



*A Reconciling in Christ Congregation*



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**Benediction Sculpture Installation at Luther Memorial in December and January**

**Blacksburg, Virginia, USA** – Beginning December 15, 2020, Luther Memorial will be hosting the moving “Benediction” sculpture for 40 days, until January 26<sup>th</sup>. The sculpture has been installed at many places of worship in 2020 including Zion Lutheran and Pleasant Valley Church of the Brethren in Floyd County, Mount Tabor United Methodist Church in Montgomery County, Grace Episcopal and First Presbyterian in Radford, Community Christian in Dublin, Mennonite Fellowship in Christiansburg, and Halls UMC in Elliston; Luther Memorial is the final stop for 2020.

According to Charlie Brouwer, Floyd County resident and sculptor, “Although religions and ways of worship can seem vastly different on the surface, they do have many similar core beliefs. One of them is a desire to have a positive impact on their communities and I hope this project helps emphasize that. Although I began the project well before the pandemic, its positive and uplifting message seems right for our times.”

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The sculpture will be installed on the Luther Memorial property, facing out towards the surrounding community. The human figure sculpture is stained white and posed with arms raised in a traditional gesture of blessing.

Reverend Monica Weber, the pastor at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, says “We are so happy to host this sculpture during the season of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Our congregation works hard to reach out and be a blessing to our community, and the Benediction sculpture perfectly captures that sentiment.”

The Blacksburg community is invited to come by and visit the sculpture any time during its 40 day stay.

***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).

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