



A Reconciling in Christ Congregation



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Luther Memorial Launches Micah's Mini-Pantry for Virginia Tech Students

Blacksburg, Virginia ---Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, together with The Well Campus Ministry, has installed a new food pantry on their property at 600 Prices Fork Road in Blacksburg. The pantry, known as "Micah's Mini-Pantry at Luther Memorial", is located outside The Well Campus Ministry Campus Center off Tom's Creek Road. The pantry is stocked with non-perishable foods and personal hygiene products; all items are available for free to anyone in need, but our goal is to specifically address Virginia Tech student food insecurity, especially with international graduate students.

Pastor Libby Pfaff, pastor to The Well Campus Ministry at Virginia Tech, a campus ministry of Luther Memorial Lutheran Church in Blacksburg, says, "Although data on food insecurity among college students is limited, a fall 2020 survey conducted by Temple University's Hope Center for College, Community and Justice, which studies basic needs insecurity for college students, found that 34% of college students experienced food insecurity in the prior 30 days."¹

¹ <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/personal-finance/college-students-food-insecurity/>

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“We are so grateful for all who helped make this pantry a reality, including Boy Scout Troop 704 who helped with the installation. Hopefully Micah’s Mini-Pantry will alleviate some worry for those students who struggle to meet basic needs and help to eliminate a barrier to graduating,” says Pastor Monica Weber, Pastor at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church. “A survey conducted by the national nonprofit group [Swipe Out Hunger](#) found that 52% of students sometimes used off-campus food banks, while 30% used them monthly or more frequently.²

This ministry is a “satellite” program to the Micah’s Backpack Initiative at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Blacksburg, which addresses food insecurity of youth in local schools. The backpack program delivers six weekend meals plus snacks directly to 279 students in 10 Blacksburg schools.

Anyone who wishes to assist with Micah’s Mini-Pantry at Luther Memorial may do so by donating items for the pantry (the list can be found online at <https://lmlc.org/outreach>) or contributing monetarily via the PayPal link on Luther Memorial’s website (<https://lmlc.org/>) and designating the funds for “Micah’s Mini-Pantry.”

About Luther Memorial Lutheran Church: Luther Memorial Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ([ELCA](#)). Founded in 1886, the church serves the Blacksburg community and residents of Southwest Virginia’s New River Valley. The [Well Campus Ministry](#), hosted by Luther Memorial, offers regular opportunities for fun, food, and fellowship in Christ for students at Virginia Tech. Luther Memorial offers worship services, faith formation, and Christian education studies throughout the week, and enjoys a long-standing tradition of mission and community service in the New River Valley. For more information, contact Reverend Monica Weber, (540) 951-1003, or visit www.lmlc.org.

² <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/personal-finance/college-students-food-insecurity/>

About The Well Campus Ministry: The Well is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) campus ministry at Virginia Tech. The Well students' home congregation while they study at Virginia Tech is Luther Memorial Lutheran Church. Well members have regular opportunities for fun, food, and fellowship in Christ throughout the week while Virginia Tech is in session. They welcome all to join them in fellowship and service to the community, and to grow in their relationships with God as well as in the friendships they have with one another. For more information, e-mail Pastor Libby Pfaff, thewell@lmlc.org, or visit <https://lmlc.org/campus-ministry>.

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