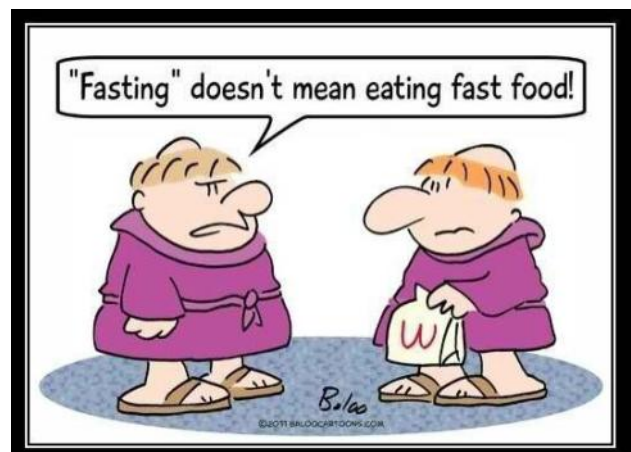
Vergas Birthdays
No Birthdays listed for
February

BORN ^{TN}
February

Dent Birthday's
No Birthdays listed for
February



www.catholiccartoonblog.blogspot.com



Church Missions January / February / March

Vergas Mission of the Quarter - UMCOR

1st Quarter, UMCOR will be the charity sponsored for the first quarter. The United Methodist Committee on Relief is coordinated by the conference and provides relief around the world. In 2024, UMCOR responded to 89 natural disasters and awarded over 32.96 million dollars in disaster relief grants.

2nd Quarter will be sent to Relay for Life, which goes to American Cancer Society. The Vergas Looneys are continually recognized for their outstanding fundraising.



Vergas Local Outreach

The local mission for February will be donated to Katie Galbrecht who is dealing with cancer. She is the granddaughter of Sharon and Leo Ratz, long term members of Vergas UMC. \$300 will be sent to her fundraiser.

Remember that the budget allows \$200 a month for the quarterly mission and \$300 a month for local missions. Mission dollars added by the congregation goes toward the quarterly mission. 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



Thank you for your
continued generosity



2026 MOBILE PANTRY SCHEDULE

VERGAS	DENT
St. John's Lutheran 410 E Scharf Ave 9:30-11AM	Methodist Church 301 Main Street 9-10:30AM
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
1/14/26	1/15/26
2/11/26	2/12/26
3/11/26	3/12/26
4/15/26	4/16/26
5/13/26	5/14/26
6/10/26	6/11/26
7/15/26	7/16/26
8/12/26	8/13/26
9/9/26	9/10/26
10/14/26	10/15/26
11/11/26	11/12/26
12/9/26	12/10/26

NOTES:

The Mobile Pantry will not go out in bad weather. Cancellations will be announced via Lakes 99.5 and our Facebook Page.

A Thought for The Day

In times of **crisis**, people reach for **meaning**. Meaning is strength. Our survival may depend on our seeking and finding it.

Dawna Markova

Deep roots never doubt
spring will come.

-Marty Rubin



“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 or call her at 218-329-7465

Additions to the newsletter, **deadline for March is February 26, 2026.**

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

February / March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Communion 1		2 12:30pm Book Club The Loon's Nest	3 9am Dent Breakfast Club The Doug Out	4	5	6 3 - 7pm Benefit fpr Katie Galbrecht
8 Cabin Fever Picnic	9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16 Vergas Church Ladies Cancelled for Feb & Mar	17	Ad Council 3pm Dent 6:00pm Vergas 7pm Ash Wed Service	18	19	20
22	23 10am Bible Study Dent in Person	24	25 6:30pm Online Bible Study	26	27	28
1	2 10am Bible Study Dent	3 12:30pm Book Club	4 9am Dent Breakfast Club 6:30pm Online Bible Study	5	6	7

DENT UMC LEADERSHIP TEAM

January 21, 2026

The regular meeting of the DUMC Leadership Team was held on Wednesday at 3:00 at the church. Members present were Karen Johnson, Ellie Lodin, Lyndon Maasjo, Peggy Meissner, Ivy Mickelson, and Pastor Joyce Slostad by Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER: Lyndon called the meeting to order and Joyce opened with a prayer.

MINUTES: November minutes were reviewed and accepted as written with a motion from Karen and a second from Ivy, motion passed. There was no meeting in December.

FINANCE: Ivy presented the financial reports for November and December. A motion was made by Peggy to accept the reports subject to audit with a second by Ellie, motion passed. Ivy handed out a 2025 yearly report, which showed that we kept within the yearly budget, but did have to take \$7000 from savings over the year to cover all the expenses. She then presented the church budget for 2026 for approval. Karen made a motion to accept the new budget and Ellie made a second, motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS: Discussed Rudolph's closet and if any improvements could be made. The only thing was to move the jewelry table so it is more visible. The defibulator was discussed and Lyndon will contact Teresa Harthun with Dent Responders to come and talk to us about possible grants available. Hopey's Heart Foundation offers grant, but on a limited basis, we will look into this as an option also.

NEW BUSINESS: Ash Wednesday services will be at 7:00 in Vergas. Ellie will check with Doris to see if she is interested in getting the palms and lilies for Palm Sunday services. Maundy Thursday, April 2, will be in Dent with a soup dinner at 6:00 and service starting at 7:00.

PASTOR'S REPORT: There will be a six-week Lenten Bible study, "Why Did Jesus Have To Die" by Adam Hamilton starting February 24 in Dent at 10:00 and Zoom on Wednesday February 25 at 6:30. Pastor said that she will be doing a sabbatical for the month of June. She will be making arrangements for filling the pulpit.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: One outlet in the sanctuary needs to be looked at.

NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT: Next scheduled meeting will be February 18. Motion to adjourn by Peggy and a second by Ellie. Meeting adjourned.

Ad Council Minutes Vergas United Methodist Church
January 28, 2026, On Zoom

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

The Ad Council shared what they are grateful for with a prayer from Joyce.

Sheri talked about attendance. Online spiked over the holidays. In person has been slightly lower. There is a new family from Pelican Rapids who attended looking for a church home.

The minutes were approved as sent out without changes.

Treasurers Report

1. Faye shared the financial report which was sent out for review. Faye mentioned that we have too much money sitting in the checking account which doesn't draw any interest. Jane moved that \$35,000 be moved to the UMC Foundation, seconded by Renee, passed.
2. Faye reported that Franklin Fence paid the church \$500 for use of the parking lot. Faye talked to Connie Hoffman to ask Carl to check on what could be done to improve the entrance to the parking lot as it has potholes.
3. Faye has switched back to the old Quick Book system, and it is going well. Jody will purchase an additional monitor to make the change complete.
4. Tonya asked if the bills were paid for the renovations completed, Faye reported that they have all been paid. Jane moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Sheri and passed.

Trustees Report

1. David reported that there is nothing to report on from the Trustees.
2. He asked if the thermostat notified us if it became too cold. Jane will investigate this and report back.

Pastor's Report

1. Pastor Joyce reported that Ash Wednesday service will be on February 18th at 7:00 pm at Vergas. This is the night of scheduled Ad Council meeting, so consensus of the group was to have the meeting at 6:00 pm before the service at the church.
2. Maundy Thursday will be at Dent on April 2 at 7:00 pm with soup supper at 6:00. Easter is April 6th.
3. Joyce will do a Bible Study for Lent starting Feb. 24th, Tuesday at 10 am in Dent and February 25th online at 6:30 for anyone interested. People can attend either one. The study will be "Why did Jesus have to die?"
4. Joyce will be on a renewal time during the month of June; this is directed by the District Superintendent. Joyce will have more information at the next meeting.

Missions

1. Jane suggested that the Mission of the Quarter stay the same except for Churches United, which we have helped significantly in the past year. Jane suggested "Lend a Hand Up" which funds local needs. The first quarter will be UMCOR, the second quarter will be Relay for Life, the third quarter will be Lend a Hand UP, and 4th quarter will be the local food banks. Jane made the motion to set the quarterly missions as above, seconded by Sheri and passed.
2. The local mission for February will be Katie Galbrecht who is fighting Cancer. There is a fundraiser planned. It was agreed that the \$300 would be sent to this fundraiser.
3. Joyce questioned whether we should have a memorial for Sandy who died around Christmas time. There was general agreement that Joyce should investigate it further and see if there is anyone close that would be interested in this function.

New Agenda Items

Bev Flateland made a request to use the church basement for Zumba classes two evenings a week from 5:15-6:15 as the Event Center is charging for this and it is a small group. Faye moved to approve this use, seconded by Renee and passed. The class could take down the table and leave them down until an event was planned.

Pastor Joyce adjourned the meeting with prayer.

The next meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on February 18th ahead of the Ash Wednesday service at Vergas church.