



A Reconciling in Christ Congregation



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**Luther Memorial Congregation Member Sandy Hagman
Receives “Serving Boldly” Lay Leadership Award**

Blacksburg, Virginia ---At the recent Virginia Synod (ELCA) Synod Assembly, held virtually on June 12, 2021, Sandra (Sandy) Hagman, a long-time member of Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, received the “Serving Boldly” Lay Leadership Award.

The Serving Boldly Award, created by the Virginia Synod Council in October 2020, is given to a lay leader who embodies and demonstrates a commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ in their congregation and/or community. Nominations were received from Virginia Synod congregations around Virginia, and we are delighted that Sandy was one of the first four recipients of the award.

Sandy works with the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry - a joint ministry of churches in the Blacksburg / McCoy area of Montgomery County.

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Sandy's leadership with the Food Pantry has transformed Luther Memorial's outreach efforts from occasional participation to an ongoing partnership.

In addition to her work with the food pantry, Sandy volunteers for the Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech, a member-driven, volunteer organization that draws on the wealth of academic and community resources to provide intellectual, cultural, and social experiences for curious adults 50 and older.

The Reverend Monica Weber, pastor of Luther Memorial, stated “We are so thankful and grateful to have Sandy as a member of our congregation. She and many others faithfully volunteer not only within our church, but also give their time, talent and treasure in many ways to our Blacksburg community.”

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.

About the Virginia Synod (ELCA): To strengthen our response to God’s love in Virginia, 145 Lutheran congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) are joined together as the Virginia Synod. For more information, contact Rev. John Wertz, Jr., Assistant to the Bishop (wertz@vasynod.org or 540.389.1000), or visit <https://www.vasynod.org/>.

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About the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry: Serving qualified residents of Blacksburg and McCoy, the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry is a joint ministry of over 25 churches in Blacksburg of varying denominations. We are also supported by individuals, organizations, and clubs that are members of our community. For more information, visit <http://newrivercommunityaction.org/IFP/>.

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