

The Luther Memorial News April 2021

*We are a
Reconciling in Christ Congregation.*

*A community committed to making
Christ's disciples, dedicated to worship,
study, and prayer while serving all in need.*

Rev. Monica L. Weber, Pastor

Vicar Alyssa Kaplan, Lay Campus Minister

Juanita Smoot, Director of Music Ministry

Michael Spencer, Custodian

Marcia Barrow, Office Manager

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Greetings in the name of Christ Jesus as we enter The Great Three Days, or in Latin, the Triduum. Christians the world over will participate in this ancient observation that begins on the evening of Maundy Thursday and ends on Easter morning. I pray that you will join the Blacksburg-Radford ELCA Fellowship for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship by Zoom, because these services represent important steps in our journey with Jesus to the cross and the empty tomb. I urge you to spend some time reflecting on what the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth means for you, and for humanity, because The Resurrection of Christ Jesus changes every aspect of human life and death!

But we may protest that it's too painful to hear about Jesus' arrest, his torture and suffering, or his agonizing death on the cross; we often skip over these events, straight to the glory of Easter. We don't want to relive or acknowledge that Jesus died by asphyxiation: Jesus couldn't breathe, like so many victims of brutality in America.

The revered Lutheran theologian and pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminds us of our need to fully participate in Jesus' final week. Bonhoeffer writes, "Christ is not gloriously transported from earth into heaven. He must instead go to the cross. And precisely there, where the cross stands, the resurrection is near. Precisely here, where all lose faith in God, where all despair about the power of God, God is fully there, and Christ is alive and near." (God Is On the Cross: Reflections on Lent and Easter).

My friends, Bonhoeffer writes to each of us, we who have persevered during a year of uncertainty and struggle to survive a global pandemic. How often in this past year have we been tempted to give up on God? Or despaired that God has abandoned us? How has fear prevented our trust in God?

Holy Week reminds us that our temptations, despair and fears, as real and terrifying as they may be, will all be erased, thanks be to God! By the power of God's Holy Spirit, we emerge from the darkness of our suffering and doubt to be reunited with the Risen Jesus at the empty tomb on Easter morning. It is precisely there that Jesus embraces us as God's beloved, baptized children; it is precisely there that we shout, "He is risen! He is risen, indeed, Alleluia!" I wish you all a meaningful Holy Week and a Blessed Easter. Peace to all here,

Pastor Monica



April Council Meeting: 25th, 11:30am-1pm by Zoom. Staff & Council members please submit your monthly reports to Marcia Barrow in a PDF file no later than Monday, April 19th. Packets and the Zoom meeting link will be distributed by email.

Congregational Council Corner

2021

John Hess, Secretary

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2022

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Andy Hansbrough, President

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2023

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The Committee on finance reported that February income exceeded expenses. There is a need to understand the pattern for receiving income in 2021 and the need to limit expenditures.

- First quarter payments to benevolences will occur in April
- All committee expenses greater than \$200 will require review and approval with two signatures from either Andy Hansbrough, President, Carolyn Howard, Vice President, or Pastor Monica.

Patti Marickovich, Chairperson, Committee on Personnel, presented a draft of revisions to personnel policies for LMLC, particularly related to workplace safety and issues related to harassment.

Confirmed the addition of the Rev. Rachel Larson to the Committee on Mutual Ministry and the other five members of the committee, Jenny Akers, Bennet Cassell, Andy Hansbrough, Pastor Monica, Andy Taminger. Jay Crone is the liaison to Congregation Council.

Renewed the lease agreement with Virginia Tech for the Little Hokie Hangout for \$800/month from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022.

Reviewed policies and procedures for the Endowed Scholarship. Applications are due April 30, 2021 and will be evaluated by Ann Devenport, Mark Freeman, and Alan Smeal.

Dear Members and Friends of Luther Memorial,

On the evening of March 31st in a Special Congregational Meeting, members voted to proceed with the proposed Shared Ministry Partnership Agreement with Christ Lutheran in Radford, to share 50/50 an ordained, full-time pastor who will work with both congregations. Luther Memorial's 50% share of this pastor's time will be dedicated to The Well campus ministry. The next step is to form a joint call committee with Christ Lutheran, with representation from The Well students. We will update you as this develops, but the goal is to call a shared pastor by August 1, 2021. Thanks to Vice President Carolyn Howard who spearheaded the discernment team for this shared ministry agreement, and thanks to all who participated in this meeting. We are also very excited to share that an anonymous donor has pledged \$20,000 toward Luther Memorial's 50% portion of this pastor's compensation package. This incredible gift, combined with the Virginia Synod's annual \$20,000 grant to The Well ministry, provides the majority of the financial support necessary to call a part-time, year-round ordained campus pastor. God is good!

Additionally, the LMLC Council continues to examine ways to restructure our 2021 Ministry Funding Plan, to cover the gap in pledges that still exists. Like many pandemic-challenged faith communities, including NRV ELCA congregations and the Virginia Synod office, Council voted to apply for a federal paycheck protection plan loan of \$49,000. Those funds have been deposited into LMLC's general treasury, and will be used to pay staff salaries and utilities for several weeks. We give thanks for our faithful members and remain confident that our situation will continue to improve as we look to the future.

Council continues to be advised on the advisability of conducting in-person worship by our dedicated COVID Task Force, chaired by Lois Voss. We hope to gather soon for Sunday morning outdoor worship at Luther Memorial, and will advise you of this development as soon as possible.

Please hold each other in prayer and may God bless you with a meaningful Holy Week and a joyful Easter,

The LMLC Council



God's Work, Our Hands



In March, LMLC members contributed:

- *427.5 lbs. of food to Interfaith Food Pantry
- *Change for Change allocated for Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry: \$280 collected
- *\$100 to Good Shepherd Fund
- *\$500 worth of new underwear to Women's Resource Center
- * LMLC gave away \$100 in Kroger cards to persons in need.

Food Pantry Update for March

Luther Memorial had a strong showing for the month of March. You donated 427.5 pounds of food for the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry. This is a monetary value of \$739.58. Thank you. We are always collecting food in the Narthex. Feel free to drop off donations anytime. Small reminder, we also appreciate recycled paper grocery bags.

Due to the Blacksburg community's generosity, we have been able to increase the amount of food that we give out. For instance, clients now get 2 pounds of hamburger, a package of chicken, 2 cans of tuna, canned chicken, and canned beef stew. This has increased the amount of protein that they receive.



Drive-In Food Collection 03.27.21



Well Students help with Food Drive



Undie Sunday

03.28.21

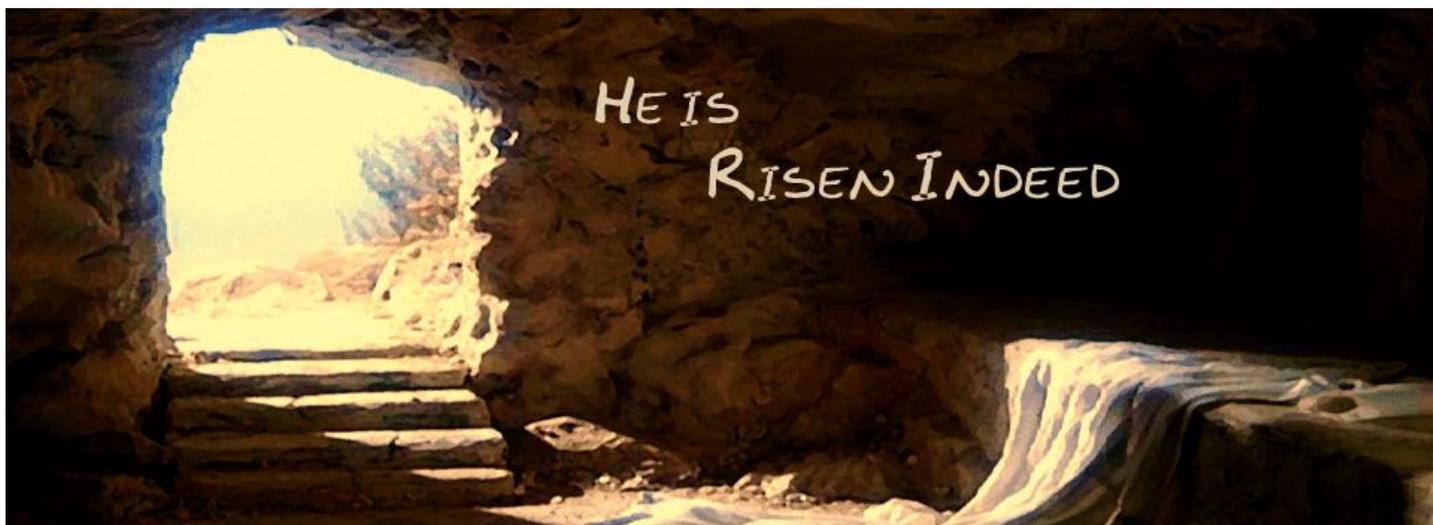
April 1, 7pm: Maundy Thursday Zoom Worship with Virtual Communion and Foot-Washing. The Zoom link will be emailed to you. Please have bread or gluten-free bread/crackers and wine or juice available for your use during worship. If you wish to participate in foot or hand washing, have a basin of water and towels available. As the worship service ends, you will be invited to strip your Lenten home altar.

April 2, Noon-3pm: Good Friday Individual Confession. Pastor Monica will take appointments for persons who wish to observe this ancient, confidential rite. Please email Pastor Monica if you are interested. Weather permitting, this will take place in the Covered Picnic Shelter at Luther Memorial. Masks & social distancing will be required.

April 2, 7pm: Good Friday Tenebrae Zoom Worship. The Zoom link will be emailed to you. Various members from the Fellowship congregations will serve as readers and extinguish candles as we remember Jesus' crucifixion.

April 3, Easter Vigil hosted by the Virginia Synod at a time to be announced. Details will be emailed to you.

April 4, Easter Drive-In Worship with Holy Communion; 10am at St Michael Lutheran Church.



April 4, 11:15am: Children's Easter Egg Hunt hosted by The Well (weather permitting).

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and as such, the **April Change-For-Change recipient is NRV CARES**, whose vision is a New River Valley free of child abuse. As both a member of Luther Memorial and an employee of NRV CARES, I am pleased to have the opportunity to share with you about the important work being done by this local agency!

NRV CARES is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting children and strengthening families. Our services are available to all citizens living in the counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski, and the City of Radford. We, with the help of the New River Valley community, strive to improve the lives of the smallest and most defenseless members of our society, while helping to support an environment where families can thrive.

There are three main program areas at NRV CARES:

1. **CASA** (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of the New River Valley recruits and trains volunteers to provide advocacy for children who are involved in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court proceedings due to court-founded cases of abuse and/or neglect. Our volunteers are appointed by

the courts and serve as the "eyes and ears" of the judge to help children find a safe, happy, healthy, forever home.

2. Our **Parent Education** program provides education and support for parents and caregivers throughout the New River Valley. Working with trained class facilitators, we offer three programs: Circle of Parents, Parenting through Separation and Divorce, and Parenting Young Children.
3. With our **Community Education** programs, NRV CARES aims to educate the community about the existence of child abuse and its traumatic effects, as well as to support children and families in the community.

And, as you drive around our New River Valley during the month of April, keep an eye out for pinwheel gardens! Part of our annual "Pinwheels for Prevention" campaign, these pinwheels celebrate healthy, happy childhoods in the New River Valley. "Pinwheels for Prevention" represents our effort to focus on communities that support families and prioritize child abuse prevention right from the start. Shining in the sun, the pinwheels are reflective of the bright future all children deserve!

If you have questions or would like more information about NRV CARES, please reach out to me by email at Leah@nrvcare.org. You may also visit our website (<https://www.nrvcare.org/>) or follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/nrvcare>) for regular updates and announcements!



Wednesday Vespers: We will resume our Wednesday Vespers services on **Zoom on April 14 at 7pm**. The link will be emailed. We need Lectors! Email pastormonica@mlc.org to volunteer.

Blacksburg-Radford ELCA Fellowship Worship for Sunday, April 11th: The Virginia Synod staff will present a full recorded worship service for the **Second Sunday of Easter, April 11**. The purpose is to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus as a synod and provide a week of sabbath for rostered and lay leaders. This service will highlight and celebrate our companion relationship with the New Guinea Islands District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea. Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick will preach. To view this service, visit mlc.org and scroll down the Home Page for the **April 11 Worship link**.

Please support Micah's Mini-Pantry:

St Michael Lutheran will install a "little free pantry" on their property to serve persons in need beginning May 1st. Please bring your food and hygiene items to the **Drive-In worship services on April 25 and May 23**. Items needed: non-perishable, non-expired foods such as peanut butter, jelly, canned tuna, canned pasta, boxes of cereal, cans of soup, canned beans, canned vegetables, canned meats and proteins, and personal items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, floss, bar soaps, hair products, hygiene products like toilet paper and deodorant.

Scholarship Available

Luther Memorial is blessed to have several endowment funds, one of which provides a \$500 scholarship each year to a student entering college or who is already enrolled in college.

If you would like to apply for this scholarship, please email Office Manager Marcia Barrow, luther@mlc.org.

Deadline to apply is April 30, 2021.

Nita's Notes

Throughout this past year of Covid-19 changes to our corporate worship gathering, we have been blessed by the musical gifts, offerings and leadership of three dedicated members who have assisted me in our music ministry. I know that you join me in continued appreciation for Bennet Cassell, Jay Crone and Carolyn Howard who individually serve as our service cantor and soloist. I will be introducing each of them to you through our newsletters these next several months. Of course, should you be interested in helping in this vital part of worship leadership, please let your voice be heard and contact me!! We miss the leadership of our choir and are also thankful for solo voices during these unique times.

Our Easter Sunday worship music includes a trombone/organ Voluntary and Postlude played by Jay Crone. He also leads vocally as cantor and contributes to our extra music selections on the website with two additional trombone/piano arrangements of Easter hymn tunes. I enjoy collaborating with him on the wide variety of selections we have discovered this past year. For me in the accompanist role, most are technically challenging ("A Joyous Easter Prelude", "Gigue on EASTER HYMN"), others much fun to play (Besozzi: *Allegretto* from "Sonata in B Flat Major") while some are simply lovely beyond any verbal description ("There in God's Garden"). I know you will agree that Jay's sensitive interpretations are wonderful to hear. And, I appreciate his willingness to experiment...a little story follows.

So while trying to find just one more Easter arrangement from our church music stacks, I found a possibility in a flute solo book. I scanned it and sent it to Jay and asked what he thought about the ability to adapt it to the trombone. He glanced at it and said it was OK. Well, that OK piece actually required exceptional technique and skill, not to mention a different trombone, to make it playable and acceptable. Jay managed this impressive feat with his usual humble grace.

Dr. William (Jay) Crone joined the music faculty at VA Tech in 1994. As a professor in the School of Performing Arts he teaches trombone, euphonium and tuba. He is also known as a performer in various symphony orchestras and bands throughout the US and is the principal trombonist in the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra. Originally from California, Jay earned his DMA from the University of Southern California, his MM from Yale University and his BA from California State University in Fresno. His love for music and music making are evident when listening to him play and talk about a vast range of music subjects. In fact, here he is sharing about his current situation:

Recently, I began teaching a music appreciation course entitled Listening in the Digital Age. I developed this course to introduce classical music, contemporary music, jazz, and popular music to non-musicians. I've always enjoyed listening to and studying a wide variety of music, so this class seemed like a natural outlet for me. Of course, I didn't count on teaching the class with the students and myself wearing masks! With the cancellation of almost all live music since March 2020, I've used my newfound time to work on my jazz improvisation skills and my singing, both of which are still very much works in progress!

As a member of LMLC since 1994, Jay currently serves as Personnel Committee liaison to the Church Council. He has served on the Campus Ministry Committee and Church Council previously and has been active in the choir as well as substituted as pianist when needed. As to how he became a Lutheran, Jay responded:

I was raised a Methodist and hadn't been attending church regularly for several years when my landlord invited me to attend his Lutheran Church in Arcata, CA. Sometimes all you have to do is ask!

He is the proud father of three adult children: Hannah (25) Will (23) and Sam (19)

Thank you, Jay for all of your involvement at LMLC. Today we especially appreciate your varied musical gifts which you share with us.

Joyfully yours,
NITA

Women's Covenant Bible Study Thursdays @ 7pm: Join us anytime!

Join Pastor Monica & Pastor Michelle of St Michael Lutheran for a women's Zoom Bible study that explores the origins and history of how the Bible came to be, and what God is saying to us through Scripture. This 3-part study features contemporary Biblical scholars sharing their insights on DVD and participants receive a workbook. We began on January 21st with "Creating," an 8-week dive into God as Creator. If you ordered a workbook, please pick it up from the LMLC Office. If you would like to participate but did not already notify Pastor Monica, please email her (pastormonica@lmlc.org) so we can get you your materials. The "Creating" study runs through March 11; the second installment, **"Living," runs from April 8 through May 27th**; the third installment, "Trusting," will resume on August 12 after a summer break. Each study is self-contained, so join us for any or all sessions!

Spread the word!

In order to serve our community the best way possible through online avenues (including social media and the website), we would appreciate it if you take a few minutes to complete this survey by April 30th: <https://tinyurl.com/lmlconlinesurvey>

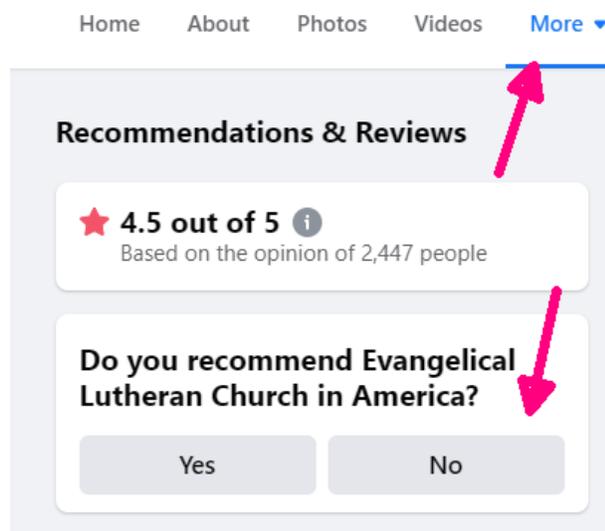
Thanks to everyone who is following us on social media - we hope you are enjoying the posts! For those of you who may not be aware of all our social media platforms, please follow and like us on:

- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/luthermemorialblacksburg>
- Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/luthermemorialblacksburg/>
- Twitter – NEW!!! We will begin posting content on Twitter soon - <https://twitter.com/luthermemva>

We need your help to spread the message about Luther Memorial and let people know about our wonderful church and its activities! ***Here are a few ways you can help:***

- Share our posts on your personal Facebook feed, or share them on Instagram via stories. This increases engagement and introduces your friends and followers to Luther Memorial.
- Comment on Facebook and Instagram posts.
- Tag Luther Memorial on pictures you take and post of any LMLC events!
- Once we resume our in-person worship services and other activities at church, consider "checking in" on Facebook – here are some easy instructions on how to do that: <https://www.facebook.com/help/174846215904356>
- Leave a review on Facebook or on Google (<https://g.page/r/CZvHfC5I-b0lEAg/review>). To leave a review on Facebook, click on the "more" button at the top of the LMLC Facebook page, click on

“Reviews” and then make your recommendation. You can then write your review and post it.



- Share, like or comment on our worship service videos on YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTDz76wqGtrhazExzLCUc-Q>. If you subscribe to our channel, you will automatically receive notifications whenever we post a new video.

If you have any questions or need assistance with any of our social media platforms, please feel free to contact Carol Webster at cwebster@casselinternational.com.

Going to college next year? **Mt. Tabor Ruritan Scholarship**

It is time to think about pursuing scholarship money and Mount Tabor Ruritan Club (MTRC) has some for you!

Each year, MTRC identifies those who could use up to \$500 toward college expenses. These funds go to candidates living in the 24060 ZIP code and who have applied to college, including NRV Community College.

The form with this post is very straightforward and highlights the characteristics we are looking for...grades, of course, but if grades and transcripts are good enough to get into college they would qualify for a scholarship.

Each year the Club awards 5 or 6 scholarships and invites the winners to a dinner meeting. The few minutes each winner gets to share what they are doing are the highlight. What a great opportunity to hear from our future leaders.

One thing that sets this scholarship apart is the attention to community volunteer work. We know many teens are already contributing to our community by volunteering at food banks, giving of their time for activity with children or the elderly. Not all good works count, so if the effort is just with one's own family that would not count! COVID-19 may have disrupted volunteering activities, so we are looking at the history of volunteering over a high school career. If you have questions, give them a call and explain the situation. Likewise, financial need might look different in this year of economic disruption.

MTRC is hoping that in this year of disrupted schooling, students are still thinking about the excitement of going to college...and how the expense of going to college adds up. Someone may have already graduated but are heading to college after a “gap year”. That would be fine. Let Mount Tabor Ruritan Club help out a little.

Fill the application form and call Jeananne Dixon Bame if you have questions, 540-951-1870, jdixon@nr.edu



**APPLICATION FOR EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP
MT. TABOR RURITAN CLUB
2021**

Ruritan is America's leading community service club. Ruritan is dedicated to making your community a better place in which to live and work. Each club surveys its community to determine needs and then works toward meeting those needs through volunteer service.

The **Mt. Tabor Ruritan Club** is pleased to announce the availability of scholarships of up to \$500 each to attend any accredited post-secondary institution. Due to the Covid-related impacts on school activities and schedules, applicants are required to have **at least 100 hours of community volunteer service within the past twenty-four months**. Complete the following application and attach the additional information requested below in order to be considered for one of these scholarships.

Name: _____

Address: _____

BLACKSBURG, VA Zip Code: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

Father's Name: _____

Father's Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Mother's Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Post-Sec. School(s) Applied: _____

Post-Sec. School(s) Accepted: _____

Which Post-Sec. School preferred? _____

Have you applied for other financial aid? Yes: _____ No: _____

If so, from whom? _____

Along with this form, we request that you submit:

1. A letter from you telling about yourself, explaining your educational goals, and why you feel you need financial aid. The letter should be type-written, double spaced, and at least one full page.
2. A list of your extra-curricular and community activities, including hours of volunteer service.
3. A copy of your high school transcript(s).
4. Two letters of reference.

Selection will be made on community volunteer service, scholarship, extra-curricular activity, and perceived need. Awardees must be seniors graduating from a high school or home school in Blacksburg and living in a Blacksburg zip code area. Preference will be given to but not necessarily limited to residents of the Mt. Tabor community with applications accompanied by a letter of reference from a Mr. Tabor Ruritan member. Winners will be announced in early June.

All requested materials **MUST BE SUBMITTED BY April 30, 2021**

TO: **JEANANNE DIXON BAME, 1109 Mourning Dove drive, Blacksburg, va (540-951-1870)**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE BORN IN APRIL

April 01	<i>Matt Zeiger</i>
April 07	<i>Mary Jane Pettersen</i>
April 08	<i>Mike Deisenroth</i> <i>Tim Larson</i>
April 10	<i>Gary Buss</i> <i>Amy Widner</i>
April 12	<i>Glenn Buss</i> <i>Marty Oosterhuis</i>
April 14	<i>Sue Fugate</i> <i>Kathy Parrott</i>
April 20	<i>Kevin Widner</i>
April 23	<i>Tristan Zeiger</i>
April 28	<i>Bertha Crabtree</i>



Happy Anniversary



Glenn & Nelda Buss; April 02

Charlie & Zelma Harris; April 09

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church

600 Prices Fork Road

Blacksburg, VA 24060



STEWARDSHIP NUGGET FOR APRIL 2021

“Remember this, whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. And whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”

2 Corinthians 9:6