



*A Reconciling in Christ Congregation*



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 22, 2022**

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**Luther Memorial Lutheran Church Offers  
Chrismon Display by Local Artist Nancy Prichard**

**Blacksburg, Virginia** --- As part of Luther Memorial's "Art in Advent" series, beginning on the first Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2022, mixed media Chrismons created by artist Nancy Prichard will be on display in the church Narthex. The exhibit will be available through Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and is open to the public Sunday mornings between 9 am - noon, and by appointment during the business week (please call the church office at 540-951-1000).

*Chrismon*, a word derived from "Christ" and "monogram," describes an interdenominational symbol of Jesus Christ. The first Chrismons were created in 1957 by Frances Kipps Spencer of Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia. She wanted to design appropriate liturgical decorations for the church's Christmas tree. She wanted to create appropriate decorations for the church Christmas tree. The concept is now used worldwide.

Each of the mixed media constructions by Prichard, a member of the Luther Memorial congregation, celebrates Christ through symbolism using a contemplative process.

Representing events in the church's liturgical calendar, the pieces begin with a cross form representing a specific cultural tradition. Bits of hymns, scripture, and found materials are layered on each cross around a central image that represents an event in the life of Christ.

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Nancy Prichard says, “These Chrismons were designed to be displayed individually to celebrate events in the life of Christ throughout the liturgical year. This is the first time they have been exhibited collectively. They are constructed from a variety of natural and synthetic materials: vines, polymer clay, fabric, foam core board, found papers, beads, screen mesh, wood, and metal spikes. Acrylic paint, oil pastels and colored pencils are used as colorants.”

Reverend Monica Weber, pastor at Luther Memorial, says “We are so happy that Nancy is sharing her beautiful Chrismons with us, and we invite our friends in Blacksburg and the New River Valley to view this unique exhibition.”

**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](http://www.lmlc.org).

**About Nancy Prichard:** Nancy B. Prichard retired after 30 years of teaching in the Virginia Beach City Public Schools where she taught artistically gifted students and participated in fine arts curriculum development. She is an accomplished artist and has exhibited widely; her work has been included in numerous publications. She also was part of the adjunct faculties of the Virginia Commonwealth University Off-Campus Graduate Art Program and Virginia Wesleyan College. In addition, she has presented workshops for art teachers and students of all ages.

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